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**JEWISH HERITAGE
JOURNEY IN EUROPE**

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JEWISH HERITAGE JOURNEY IN EUROPE

The story of the Jewish people in Europe is long and rich; a journey of discovery to this heritage at ancient and modern sites, and in museums and neighborhoods will undoubtedly surprise and touch you deeply. Learn of the innumerable contributions that the Jewish community has made to society despite waves of unspeakable persecution. Delve into the Jewish legacy across Europe: visit synagogues, repurposed temples, museums, and preserved neighborhoods. The gastronomic heritage of the Jews is renowned and is a must on your list.

The European Route of Jewish Heritage established by the Council of Europe passes through over a dozen European countries, conceived to "demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage of the different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to a shared and living cultural heritage." Several countries have developed their own Jewish heritage cultural trails as well, highly specific to the events and significant figures in their history. You have a lot of research to do to plan your itinerary – we invite you to read on and get started!

PLAN YOUR TRIP SAFELY

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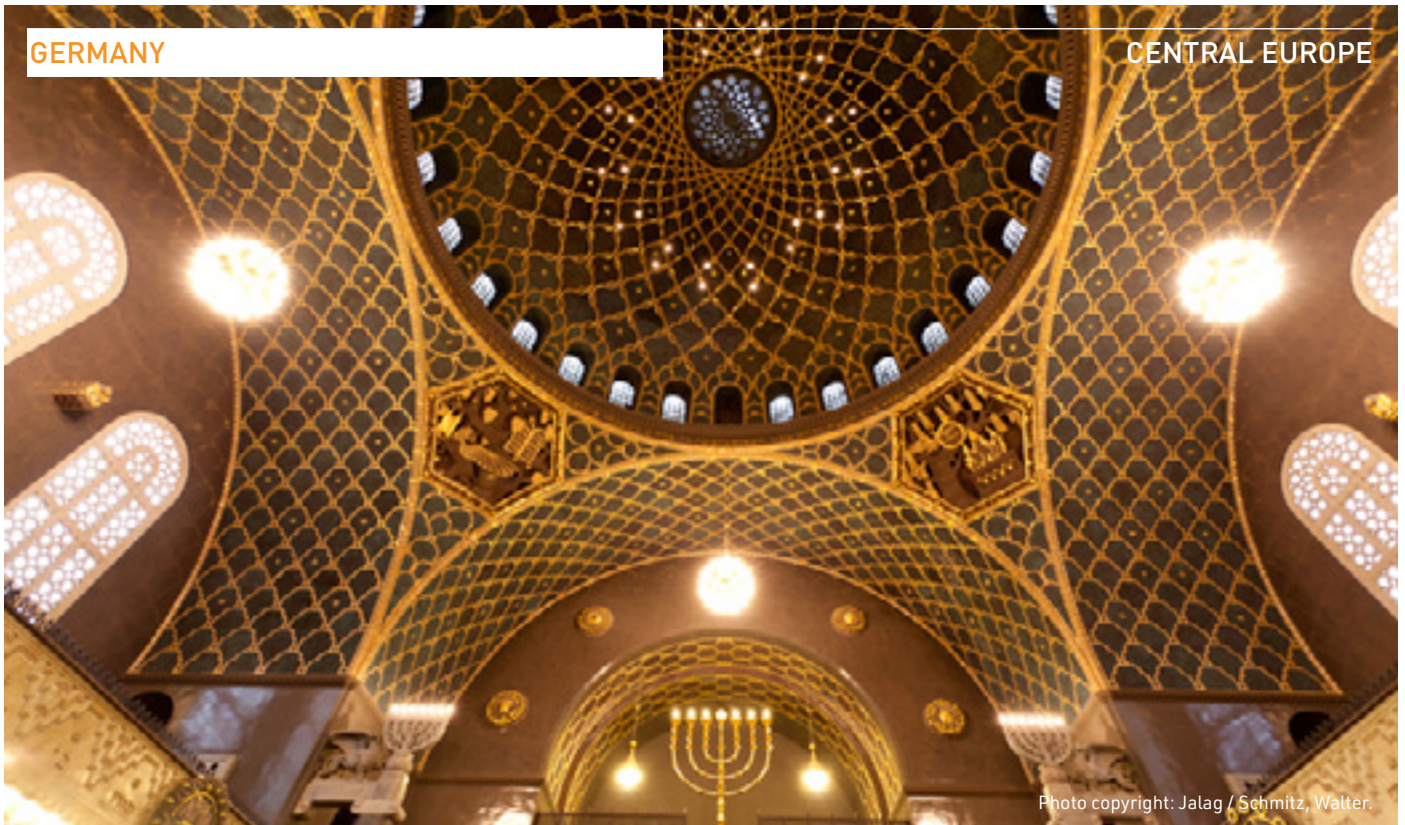


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A COMMUNITY RE-ESTABLISHED

GERMANY FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELER

The year 2021 celebrated the acknowledgment of 1,700 years of Jewish Life in Germany. While our country is home to one of the largest Jewish communities in Europe today, the crimes against the Jewish population during World War II continue to leave an unforgettable mark.

Today, Germany highlights and painstakingly restores a continuously growing number of sites, relics, and cultural artifacts illuminating the country's rich Jewish history. The newly updated online guidebook *Germany for the Jewish Traveler* provides detailed information about Jewish culture, traditions, and customs, enriched by an extensive list of synagogues, community centers, Jewish restaurants, memorials, and museums throughout the country.

One example is the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Designed by Daniel Libeskind, the museum shows a system of philosophical ideas and concepts translated into a striking architectural language. From the outside, the almost windowless structure resembles a fractured Star of David. Additionally, the most prominent feature of the Libeskind building is located deep down in the basement. Here, the axes of Exile, the Holocaust, and Continuity symbolize three essential paths of Jewish existence in Germany. In addition, aspects in today's society of "Migration", "Diversity" and "Coexistence"

are on display. The Jewish Museum is a poignant place for reflection and hope while focusing on the ever-evolving relationship between the Jewish and non-Jewish environment in Germany.

- [Germany's Jewish sites](#)
- [Jewish Museum Berlin](#)



JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND

JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND

Poles and Jews coexisted side by side in Polish territory for seven centuries. You can still find many traces of Jewish heritage in Poland, whether material, as in historical architecture, or immaterial, for example recurring cultural events, trails, traditions, and cuisine.

Before the World War II, Warsaw was one of the largest centers of Jewish culture in Europe. You can visit the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and numerous places of remembrance of the Holocaust victims in the Polish capital.

The POLIN Museum honors the memory of the 1000-year history of Polish Jews. As you step inside, prepare to be amazed by the architecture of the main lobby, shaped like a gorge symbolizing the passage of the Jews through the Red Sea on the way to the Promised

Land. Inside, marvel at the reconstructed vaulted ceiling of the 17th century synagogue in Gwoździec and see the interactive exhibition presenting the traditions and culture of the Jewish community.

The Monument to the Ghetto Heroes, located in front of the building, was created as a tribute to those who died in the Warsaw ghetto. The monument is where the Memorial Route of Jewish Martyrdom and Struggle begins. As you walk along the route through the former ghetto, you will see plaques commemorating the leaders of the uprising as well as social activists. The route takes you to the Umschlagplatz Monument, marking the place from which Jewish people were transported to the extermination camp in Treblinka. Cast iron tables on the pavement serve as reminders of the existence of the Warsaw ghetto, defining its former borders, as do the preserved fragments of the ghetto wall in a courtyard between Sienna and Złota streets.

