

2025 POLAND TRIP



Dance. Cry. Life. Soul. Heritage. Inspiration.

Outline of Poland Tour for Adults: 12-15 May 2025

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning is arranging a Journey through Poland for adults, from Monday 12th May 2025 until Thursday 15th of May 2025, numbers dependent. There are two optional stand-alone pre-tour days (Shabbat 9-10th May and Sunday 11th May) which may be added onto the tour if you like, and a possible add-on to Israel, based on demand from 16th-18th May 2025.

This tour has a limited number of places available. If you would like to experience this incredible journey, and the unique possibility to meet and interact with a Holocaust survivor in Poland, please book with our office as soon as possible.

Along with this outline please see:

- An itinerary for the Poland Tour
- Terms and conditions

All forms must be filled out and signed electronically on the booking site. All queries should be sent to Kerren, at our office, whose contacts are:

tours@theAcademy.org.za

tel: +27 (084) 473-2574

Looking forward to seeing you!

The Academy Team

General Information

Tour Dates

The tour runs in Poland from Monday 12th May 2025 until Thursday, 15th of May 2025, numbers dependent.

There are two optional, standalone add-ons for the tour – additional days in Warsaw prior to the tour. Please note that the participants are responsible for arranging all flights to and from the programme, these are not included.

Who can join?

The tour is open to all interested parties, but participation of individuals will be at the discretion of the Academy. Due to the content of this journey, a minimum age of 18 years old will be strictly enforced. **The tour is first come first served – a booking is only confirmed after receipt of payment in full.**

Preparation Sessions

Several preparation sessions prior to and follow up sessions post the tour will be run; these cover a broad range of issues including a session with a counsellor to prepare for the trip. These are optional, but highly recommended.

Accommodation & Itinerary

Accommodation will be provided in different three or four-star (or higher) Polish hotels which all have en-suite bathrooms. Rooms and costs are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available at an additional supplement. In order to cover all of the major sites in Poland, the itinerary is very busy, often with early mornings and late nights. We will be starting the trip as soon as the flight lands, so please ensure that each participant is wearing comfortable clothing and shoes. We will be travelling throughout Poland by tour bus. We reserve the right to change the schedule of the programme and will adjust the itinerary as appropriate but please check the supplied itinerary for our base plan.

Food

Full board is provided and all food is kosher. If you require more information please visit www.kosherdelightspoland.com/kashrus where you can see all the supervision certificates for the different locations in Poland. All bread is *Pat Yisrael*, and Chalav Yisrael is available upon request. Vegetarians are catered for, providing we have been notified in advance. We will try to accommodate any participants who have more elaborate dietary requirements provided they have notified us by email at least a month before the trip, but this is not guaranteed.

Educators and Tour Guides

Rabbi Ramon Widmonte will lead the tour and an additional tour guide may join us. As noted in the terms and conditions, sometimes for reasons out of our control, a guide may be unable to participate at the last minute, in which case the guide may change.

Cost of Tour and Recommended Travel Agent

This is split into 4 sections: land costs for Poland only; land costs for the optional extra pre-tour Sunday in Poland; land costs for the optional extra pre-tour Shabbat in Poland; and flight/visa costs.

1. Land costs for Poland

The land costs for Poland are US\$ 1590 (One thousand five hundred and ninety US dollars) per person, payable at current exchange rates, as per the conditions. This cost is based on shared accommodation. Should you require single accommodation, the cost will increase by US\$180 (one hundred and eighty US dollars).

A **booking fee** of US\$1000 per participant, (for single accommodation the added US\$180 as well is required in the booking fee) will be payable by no later than **28th February 2025, unless agreed upon in writing**. Should the minimum numbers for the tour be reached (twenty people), this deposit will become non-refundable at that point, which will be communicated to all participants in writing, and the balance of the tour fee, US\$590 (five hundred and ninety US dollars) per person will then become payable, by no later than **14th March 2025**.

