



## A SAMPLE ITINERARY

Page 1

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### ***JEWISH HERITAGE IN HUNGARY AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC***

#### **Day 1 – In flight (all meals en route)**

Arrive at the airport two (2) hours prior to your departure for your international flight. Don't forget your passport and tickets. Dinner and breakfast will be served en route. Try to get some rest on the flight!

#### **Day 2 – arrive in Budapest (Sabbath)**

Arrive safe in Budapest, Hungary today. At the airport you will be met by your English-speaking guide, and transfer to your accommodations: Hotel Andrassy on Budapest's most magnificent avenue. Your guide will give you a brief orientation on the way. Check into your accommodations and freshen up with a welcome beverage. When you have settled in, we will go to a local restaurant for a non-traditional –but festive – Sabbath dinner.

#### **Day 3 –Budapest (B, D)**

After breakfast join your guide for a panoramic tour of Budapest that will include Heroes' Square, the castle district in the Buda Hills and the Fishermen's Bastion.

*BUDAPEST – Capital city Budapest (pop. 2,115,000) is really two cities, Buda and Pest, connected by the beautiful Chain Bridge. Pest is as flat as Kansas, and Buda is as hilly as San Francisco. Known as the Queen of the Danube, this 1,000-year-old city is truly one of the world's most beautiful. It combines Modern, Neoclassical, Baroque, Art Nouveau and other architectural styles with the grandeur of the flowing Duna (or Danube), which meanders through the city for 17 mi.*



*At the Castle District of Buda, you'll find antiques stores, shops, pretty homes, taverns, museums (including an excellent music museum), restaurants (expensive, by local standards) and many of Budapest's prime attractions in a relatively compact area. Although the Fisherman's Bastion, adjacent to the Hilton, looks as if it were once part of a fortified defensive complex, it was built at the beginning of the century simply for decorative purposes. (The Hilton, incidentally, incorporates the remains of a 13th century abbey.) Both the Bastion and the Hilton are atop a hill, with unbeatable views of the Duna, Pest and the stunning Parliament Building. Another must-see is the Matthias Church, which represents the very soul of the city. You can't miss its colorful, multispired roof, and you'll find the church is just as stunning inside. It has a huge pipe organ. Also nearby is the Pharmacy Museum, which has a bizarre Renaissance and Baroque medical equipment.*

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## A SAMPLE ITINERARY

Page 2

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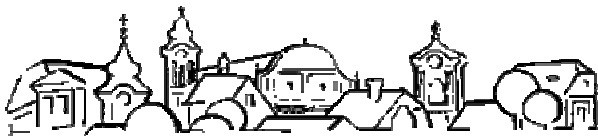
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*Attractions on the Pest side include the National Museum, the glittering Opera House, the newly renovated Market Hall (a cavernous wrought-iron retail market) and the Jewish Museum (adjoining the largest functioning synagogue in Europe). Shoppers will enjoy the Váci utca, Pest's best-known shopping street. If you tire of shopping, head to the lavish Cafe Gerbeaud (located at one end of the street), one of the city's most ornate coffee and pastry shops. Other Pest sights include the Heroes' Square – the site of Hungary's modern revolutions. Across the street is the Museum of Fine Arts (excellent Goya and El Greco collection) and farther down is the City Park, with the Budapest Zoo (opened in 1866) and Vajdahunyad Castle (designed in 1896, the castle represents the different architectural styles that could be found in Hungary at that time). There are more than 200 thermal springs in the city, and the Turks built several public facilities that are still in use. There's an ornate bath at the Hotel Gellért declared a national monument; the indoor thermal pool there looks like an Art Nouveau version of a Roman bath.*

Lunch on your own today, with some free time afterwards to enjoy the city on your own. Travelers will be provided with a 'Budapest' card, which provides free use of public transit, admission to most museums and discounts at select restaurants and shops. Ask your guides for suggestions, and explore the many aspects of Budapest's rich cultural resources! Meet up with the group again at the hotel for dinner, which will be served at the Renaissance Restaurant Anonymus, by the shore of Vajdahunyad Castle's pond. Immerse in the ambiance of Renaissance times: your meal will be served on contemporary tableware, and you'll be entertained by Renaissance music!

### **Day 4 – Szentendre (B, D)**

After breakfast we will board a bus up to Danube River to the arts community of Szentendre. Today will be a day to stroll amidst its many museums, wine cellars, ateliers, and peer over the impressive roof tops which give one the sense of being in a southern Mediterranean town. Lunch will be arranged for you at one of Szentendre's quaint restaurants. We will arrange a special wine tasting tour for you at the National Wine Cellar – giving you a chance to savor some of the finest wines from Hungary's 22 wine regions.