Make sure to go to the Nożyk synagogue, the only active pre-war temple, and to Próżna, where the buildings survived the destruction of the ghetto. Each year, open-air concerts organized as part of the Singer's Warsaw Jewish Culture Festival are held in this area between August and September.



Photo copyright: NTO.

Judaica in Poland can certainly be found in Kraków, too. Between the Old Town and Wawel Hill lies the former Jewish district, the Kazimierz. The entire area, along with the district of Stradom, has been entered on the UNESCO heritage list), where numerous tourists head to enjoy traditional kosher-style food in one of the many restaurants that follow Jewish traditions.

The eastern frontage of Szeroka street features the most important Jewish monuments in Kraków: the mid-16th century Remuh Synagogue and cemetery. The cemetery, founded in 1551, is the resting place of outstanding representatives of the Jewish community: rabbis, scholars, and doctors. There are two types of tombs here: unique trapezoidal ones, and those in the form of free-standing *matzevot*.

The Kazimierz offers a great selection of restaurants serving traditional kosher dishes. You can follow the Trail of Jewish Monuments, which goes through the district. Those interested in the subject of the Holocaust should see Ghetto Heroes Square, a fragment of the ghetto wall at 29 Lwowska Street, and the exhibition at the Schindler Factory in Zabłocie.

These are just a few examples of Jewish heritage sites to see in Poland. Another destination worth visiting is Tarnów, a city where Jews accounted for almost half of the total population before the war. You can see the revitalized part of its old Jewish district. The town of Tykocin was once home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the region. What remains of it is a Baroque synagogue, the second largest in Poland after the Izaak Synagogue in Kraków.

- [Jewish Heritage in Poland](#)
- [POLIN Museum of History of Polish Jews](#)
- [Poland.Travel](#)

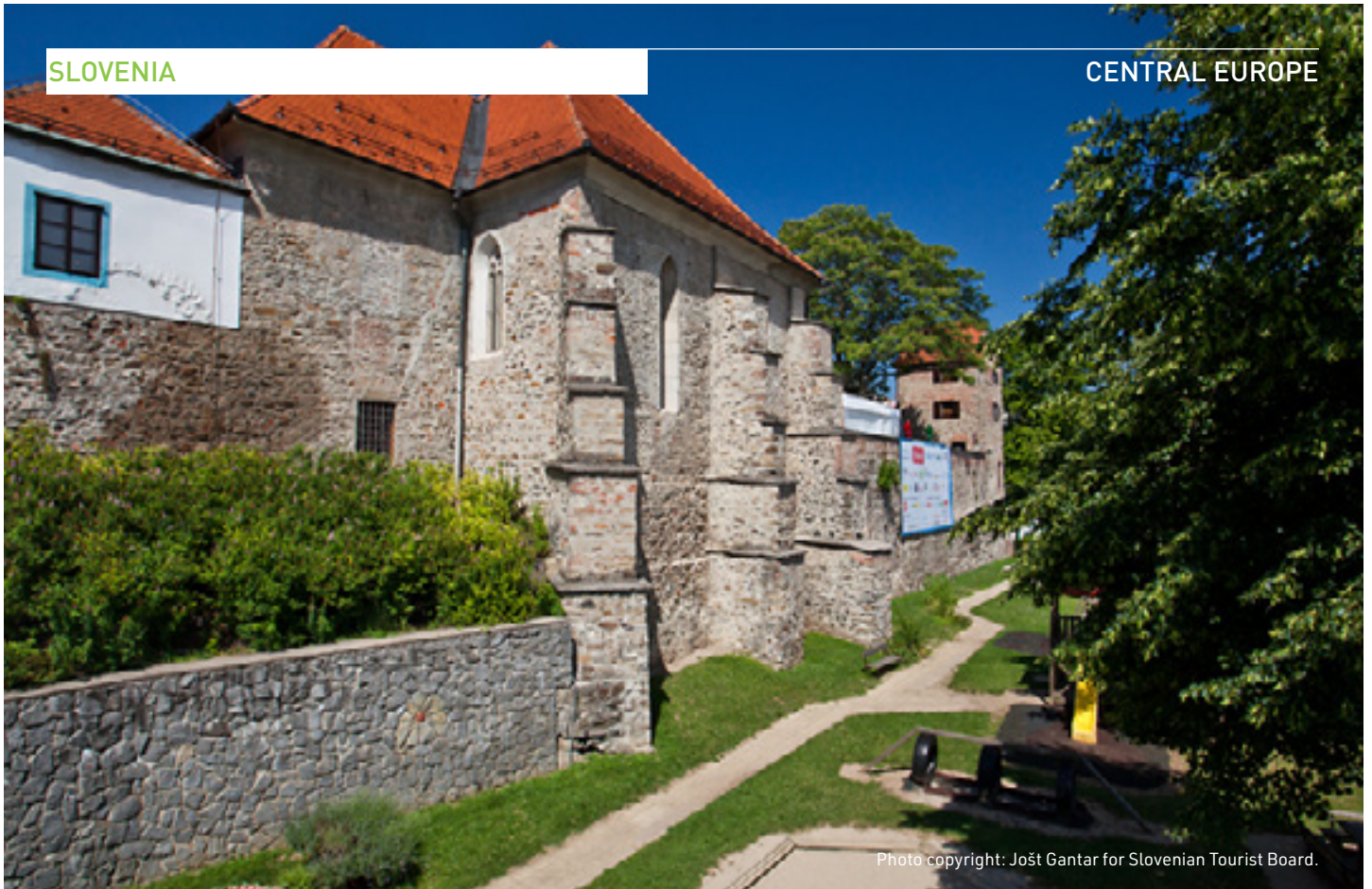


Photo copyright: Jošt Gantar for Slovenian Tourist Board.

JEWISH HERITAGE IN SLOVENIA

DISCOVER JEWISH HERITAGE IN MARIBOR

When it comes to tracing Jewish heritage in Slovenia, Maribor is the place to be. This charming city is not only home to the world's oldest vine, but also to one of Europe's oldest synagogues, an important monument of Jewish heritage in Slovenia.

Throughout its history, the synagogue, located in Židovski trg square, has undergone numerous changes. In 1501 it was converted into the Catholic Church of All Saints, and after 1785 was remodeled and used as a warehouse. It took 500 years before the synagogue was restored. Today, the building houses the Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage, which opened in 2011. In 2015, the synagogue was also declared a cultural monument of national importance.

Written records about the synagogue go back to 1354. Back then, a rabbi's house, a Talmudic school, and the first Jewish cemetery stood there, as well as a ritual bath (*mikveh*) along the Drava River. Unfortunately, these buildings have not been preserved. Another important fact is that Rabbi Israe ben Petachia Isserlein named Marburg was born in Maribor around 1390. He is considered the most influential rabbi of the Roman-

German Empire in the 15th century.

In 1497, Maximilian I of Habsburg ordered that the Jews had to leave Styria and Maribor. At the time, this was the most important center of Judaism in what is present-day Slovenia. To retain this memory, some took the surname Morpurgo. Today, about 2,300 people carry this surname.