Please note, as below, that the payment for any optional pre-tour days is also due with the booking fee. **Please remember that a booking will only be confirmed in writing after payment in full (the booking fee as well as final payment) has been made and funds have been received. Booking is first come first served. Please confirm rate of exchange with us in writing before making any non-dollar payments. Please see Terms and Conditions for more details.**

All payments are to be made by EFT into the following bank account:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Bank: | First National Bank (of South Africa) |
| Branch code: | Balfour Park - 212217 |
| Account name: | BYA Consultants |
| Account number: | 62719486749 |
| Swift Code: | FIRZAJJXXX |
| Bank Address: | Shop 229, Balfour Park Shopping Centre, Cnr Athol Street & Johannesburg Road, Johannesburg, South Africa |

The reference for all payments (beneficiary reference) is: Poland – YOURNAME. For example : Poland – A Cohen.

Proof of payment must be sent to: tours@theAcademy.org.za .

2. Land costs for the optional extra pre-Sunday in Poland (May 11th 2025)

The land costs for the additional day in Poland prior to the start of the tour is US\$350 (Three hundred and fifty US dollars) per person sharing, and an additional US\$60 (Sixty US dollars) per person for single occupancy. This payment is due with the booking fee.

Please note that this extra day programme is subject to our minimal numbers condition and achievement of these minimal numbers. Please confirm rate of exchange with us in writing before making payment. **Please note, this is an optional add on, participants should not delay applying or paying the booking fee while awaiting finality on this, as this may result in you not getting a place on the tour.**

3. Land costs for the optional extra pre-Shabbat in Poland (Two nights – Friday May 9th 2025 and Shabbat May 10th 2025)

The land costs for the additional Shabbat in Poland prior to the start of the tour is US\$320 (Three hundred and twenty US dollars) per person sharing, and an additional US\$120 (One hundred and twenty US dollars) per person, for single occupancy. This payment is due with the booking fee.

Please note that this extra day programme is subject to our minimal numbers condition and achievement of these minimal numbers. Please confirm rate of exchange with us in writing before making payment. **Please note, this is an optional add on, participants should not delay applying or paying deposits while awaiting finality on this, as this may result in you not getting a place on the tour.**

4. Land costs for the optional extra days in Israel (16th-18th May 2025)

This extra Israel component will be offered based on demand and costs will be determined closer to the time.

5. Flights and visas

Cost of flights and visas are separate from the land costs and this is to be handled directly between participants and their travel agent. We realize that some participants will want to:

- travel to other destinations either before or after the Poland tour
- pay with Voyager miles
- travel from another destination and link up in Poland,

and therefore the **flights are not part of the programme.**

Please note that the Poland tour begins at Warsaw Airport and ends at Krakow airport. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate different arrival/departure times or venues as the current set up maximises our time in Poland.

Tour price does not include

The tour price does not include flights, tips, costs of obtaining visas and passports, telephone calls, laundry, booking of entertainment arrangements not shown on the itinerary, meals and beverages (other than those specified), and any other items of a personal nature.

How do I book?

Please review the accompanying terms and conditions, itinerary and the whole of this document. If you're satisfied with all of the above, you can book by:

1. Filling out the application form online by clicking [HERE](#) or by going to: <https://click.theacademy.org.za/Poland-Tour-2025> . This is an electronic form which you will need to sign electronically - we will mail the form back to you for your records. This form includes the Terms and Conditions for the tour which will also be emailed to you.
2. Paying your booking fee **as soon as possible** and emailing proof of payment to: tours@theAcademy.org.za
3. Paying the balance of the cost **as soon as possible** and emailing proof of payment to: tours@theAcademy.org.za .
4. Booking will be confirmed via email at that stage. Please remember that booking is first come, first served.

