



VISIT POLAND

with an experienced historian,
Holocaust trainers and a Holocaust
Survivor
May 2010

We will be based in the charming town of Krakow. The cost of the trip will be in the region of £684. The £684 includes half board, airport taxes, guides, all Polish coach transfers, entrance to all museums and sites. There is a single person's supplement of £130. (It may be possible to arrange a room share if requested although this cannot be guaranteed.) We will have an excellent and very experienced English guide with us throughout the week and the staff on this trip are all experienced Holocaust trainers. The trip will give you an insight into life before the Holocaust and then the enormity of the loss and destruction. You will have an opportunity to talk, to discuss and to reflect.

We will leave on **Saturday 29 May from Gatwick airport and return on Wednesday 2 June.** Transfers to and from Gatwick will be your own responsibility.

Some of the sites to be visited include:

DAY 1 - Afternoon walking tour to include many of the city's highlights around the Old Town Square, the University district and Wawel Hill. Evening meal in hotel to be followed by brief introductory lecture on Krakow and Poland in the Twentieth Century with particular reference to the history of the city's Jewish community.

DAY 2 - A full day on foot or by public transport in Krakow. The morning will be spent in the former Jewish district of Kazimierz visiting several surviving synagogues, Jewish civic buildings and many other traces left by this once flourishing community. After lunch we will take an extensive tour of the former wartime ghetto of Podgorze, visiting the main ghetto square, the Pod Orlem pharmacy, surviving fragments of the ghetto wall and many less well known sites in the streets and alleys beyond the square. The tour of this area will conclude with a visit to the brand new museum "Krakow - Time of Occupation 1939 - 45" situated in the buildings of Oskar Schindler's former factory and due to open in November 2009. If time allows we will end the day with a visit to the site of Plaszow concentration camp to view the memorial and the villa of camp commandant Amon Goeth.

DAY 3 - A full day coach tour of the Tarnow region. Situated about 60 km east of Krakow, this beautiful little town was once the home of a flourishing and important Jewish community of 25,000 people, 45% of the total population. During the war the town had the grim distinction of being the first from which a transport was sent to the new concentration camp at Auschwitz in June 1940. Forced into a ghetto in the town in 1942, the Jewish community was murdered in a series of mass shootings and deportations in 1942-3. En route to the town we will visit the site of one of the mass killings in the Buczyzna Forest near Zyblitowska Gora to see the memorial at the site of a mass grave of about 6000 people. In the town we will take a walking tour of the former Jewish district, visiting the remains of the largest of the town's many synagogues, the Mikvah from which the first transport to Auschwitz was sent, the huge and important Jewish Cemetery and many other sites. We will also visit the Ethnographic Museum which is largely dedicated to the story of Galicia's Roma population. We will return to Krakow via the nearby small town of Dabrwa Gora to see the restoration work in progress on the town's impressive nineteenth century synagogue.

Day 4 - A visit to Auschwitz Birkenau. The morning will be spent in an extensive guided tour of Auschwitz 1 and Birkenau. After lunch there will be time for some further individual visits within the camp museum before departing for the nearby town of Oswiecim where we will visit the Jewish Heritage centre situated in a beautifully restored small Orthodox synagogue. Before returning to Krakow we will travel 45 km north to visit the small town of Bedzin and view its new memorial to its vanished Jewish community. The town has recently received much attention following the publication of the wartime diary of a 14 year old girl telling of her time in the town's ghetto. Rutka Laskier, murdered at Auschwitz

in August 1943 is now being called Poland's Anne Frank. On returning to Krakow we will visit the Jewish Galicia Museum where the day will conclude with a meal and concert.

DAY 5 - Time for some independent shopping and sightseeing prior to transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

There is a large demand on places for this trip so if you wish to join this study trip please would you complete the attached form and send me a £210 non returnable deposit as soon as possible and email your wish to have a place reserved for you (head@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely



Helen Hyde

Issued: 20.10.09

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VISIT TO POLAND May 2010
Return this slip with your deposit to:
MRS HELEN HYDE
Watford Grammar School for Girls
Lady's Close, Watford WD18 0AE
01923 223403 (extension 202)

Name: *(please print clearly)* _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Contact number: Day _____

Mobile _____

Evening: _____

Travel based on two persons sharing ONLY:

I will be sharing a room with: _____

Single Travellers ONLY

I would like a single room and agree to pay the £130 supplement	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be interested in sharing a room if possible but if this cannot be arranged agree to pay the £130 single person supplement	<input type="checkbox"/>

I enclose a £210 non refundable deposit per person and note that the balance will be payable by Wednesday 4th November 2009.

Cheques should be made payable to Watford Grammar School for Girls

Signed: _____

Date: _____