- [Discover Maribor](#)
- [Top things to experience in Maribor](#)
- [Synagogue in Maribor](#)

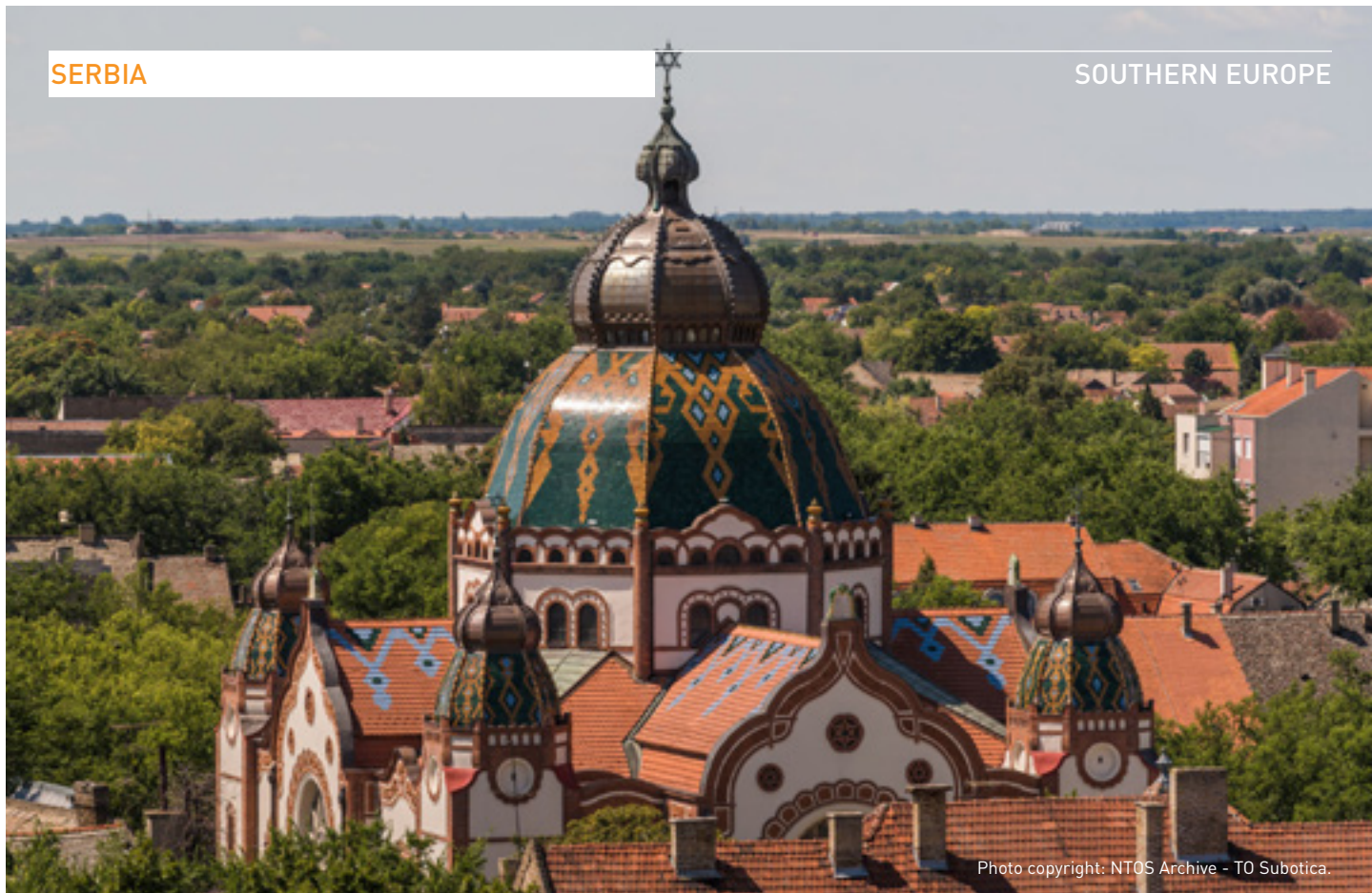


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JEWISH HERITAGE IN SERBIA

THE CONTRIBUTION OF JEWS TO SERBIAN SOCIETY

Through its customs, art and religion, the Jewish community has left an impressive mark on the cultural heritage of Serbia.

Judaism does not have strict regulations and restrictions regarding the construction of religious buildings, which has allowed for architectural diversity. In Serbia, one can see synagogues built in the Art Nouveau style and late neoclassicism as well as those in the traditional spirit combined with some features of Art Nouveau.

The only active synagogue in Serbia today is Sukat Shalom in Belgrade. The synagogue in Subotica, built in the Art Nouveau style, is one of the most valuable Central European achievements of sacral architecture. Today, the Synagogue is an important tourist attraction in Subotica.

The synagogue in Novi Sad is one of the most important concert venues today. The invaluable contribution of Jewish doctors, artists, industrialists, and writers in building the Serbian state is woven into deep ties between Jews and Serbs. Serbia's first woman doctor,

first x-ray, and first professor and composer of music were Jewish. Jewish people developed trade and the financial system, and built the first brewery in Serbia!

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe also testify to the ties that have lasted for centuries. Serbia is included on seven of these cultural routes, which include the European Route of Jewish heritage.

- [National Tourism Organisation of Serbia](#)
- [Tourism Organisation of Belgrade](#)
- [Tourism Organisation of Vojvodina](#)

CZECH JEWISH MONUMENTS

REMEMBERING A CULTURE WHOSE GREATER PART IS GONE

You may be surprised to discover that the Czech Republic is full of Jewish monuments. Here are the most important ones.

Largest consolidated Jewish Quarter in Europe

We must first mention the Jewish Quarter of Prague, which is in the city center and is an integral part of the Old Town. It is a real treasure with a number of Jewish monuments of world importance. One such monument is the Old-New Synagogue, the oldest monument in the Prague Jewish Quarter and the oldest preserved synagogue in Europe. It dates from the end of the 13th century and has been the main synagogue of the

Prague Jewish community for more than 700 years. It is said that a golem is buried in the attic of the synagogue... Can you find him? The Maisel Synagogue, the Spanish Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, and the Klaus Synagogue also offer permanent exhibitions. Franz Kafka, a writer from Germany, was also a part of Prague's Jewish Quarter and its life. If you want to get to know it better, take the tour of the most comprehensive Jewish Quarter in Europe!

Třebíč – unique UNESCO monuments

The Basilica of St. Prokop and the Jewish quarter in Třebíč in the Vysočina region have been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2003. Třebíč was once one of the important centers of Jewish culture in Moravia, and the uniquely preserved Jewish quarter and basilica are a testament to the coexistence of Jews and Christians. The densely populated Jewish quarter includes more than 120 residential buildings which complement the buildings of the former Jewish institutions – the town hall, school, the rabbinate, and the poorhouse. In addition, the Rear Synagogue offers information about the history of the Jewish quarter in its exhibition. You are sure not to overlook it during your tour because its interior is decorated with unique Baroque paintings. Today, Třebíč Jewish Quarter is a



Photo copyright: CzechTourism, Ladislav Renner.

picturesque town within the city and offers a variety of cafés and guesthouses.

Terezín Ghetto

The town of Terezín, on the border of Central and Northern Bohemia, became a sad reminder of the suffering of tens of thousands of people during the Second World War. For several years, it served as an internment camp and a waystation for Czechoslovak citizens of Jewish origin on their way to Nazi extermination camps. The Terezín Memorial recalls its history and several exhibits and places, e.g., the Ghetto Museum, the Magdeburg Barracks, the Church of the Resurrection, the Jewish cemetery and the Small Fortress, which functioned as a Gestapo prison for Prague. In addition to the Memorial, you can also see the system of fortification with underground corridors. Terezín was originally built in the 18th century as a military fortress.

Jewish monuments on every corner

Before World War II, about 120,000 people professing Judaism lived in the territory of today's Czech Republic. Today, unfortunately, there are only a few thousand, but thanks to the life and work of their ancestors, the Czech Republic is full of their original monuments.