*SZENTENDRE – an enchanting small Mediterranean-style town of arts and museums with appr. 20.000 resident; the southern gate of the Danube Bend. Due to its excellent geographical endowments, Szentendre has been populated since the new stone age, its first*

*known inhabitants being the Illyrians. During the reign of Emperor Augustus it served as a Roman outpost named *Ulcisia Castra* (Wolf Camp); its present name derives from a church ordained in St. Andrew's honor in the medieval ages.*

*During the Turkish occupation and wars its population decreased continually. The town was resettled again after the fall of Belgrade to the Turks in 1690, by Serbs fleeing the Ottoman hosts. In hope of being able to return home, each settling group erected temporary wooden churches named after the*

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## A SAMPLE ITINERARY

Page 3

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town they came from: Blagovestenska, Pozharevacka, Chiprovachka, and so on. When these hopes were finally shattered, the wooden churches were replaced by beautiful Baroque style stone churches in the 18th century. Even today Szentendre is the seat of Greek Orthodox Serbian Episcopate and as such the religious and cultural center of the Serb people in Hungary. In its secular architecture the town holds evidence of the heritage of its settlers with its narrow, winding streets, and small, colorful houses. On the streets you find an array of little shops offering products of Hungarian folk art and handicrafts.



Due to wars, natural disasters, rivalry among industrial establishments and finally, the phylloxera disease during the 19th century, Szentendre remained a quiet little town retaining its Baroque features - yet that the quietness and the closeness of the bustling metropolis of Budapest has drawn over one hundred artists here, allowing the town to become the nest of arts and museums. One of the most visited museums of the country, the Kovács Margit Museum is located here. But the town also gives home to the Hungarian Open Air Museum exhibiting the folklore architecture and culture of the Carpathian Basin, and there are 14 other museums and art galleries acquainting visitors with the rich historical past and teeming life of arts.

After an early dinner in a typical Hungarian style restaurant in Szentendre, we return to Budapest to take a Budapest-by-night cruise on the River Danube. The boat departs from the center of Budapest and makes an hour round trip in the city. While you are enchanted by the illuminated sights, famous Hungarian historical personalities, kings, queens, poets, inventors and even the Danube tells you legendary stories about the town. Through TV screens – hanged everywhere on board – you will be able to look behind the walls of the buildings passing by, and to admire the hidden interiors. The program ends with the Blue Danube Waltz that whispers in your ears any time you remember the tour. After the cruise we transfer back to your hotel.

### **Day 5 – Budapest (B, D)**

This morning the sightseeing in Budapest continues – but now from a different perspective: discover Budapest through Jewish eyes! Lunch on your own today. The afternoon is free: should you be tired from all the walking, spend some relaxing time at the beautiful Gellért spa! Meet up with the group again in the evening to attend a performance at the Jewish Summer Festival. An exclusive dinner at Budapest’s most prominent restaurant – the *Gundel* – follows.

### **Day 6 – Budapest (B, L)**

Today we take a half-day excursion to Herend, to visit its world famous China factory and the attached museum, the so-called *Porcelaneum*. Herend is at the pinnacle of porcelain-making in Hungary, but

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Page 4

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until recently, only a privileged few saw for themselves how Herend's marvelous works of art were made. Now everyone can. We are privileged to invite you on a special excursion.



*HEREND – PORCELANEUM: The manufactory founded by Vince Stingl, revived by Mór Fischer, and now more than 175 years old, brought the production of porcelain to perfection in a few short years. From 1851 onwards, its meticulous, hand-painted masterpieces of unrivalled beauty won countless gold medals at world exhibitions. Herend Porcelain soon gained the place it deserved on the tables of monarchs, princes, aristocrats, statesmen and Hollywood stars.*

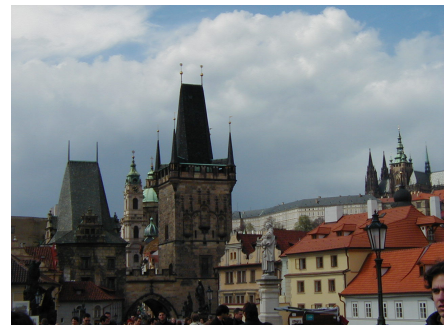
*Some of what is seen and heard in the film at the beginning of the tour comes to life as you enter the Minimanufactory. You learn how clumsy, sticky china clay turns into light, delicate porcelain, how nimble fingers knead it, mould it, throw it, fire it, glaze it and paint it. By the time the paste becomes porcelain, it will have passed through some 17 pairs of hands that shape it, clean it, glaze it, paint and touch it up. Here, in the place itself, it becomes apparent what skill and patience go into the hard, but wonderfully rewarding task of making porcelain.*

Across Porcelanium Square is the *Herend Porcelain Museum*, where visitors can see many examples of the traditional, hand-made porcelain visitors have seen in the making in the Mini-Manufactory. Have lunch at the *Restaurant Apicius*, your dishes served on the finest Herend China!