Visas and passports

Certain nationalities' passport holders do not need to apply for a visa for Poland. However, it is the responsibility of all participants to check that their passports are in date and have sufficient pages for stamps. If a participant needs to extend his/her passport, please contact the passport office as soon as possible and advise us of any changes. If a participant does need a visa, please contact the travel agents above or the Polish Embassy to discuss visa entry for Poland. If a visa will be needed, it will be the participant's responsibility to arrange this in advance with the Polish Embassy at their expense. Please note that this process can take some time.

Travel, luggage and health Insurance

All participants must have comprehensive travel, luggage and health insurance for the duration of the programme, including their travel dates. **Participants will not be able to travel without insurance**. It is recommended that all participants make a note of the emergency contact details and policy numbers, and have them with them at all times. The participants will be required to pay in-full any medical costs incurred in the event of illness. Unfortunately we will not be able to loan money for this or any other reason, so please ensure sufficient money is brought for any expenses.

Health

Please ensure all participants' tetanus vaccinations are up-to date. Please also bring along mosquito repellent but ensure that it complies with travel safety regulations on liquids. Please note that the application form includes questions about your health – in the event of an emergency, G-d forbid, we will utilise these details in order to obtain emergency treatment for you, so please ensure all details are correct; all such details will be held in the strictest confidence. Please note that the tour involves extensive walking and standing on each day and that the participant will need to be able to do this without any ill effect.

Security

Our tour operator has extensive experience in foreign travel and in the arrangement of group trips. As you are aware, there may be times in Poland when security is heightened. We have taken all necessary precautions to ensure that if we do visit areas where higher security is needed, all steps are taken to ensure the security of the group. For the duration of the programme, we take no responsibility for items lost or stolen from any passenger. **We recommend that passport numbers, credit card details, important telephone numbers and insurance details be noted separately and are given to a relative in case of emergency.**

Foreign office advice

As with travel to any foreign country, we remind you that different laws and systems are active. Breaking the law can result in far more complicated and severe punishment than in South Africa. For further information visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/poland>,

<http://www.worldtravelguide.net/poland>,

<http://www.poland.travel/en/> and <https://www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/middle-east/israel/>.

Tipping

It is customary to give a tip to the Polish staff that are providing services for us for the duration of trip, e.g. Bus Driver, Guide etc. We therefore request each participant to bring a minimum of US\$50 as a tip for Poland.

Voltage

Please note that Poland uses standard European electric plugs and therefore you will require a standard European adaptor for any SA appliances you wish to use.

Weather

The weather in Poland in May will be mild. You should be aware that the trip involves short and long bus journeys. We therefore advise that you bring layered clothing so you can adapt to the changes in weather from getting on and off of the bus. Evenings can be colder so we suggest you bring appropriate warmer clothes for the evening. Please ensure you bring rain protection too (rain jacket and umbrellas).

Spending Money

We recommend a US\$100 spending money to cover casual expenses during free time (of which there is not a large amount). We advise that passengers bring Polish Zloty; these can be purchased at the airport. Debit and credit cards can be used in most cash point machines.

What to bring?

Each passenger is allowed to bring one suitcase. Our itinerary in Poland will involve changes in accommodation and each passenger should be able to lift and carry this suitcase themselves. The airlines will be enforcing a strict luggage weight limit. **PLEASE DO NOT BRING VALUABLES.**

Other recommended items:

- Shoes that are suitable for walking
- A couple of sweaters
- Appropriate wear to enter synagogues and cemeteries.
- A jacket
- Basic medications such as headache medicine/diarrhoea pills. **Any chronic medication must be brought along in sufficient amounts for the entire tour with a few extra days' supply.**
- Mosquito Repellent
- Raincoats/Umbrellas

Trip to Israel following the Poland Tour

Should there be sufficient interest, there may be an option for people to travel to Israel from Poland to have a short programme there. If this would be of interest to you, please indicate so on the booking form.

General questions

If you have any questions regarding the itinerary, the guides or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to a meaningful tour and experience with you.

The Academy Team