Jewish monuments can be found in several towns and villages, many of which serve as museums or concert halls. In Holešov in Moravia, you can see the unique Šach Synagogue, and in western Bohemia's Pilsen, you can admire the Great Synagogue, the largest in the Czech Republic, the second largest in Europe, and the third largest in the world. Valuable sets of Jewish monuments have also been preserved in Boskovice and Mikulov. An educational trail guides visitors through the remains of the old Mikulov ghetto to see the synagogue, the Jewish cemetery and the rare, medieval *mikveh*.

- [Jewish Heritage of the Czech Republic](#)
- [Unveil stories of Prague Jewish Ghetto](#)
- [#VisitCzechRepublic](#)



CROATIA

CENTRAL EUROPE

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JEWISH CULTURE IN CROATIA

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JEWISH HERITAGE

The importance of Jewish heritage in Croatia is reflected not only in the material heritage related to Judaism, such as synagogues and cemeteries, but also in the influence that Jews have had on the development and prosperity of Croatian society, in particular the cities of Zagreb and Osijek and their multiculturalism at the turn of the 19th to 20th century.

The oldest preserved synagogues in Croatia are in Dubrovnik and Split, and date from the 16th century. They are one aspect of the effects of the expulsion of Jews from Spain and Portugal when many Sephardic Jews found refuge in Dalmatia. The Dubrovnik Synagogue is the second oldest Sephardic synagogue in Europe, located on a street named Žudioska, which means "Jewish". A document dated 1573 mentions the Split Jewish Cemetery, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Croatia with over 700 graves, mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries.

The second museum of Jewish culture in Croatia is in Zagreb. Its collection contains primarily sacral objects related to the service of God, holidays and festivities related to the home and family as prescribed by faith and tradition. The multimedia exhibit presents the contributions in the fields of culture, architecture, and economy with which the Jews of Zagreb marked Zagreb; they played an important role in the transformation of Zagreb into a modern city. Almost all public buildings in the Lower City were designed by Jewish architects and built by Jewish companies.

- [Jewish museum in Zagreb](#)
- [Jewish Osijek - a virtual walk](#)



Photo copyright: Turespaña - Santa María la Blanca synagogue - Toledo.

THE PATHS OF SEFARAD

TRAVEL BACK THROUGH TIME

What does one of the most cosmopolitan cities on the planet, Barcelona, have in common with the bucolic Hervás? And what about World Heritage sites such as Ávila, Cáceres, Córdoba, Segovia, and Toledo with the Mediterranean Sagunto? And the monumental Lorca and Estella-Lizarra with the cute Ribadavia, Tui and Lucena? Well, all of them – together with Béjar, Calahorra, Córdoba, Jaén, León, Monforte de Lemos, Plasencia, Tarazona and Tudela – give shape to the Network of Jewish Quarters of Spain. These trace a travel experience essential for all of us: a journey into the Jewish heritage of Spain based on the varioust tourism initiatives of the Network of Jewish Quarters of Spain.

We encourage you to get to know 22 cities that Jewish communities in the past hosted and whose footprints span more than 1,000 years. Come and travel the Paths of Sefarad, the name used by the Jews to refer to Spain.

Stroll through the narrow streets of ancient Jewish quarters, enter a synagogue or visit museums that aim to preserve this legacy. In short, travel back through time – because travelling to any of these cities is an experience that combines history, art, traditions, and unique gastronomy.

Come to Spain and discover our Sephardic heritage and find out how crafts, trade, science, and poetry flourished.

- [Spain Tourism Board- Paths of Sefarad](#)
- [Santa María La Blanca Synagogue](#)

JEWISH CULTURE IN ITALY

THE MILLENNIAL HISTORY OF JEWISH PEOPLE IN ITALY

Many of the most ancient and important Jewish communities outside Israel lived in Italy. Jews have defended and shared their culture here for over two thousand years, bringing with them new forms of art, new food traditions, rites, and celebrations. Traces of such a long and intense history can still be seen throughout the country, from north to south. Museums, ritual baths, cemeteries and archaeological remains as well as synagogues can be found everywhere.

There are two kinds of synagogue in Italy: "Ghetto" synagogues are usually in buildings with anonymous

exteriors, in compliance with the dictates of the Papal Bull of 1555 which obliged them to be unrecognizable from the outside, while the Synagogues of the Emancipation, built after the Unification of Italy in 1861, are places with a strong visual impact, similar in size and splendor to Catholic cathedrals. Special mention can be made of the synagogues in Casale Monferrato (widely thought to be the finest in Italy), Siena (not far from Piazza del Campo, whose architecture is influenced by Vanvitelli), and Carpi (near Modena).

Jewish traditions also have infinite and indissoluble bonds with Rome, despite the fact that in 1555 Jewish people were confined, by order of Pope Paul IV, to a strip of land on the outskirts of the city between the Theatre of Marcellus and the Portico of Octavia known as the "Ghetto". You can still experience Jewish culture at the table here today; although it was initially poor cuisine prepared with leftovers (such as fish scraps), over time the wise blending of the simple ingredients in kosher cuisine even become popular among the people of Rome, to the extent that many typical Roman dishes clearly have Jewish origins. *Carciofi alla giudia* (Jewish-style artichokes) are well worth trying and were mentioned in 2nd century recipes and memoirs from Rome's Jewish quarter. Many slow-



cooked dishes, such as chickpea hummus, pita, and falafel were prepared a day in advance because it was forbidden to work on the Sabbath.

Visit the Jewish Museum to learn about the history and traditions of Judaism in Rome. It tells the story of the local community, from the initial settlements in the 2nd century BCE. After lunch you can visit the Roman Forum or the excavations of Ostia Antica. Both these sites have artefacts from the Jewish presence in ancient Rome itself.

The Jewish legacy is evident all over Italy, from north to south, in synagogues, monuments, museums, ritual baths, cemeteries, archaeological remains, traditions and events of the communities that flourished and transformed over the centuries. Pitigliano, a small town in southern Tuscany, is known as "little Jerusalem" given the historic presence of a Jewish community that was always well-integrated into general society. Many people from Latium and Tuscany decided to move to Pitigliano, today one of Italy's most beautiful villages. The local Jewish Ghetto, built at the end of the XVI century, is home to the forno delle azzime (unleavened bakery), the kosher butcher, the cellar, the ritual bath and the synagogue. The Synagogue has furnishings

that largely date back to the XVI-XVII centuries. The history museum nearby also provides for interesting visits. The Jewish cemetery just outside the Ghetto was founded in the second half of the XVI century by Niccolò IV Orsini, the Lord of Pitigliano at the time, who granted the use of a tufa plateau at the foot of the highest cliff on which the town center stands.