After the factory experience we transfer back to Budapest and give you some time to refresh yourselves. The evening casts the spotlight on the theater group: they will perform “Anne Frank and Me” for the audience of the Jewish Festival! The performance will take place at the American International School in Nagykovácsi, with many prominent guests attending. It will be preceded by a reception hosted by the US Embassy. The Holocaust Museum of Budapest hopes to invite Peter Malkin (the Mossad agent who captured Adolf Eichmann) as a speaker.

### **Day 7 – to Prague (B, L en route, D)**

Board your plane to fly on to the capital of the Czech Republic – *the Paris of the New Millennium* – by nonstop jet. Upon arrival meet your guide and transfer to your comfortable, centrally located accommodations: Hotel Biskupsky Dum near Charles Bridge. Your guide will give you a short orientation on the city and your program on the way. Dinner at a nearby restaurant.



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Page 5

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*PRAGUE. The capital of the Czech Republic, is the Czechs' most valuable historical city reserve. In 1992 the historical core of the city covering 866 hectares was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register. Prague is one of the nine cities awarded by the European Community the title of European City of Culture for the year 2000.*



*„Praga caput regni“ has been inscribed in the Prague's coat of arms. And rightly so. Since its beginnings Prague has always played an important role in the history of the nation, the country and Europe. Since the Middle Ages Prague has been famous as one of the most beautiful cities of the world, and has been attributed adjectives such as „golden“, „hundred-spired“, „the crown of the world“, „a stone dream“. Throughout centuries prominent personalities paid homage to it. W. A. Mozart, L. van Beethoven, F. M. Dostojevsky, A. Rodin, G. Apollinaire, P. I. Tchaikovsky, O. Kokoschka and also the British Queen Elizabeth*

*II and Pope John Paul II professed their beguilement by its attractiveness and architectural beauty. The native town is reflected in the works of Jan Neruda, Jaroslav Hasek, Jaroslav Seifert, Franz Kafka, Max Brod or Egon Erwin Kisch. Prague represents a unique collection of historical monuments dominated by the Prague Castle which towers high above the city. It is a specimen of all artistic styles and movements. The historical core of the city is situated on both banks of the Vltava river and consists of 6 parts - formerly independent urban units unified in the 18th century. They are as follows: Stare Mesto (Old Town), Josefov (the preserved part of the former Jewish Town - today a part of the Old Town), Nove Mesto (New Town), Mala Strana (Lesser Town), Hradcany and Vysehrad. Naturally, most of the historical monuments, museums and galleries are concentrated right there.*

### **Day 8 – Prague (B, D)**

After breakfast, a full-day city tour will be planned to get you acquainted with the sights of the Old Town and Prague's Castle. The tour will include a stroll in Prague's Jewish Quarter as well, to introduce you to the town's rich Jewish heritage. Lunch in town on your own today. There will be some free time in the afternoon to explore on your own. In the evening we meet at the hotel and transfer to the pier on the Moldau to enjoy a boat ride on the river with a buffet dinner. Transfer back to your hotel afterwards.

### **Day 9 – Prague, to Terezin (B, L)**

After breakfast at the hotel, board your motorcoach for a one-hour ride to leave with your guide for Terezin, the fortress, and later transit camp and Jewish ghetto which was the centerpiece of an extraordinary public relations hoax, being billed as a kind of Jewish 'refuge'. Your tour includes both the Main and Lesser Fortresses, with the



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Page 6

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Museum of the Ghetto and the National Cemetery. After the tour leave for Melnik, the Castle of Czech princesses and queens, located on the confluence of the Labe and Vltava (Moldau) Rivers. It was rebuilt into a Renaissance chateau in the second half of the 16th century. Upon arrival we'll have lunch in the restaurant on the ground floor of the castle in the U Soutoku restaurant with a smashing view of the countryside. Later follows the tour of the complex which was recently returned to the Lobkovicz family to whom it had belonged since 1753. Your tour here includes a visit to the exhibition of the Czech Baroque paintings, historical interiors and exhibition of wine growing as well as the tasting of 6 sorts of wines in cellar. The tour takes about 45 minutes.

After the visit, transfer back to Prague. The rest of the evening is free so that you may prepare for Sabbath on your own or in small groups as you like, with our assistance as requested.

### **Day 10 – Prague (B, D)**

Today is a completely free day in Prague. Ask your guides for suggestions! In the evening we meet at the hotel to attend a performance at Prague's famous Black Light Theater. The show will be followed by a festive farewell dinner to say good-bye to this cultural capital of Europe.

### **Day 11 – to US**

After breakfast, we'll check out of our accommodations and head for the airport. Have a safe and pleasant trip home!

***WELCOME HOME!***

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