- [The old Jewish Quarter of Rome](#)
- [Journey into Little Jerusalem](#)

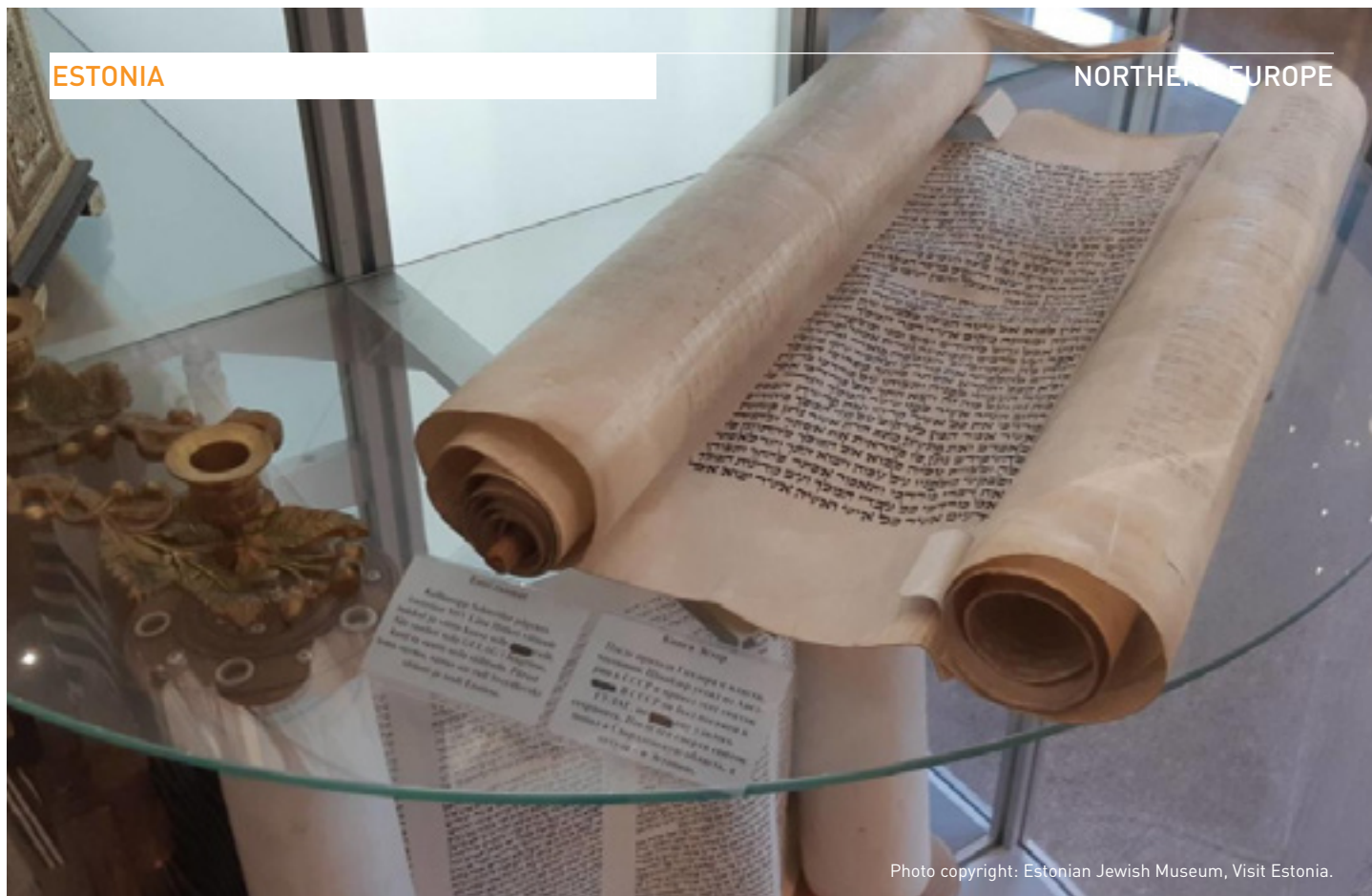


Photo copyright: Estonian Jewish Museum, Visit Estonia.

STORIES OF JEWISH ESTONIA

TRACING JEWISH HISTORY THROUGH ESTONIA

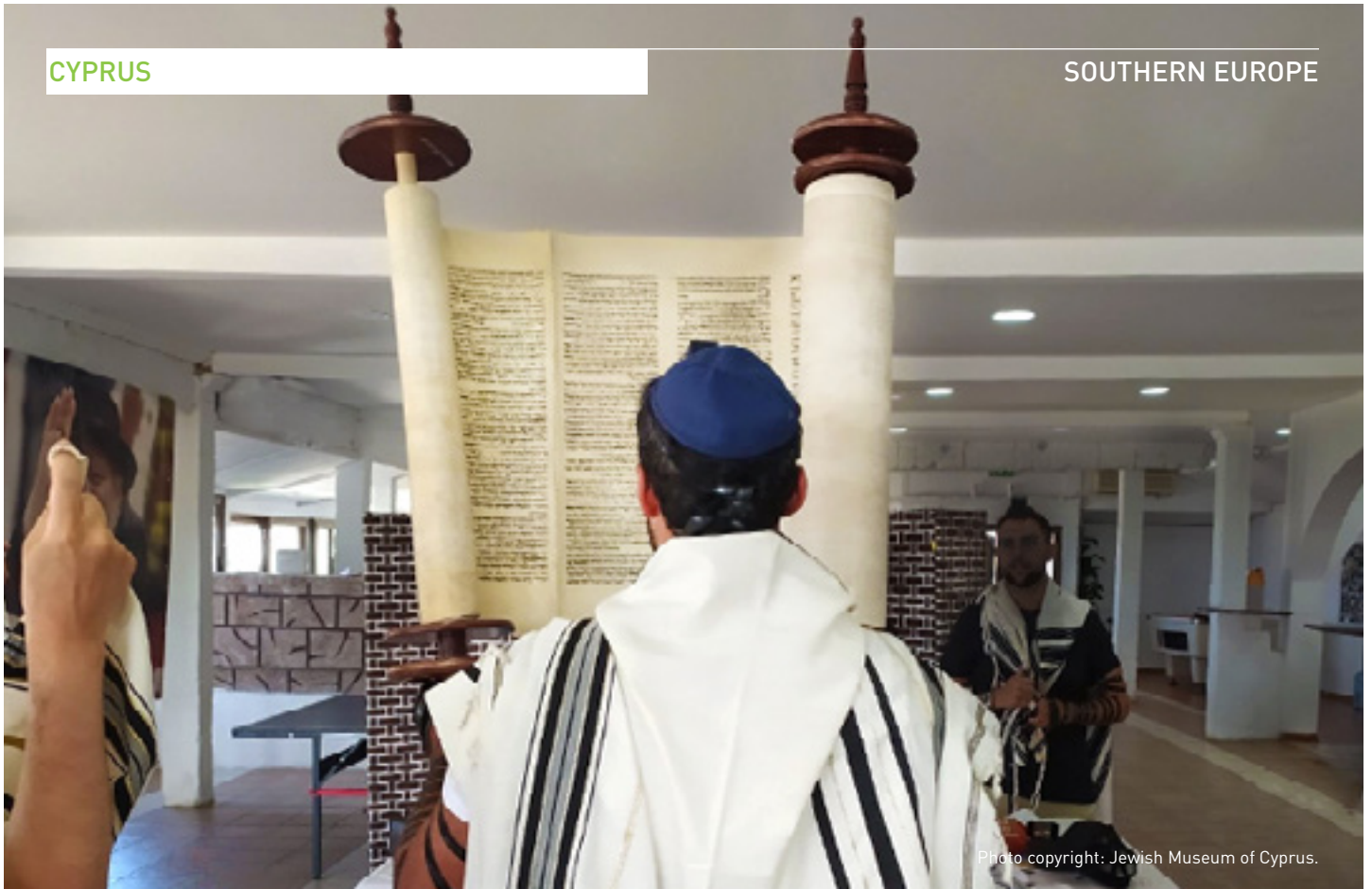
While Estonia is a relatively small and homogenous country, there still exists a long history of the Jewish people, with records of Jews in the country starting in the 14th century. The main wave of Jewish settlement in Estonia began in the 19th century when several thousand came from the Russian Empire. They settled primarily in Tartu and Tallinn, which served as the anchors of Jewish life in Estonia.

In the 20th century, about 200 Jews fought in combat in the Estonian War of Independence (1918–1920). Between then and World War II, Jews in Estonia had comparatively more freedom than in other European countries due to the Act of Cultural Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities, which gave Estonian Jews the right of self-determination in cultural matters. As one journalist from *The Jewish Chronicle* reported, "Estonia is the only country in Eastern Europe where neither the government nor the people practice any discrimination against Jews and where Jews are left in peace."

After Estonia reclaimed independence, the Jewish Community of Estonia was established by the Jewish Cultural Society and Tallinn Congregation in 1992, the first of its kind in the former Soviet Union.

One of the lasting symbols of Judaism in Estonia is the Tallinn Synagogue. Consecrated in 1885, the historical building in Tallinn was destroyed during World War II. Construction of a new building began in 2005, and the synagogue was opened once again in 2007.

- Tallinn Synagogue
- Estonian Jewish Museum
- Skiing - the Estonian Pastime



JEWIS IN CYPRUS

THE FINAL STOP BEFORE THE PROMISED LAND

There are few Jews in Cyprus today, but the island's contribution to Jewish history has not been a small one. Ancient synagogues indicating a substantial Jewish population on the island are known from ancient inscriptions found today at the Cyprus Archaeological Museum in Lefkosia.

During the Middle Ages more communities developed in Lefkosia, Pafos and Famagusta, however during the Ottoman period their numbers dwindled. After World War II, during the British rule of Cyprus, internment camps were created, which often were expansive "tent cities". From 1946 to 1949, 12 internment camps hosted 53,510 Jews on their way to Israel. The conditions at these camps were often horrible, but the Cypriots were not going to stand by and let their fellow humans suffer. For three long years, at their own expense they helped feed, clothe, and nurture the interned.

Only a few but important monuments of Jewish heritage exist today in Cyprus that witness their footsteps across our island. A small Jewish cemetery off the coastal road east of Larnaka airport, dating back to 1873 and containing nine graves is still in use. In Larnaka a

plaque commemorates the existence of the detention camps. These camps, set up by the British, stretched from Dhekelia, on the coast northeast of Larnaka, to Xylotymbou village. The Jewish Museum of Cyprus is currently a Nissen hut that narrates the experiences of Jews who were interned on the island. There are plans to expand it.

→ Visit Cyprus



JEWISH HERITAGE IN ROMANIA

A RICH HISTORY DATING BACK TO THE ROMAN LEGIONS

Romania has a significant Jewish heritage. The first Jews arrived in Dacia (ancient Romania) as part of the Roman legions (Legion Judaica) in 101 A.D. During the Middle Ages, Jewish immigrants began settling in Wallachia and Moldova (Romanian historical regions). Their number started rising after the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492. During the period of Turkish domination, the Romanian Jewish Community evolved into a prosperous middle class. Now about 5,000 Jews are registered in Romania, mainly living in major cities such as Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj, Oradea and Timișoara.

Jewish heritage in Romania boasts nearly 100 synagogues, of which half are still used for worship, and more than 800 cemeteries scattered across the country. Jewish heritage sites of particular interest are in Arad, Brașov, Botoșani, Bucharest, Cluj, Dorohoi, Fălticeni, Iași, Oradea, Piatra Neamț, Rădăuți, Roman, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Sighetu Marmăției, Siret, Suceava, Târgu Mureș, Timișoara, Galați, Tecuci, Bârlad, and Tulcea.

Romania is included on The European Route of Jewish Heritage, a cultural route of the Council of Europe; the regional Maramureș and Bucovina Family Routes Journeys lie in the northern part of the country. In these historic regions, today live almost 300,000 Jews, from a total of 800,000 prior to WWII.

Sighetu Marmăției is a well-known destination for Jewish culture, including places of interest such as the Jewish Culture Museum and Elie Wiesel Memorial House, Vijnîțer Klaus Temple and the Holocaust Monument – a bronze statue made by sculptor Izsak Marton, a survivor of the forced labor camps, erected in memory of the 5,943 missing Jews. A significant event took place in Sighetu Marmăției in November 2021: the inauguration of the New Big Synagogue, the newest



Photo copyright: Florin Cnejevici / Shutterstock.com.

synagogue in Europe and one of the biggest in Eastern Europe. Other localities of interest in the Maramureş region are Baia Mare, Seini, Carei and Satu Mare.

In the Bucovina region there are synagogues and temples in Suceava, Câmpulung Moldovenesc, Rădăuţi, Vatra Dornei, Gura Humorului, Siret, and Fălticeni. The oldest East European cemetery is in Siret, the oldest gravestone dating from 1560. The special Jewish ornamental motifs carved on the gravestones are known as the speaking stones of Siret. In the next 24 months, the local history museum in Siret will be restored as a Holocaust Memorial, receiving an investment of up to 1.6 million euros. Close to Bucovina in Piatra Neamţ is the only wooden synagogue still extant in Romania, and one of the few remaining from the 17th century.

The capital of Romania has the most numerous Jewish sites: the "Coral" Temple, the Great Synagogue, the United Holy Temple, the Jewish Cemetery – the second largest in the country, with over 40,000 graves – Filantropia Jewish Cemetery of Ashkenazi rites, the Sephard Jewish Cemetery, the Memorial of the Holocaust Victims in Romania, and the Jewish Theatre. Romania cherishes the memory of those lost to the Holocaust tremendously and will commemorate to

them The National Museum of Jewish History and the Holocaust, which will be in the Banloc-Goodrich building, situated in the heart of Bucharest. This investment was included in Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Some of the internationally known Jewish Romanian personalities in the artistic world include playwright Eugene Ionesco; actors Molly Picon, Edward Robinson and John Houseman; conductor Sergiu Comissiona; opera star Alma Gluck; pianists Clara Haskil and Theodor Fuchs, writers Isaac Peltz and Elie Wiesel, and well-known activist Yitzhak Artzi.

- [Family Routes Journeys](#)
- [Elie Wiesel Memorial House](#)

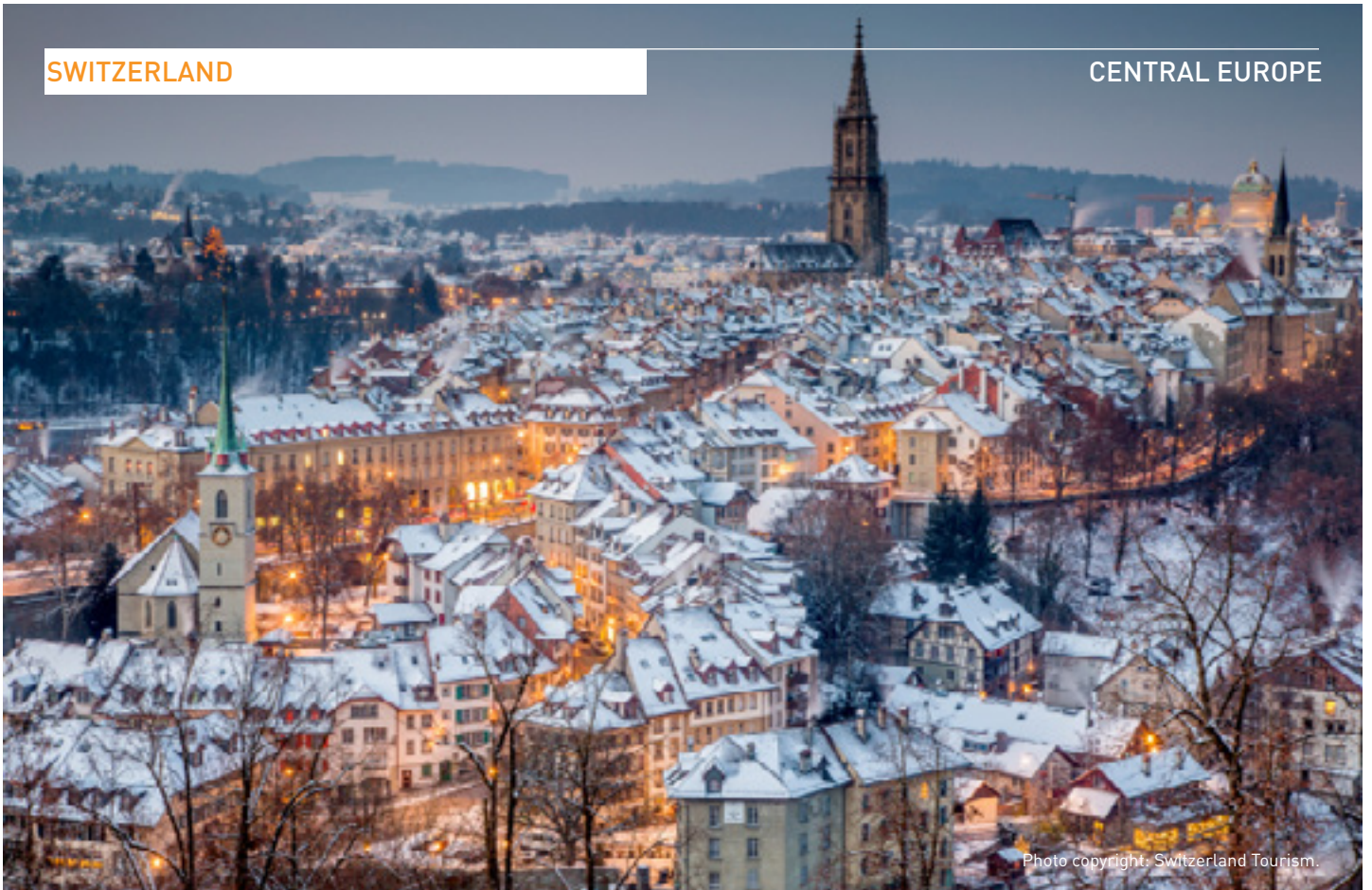


Photo copyright: Switzerland Tourism.

SMALL COUNTRY - RICH HISTORY

GREAT PERSONALITIES WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Switzerland has a rich history of different peoples who have crossed the country and spread their religions. Jewish settlements formed in Switzerland, especially in the larger cities such as Zurich, Basel and Geneva.

Basel - the city of culture and heritage

The historic Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois in Basel has played host to a tremendous number of very important people throughout history. Among them was Theodor Herzl. It was here that Herzl laid the foundation stone for the State of Israel during the world's first Zionist Congress, held in Basel in 1897. Besides Herzl, the hotel has also been visited by Napoleon, Dickens, Voltaire, and Metternich. Home to 40 museums, Basel is a city of culture for connoisseurs with the highest concentration of museums in Switzerland. Basel also has a beautiful Old Town, modern architecture, and the Rhine – an inviting spot to rest a while.

Bern – where Albert Einstein left his footprints

The famous physicist Albert Einstein was of Jewish origin, and he lived and studied in Switzerland for a time. It was during this period that he developed the theory of relativity. His former home in Bern, the Einstein House, is now a museum that gives visitors a chance to see where the great physicist completely revolutionized our understanding of space and time. The old town of the Swiss capital Bern has managed to retain its historic features and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

- Historical Basel
- Old City of Bern
- Einstein House

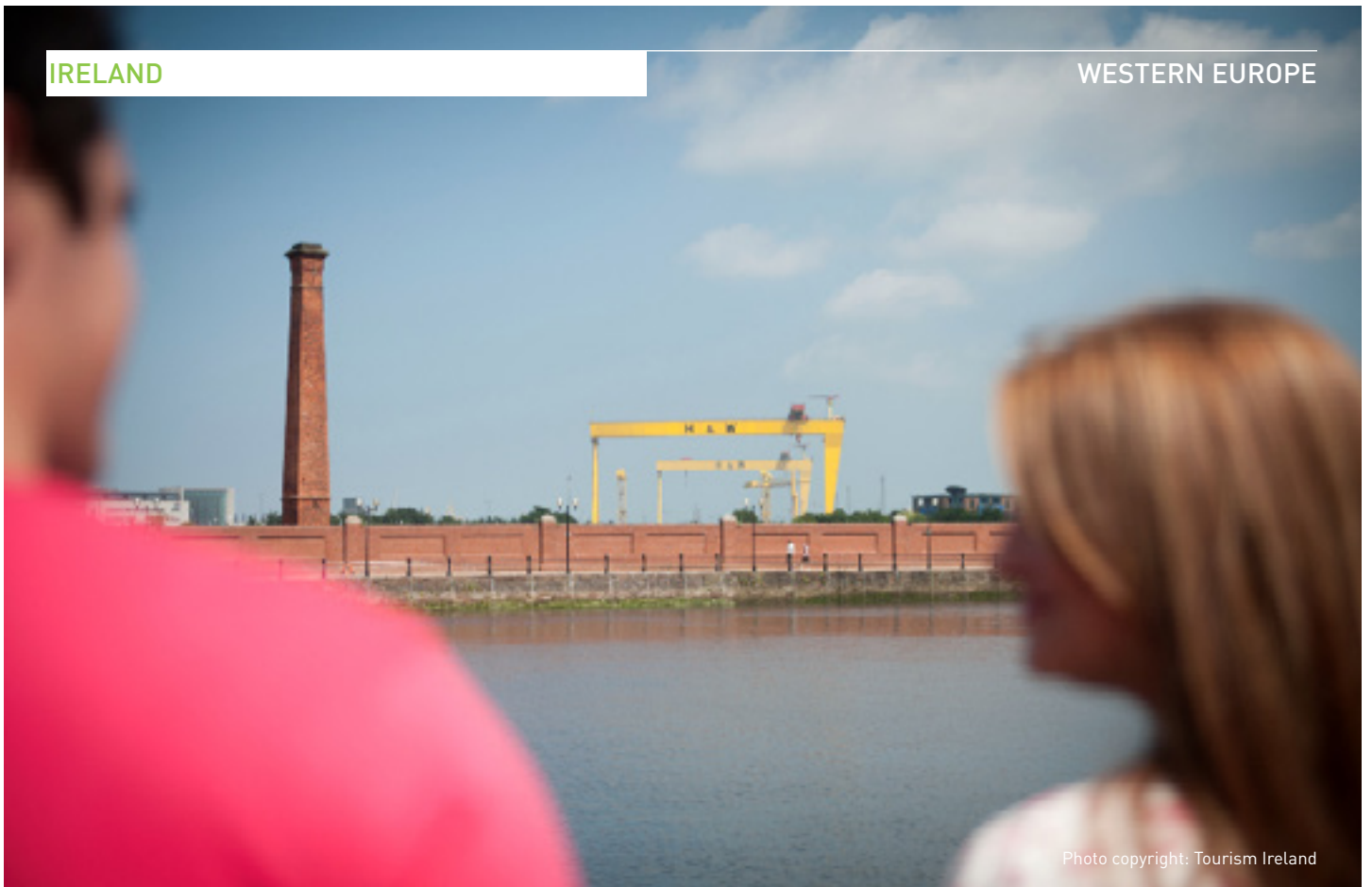


Photo copyright: Tourism Ireland

IRELAND'S JEWISH HISTORY

DELVE INTO IRELAND'S JEWISH ROOTS

Curious about Ireland's Jewish heritage?

A good place to start is the Jewish Quarter on Dublin's South Circular Road, where many immigrants settled to form a new life. Portobello was known as "Little Jerusalem", home to bakers, butchers and six synagogues. One of the most famous Jewish literary characters is Leopold Bloom of James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*, who came from the heart of this area on Clanbrassil St.

Explore the Irish Jewish Museum, where you'll find artefacts and exhibits detailing the history of the Jews in Ireland – or throw yourself into the city and stories of the community on a walking tour with Adams & Butler. Be sure to stop for a bite to eat at Bretzel Bakery & Cafe on Lennox St – established in 1870, it's a true Dublin institution!

The Jewish community in Northern Ireland is now a small one, but history reveals its impact on Belfast in particular. Many people of Jewish heritage have helped shaped the city, including Sir Otto Jaffe, twice elected Lord Mayor of Belfast; Belfast-born Chaim Herzog,

President of Israel from 1983-1993; and Gustav Wilhelm Wolff of Harland & Wolff, famed for building the Titanic.

Today, Belfast Synagogue holds a regular weekly service. Falls Road cemetery has one of the oldest Jewish tombs in Northern Ireland. For those interested in researching Jewish culture, the Special Collections archives at Queen University is a treasure trove of records, memoirs, and poetry.

Where would you visit first on your Jewish heritage journey?

- [Dublin in 72 hours](#)
- [Belfast in 72 hours](#)
- [Irish genealogy resources](#)

JEWISH LEGACY IN PORTUGAL

DISCOVER PORTUGAL'S SEPHARDIC JEWISH HERITAGE

Set out on a journey of discovery through towns, cities, and villages of a heritage rich in memories evoking the Jewish presence in Portugal.

Although there are some earlier references, it was between the 5th and 15th centuries that the Sephardic Jewish community, or Iberian Peninsula Jews, settled in the territory that is now Portugal, contributing in the most diverse ways to Portuguese culture.

Protected by the kings, many Jews, amongst whom were philosophers, humanists, scientists, and

merchants, as well as tradesmen such as cobblers, tailors, and weavers, actively participated in many significant moments in Portuguese history. They had a significant effect on the foundation of Portuguese nationality and the settlement of the land; later they contributed financially and scientifically to the Age of Discoveries. One important figure was the great 16th century mathematician and cosmographer, Pedro Nunes, who invented the nonius, a navigational aid.

In 1496, the Edict of Expulsion of the Jews from Portugal obliged them to convert to Catholicism and become New Christians. Many left the country, but others remained and secretly kept their faith, forming the so-called *marranos* or crypto-Jews. The symbolic marks and inscriptions of those times can still be seen carved in the houses of former Jewish quarters, whose traces survive in places such as Trancoso, Belmonte, Guarda and Castelo de Vide.

Rua Nova (New Street), *Rua Direita* (Straight Street), *Rua da Estrela* (Star Street) and *Espinosa* are examples of names which indicate the former existence of a Jewish quarter. When you look at the houses, you can see a large door on the ground floor that gives access to the store and a narrower one to enter the residence,



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located on the upper floor. These demonstrate the importance the Jews gave to trade. In some houses you can still see the slot for the mezuzah, a decorative container holding parchment with words from the Torah which should be placed on the righthand side of the doorframe, according to Jewish faith.

One of the first printed works in the country was an edition by Samuel Gacon, published in 1487 in Faro, of the *Pentateuch*. Today there are several museums focusing on the Jewish presence in Portugal, including those in Castelo de Vide, Belmonte, and Faro. In Tomar, the museum is housed in a 15th-century former synagogue. Learning about the history of Portuguese Jews is quite easy by following the Jewry Route, a testimony to the encounter between peoples and cultures that we are proud to preserve.

In their diaspora the Jews also disseminated Portuguese language and culture. During World War II, Portugal welcomed many thousands of Jews escaping Nazi persecution. In 1940, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, Aristides de Sousa Mendes, disobeyed the Portuguese government's orders and saved tens of thousands of lives by granting visas to Jewish refugees. In 1966, on behalf of the Israeli State, Yad Vashem,

The World Holocaust Remembrance Center, awarded Mendes the title of "Righteous Among the Nations". Living in Portugal was legalized for Jews in 1912, and today the Jewish community has synagogues in Lisbon, Porto, Trancoso, and Belmonte.

Jewish heritage is part of the Portuguese identity, so we invite you to explore it and get more information on places to visit in Portugal related to the Sephardic Jewish Heritage at www.pathsoffaith.com, as well information about accommodation units in Portugal that especially welcome Jewish religion and culture, and restaurants and stores with kosher certification.

- Jewish Heritage in Portugal
- Leaflet Portugal: Jewish Legacy
- Aristides: the insubordinate consul

SHALOM, JEWISH BRATISLAVA!

EXPLORE STREETS FULL OF LIFE STORIES

Do you happen to know that Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, in the past was an important center of Jewish life? And that one of Orthodox Judaism's most significant scholars is buried there? Or that Arthur Fleischmann, an internationally acclaimed Jewish artist who pioneered the use of perspex in sculpture, was a Bratislava native and that there is a museum of his life and work in the very house where he was born? Thanks to a long history of the Jewish community, whose origins can be traced back to medieval times, Bratislava boasts many precious Jewish heritage sites. Be sure to include them in your travel itinerary across Europe!

Start with a pilgrimage site of international importance that many Orthodox Jews from around the world visit every year. It is the Chatam Sofer Memorial, a shrine built over the graves of 23 prominent rabbis and scholars including that of Chatam Sofer himself. Originally named Moshe Schreiber, Chatam Sofer was one of the leading authorities on Jewish religious law, world-renowned for his comments on the Talmud and Tora, and the founder of the Yeshiva of Pressburg (the city's former city). It was one of the most prominent centers of traditional Jewish learning in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries. The complex was redeveloped two decades ago and the new design adheres to the highest standards of contemporary architecture as well as to the strict requirements of the *halakha* (Jewish law).

Your next stop should be the synagogue on Heydukova Street, which is still an active house of worship, with Orthodox services led by Rabbi Baruch Myers. In the interior you can admire a spacious sanctuary in which modern steel and concrete construction and contemporary Cubist details are combined with historic elements. On the upper floor you can have a look at the Jewish Community Museum exhibition. It presents the lives of Bratislava's once-thriving Jewish community



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through photographs and objects from daily life.

Another museum worth visiting is the Museum of Jewish Culture., where you will find a display of valuable Judaica and evidence of the vibrant life and traditions of Slovak Jewry. A memorial hall with the names of important Jewish personalities of Slovak descent and an installation recreating a small synagogue sanctuary are other highlights of the permanent exhibition.

Another spot is the Holocaust Memorial, located on the site of the former Moorish-style Neolog Synagogue, which was demolished by the communist authorities in the 1960s. The monument was erected to commemorate the 105,000 Holocaust victims from Slovakia. It consists of a black wall etched with the silhouette of the destroyed synagogue, and an abstract central sculpture topped by the Star of David and placed on a black granite platform inscribed with the words *Zachor and Pamätaj* ("Remember" in Hebrew and Slovak).

The last stop? How about the Arthur Fleischmann Museum, dedicated to the life and work of this famous Bratislava-born sculptor? He was known for producing sculptures of personalities of the day; he is the only

artist to have sculpted four popes from life. Beside his artworks, which range from classic to modern, there are plenty of archived documents and photographs that give insight into the artist's private life.

Visit the websites listed below and find many other interesting places with Jewish links in Bratislava and Slovakia in general. Or even better, visit Slovakia yourself and get a firsthand experience!

- [Jewish Bratislava](#)
- [Slovak Jewish Heritage Route](#)
- [Slovakia Travel](#)

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