



Russia Post-Mission

Post-mission extension, Vilnius, Lithuania
September 16 – 19, 2017

ITINERARY (subject to change)

Saturday, September 16

Arrival in Vilnius and transfer to your hotel - the Kempinski

Located in the heart of Vilnius' Old Town and directly on Cathedral Square, the Kempinski features breathtaking views over the UNESCO-listed Old Town and is within walking distance of major tourist attractions, including the Presidential Palace, the main shopping street, Gedimino Boulevard, galleries, ministries and governmental institutions.

Dinner

Overnight - Kempinski Hotel

Sunday September 17, 2017

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart for a day of sightseeing!

First stop - the Memorial Museum of Paneriai

The village of Paneriai is situated around ten kilometers west of Vilnius. During the German occupation of Lithuania, one of the largest massacres by the SS took place here. A museum and several memorial stones commemorate the tens of thousands of Jews and other victims murdered in Paneriai.

Drive to Trakai for a city tour and visit to the Trakai castle

Trakai, the ancient capital of Lithuania, is situated 30 km from Vilnius and is particularly rich in architectural and cultural monuments. The main landmark is famous Trakai castle, on the island in Galve Lake. The town was constructed in the second half of the 14th century and in the 15th-16th centuries served as the residence of the Grand Duke and his family. By the beginning of the 19th century, the castle was practically in ruins. Today we can visit and enjoy the fascinating medieval atmosphere that has been carefully preserved.



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Lunch at the Apvalaus Stalo Klubas restaurant

After lunch, return to Vilnius for a visit of the Tolerance Center and the KGB Museum (Museum of Genocide Victims)

The Tolerance Centre hosts a permanent exposition focused on the heritage of art and culture of Litvaks (Lithuanian Jews). The exhibits include unique relics of the Great Vilnius Synagogue, and Jewish folk art.

The Museum of Genocide Victims was set up on October 14, 1992 by a mandate from the Minister of Culture and Education of the Republic of Lithuania and the President of the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees. This building is a symbol of the 50-year Soviet occupation. Set up in former KGB headquarters, the museum is the only one of its kind in the former Soviet republics. Reorganized in 1997, its objective is to collect, keep and present historic documents about forms of physical and spiritual genocide against the Lithuanian people, and the extent of the resistance against the Soviet regime.

Time for leisure

Dinner

Overnight - Kempinski Hotel

Monday September 18, 2017

Breakfast at the Hotel

This day will be dedicated to visiting the ORT Vilnius Sholom Aleichem Jewish Gymnasium, Jewish Vilnius and sightseeing of Vilnius

Established in 1989 after the declaration of Lithuania's national independence, the school initially functioned as a Sunday school, where members of the Jewish community learned Hebrew, Yiddish, Jewish traditions and Jewish history. Originally the school served 14 young people and 33 adults. Later it became a secondary school, and in 1998 the Heftsiba program was introduced, in cooperation with the Israeli government, in which, Israeli teachers come to the school on an annual basis to teach Hebrew and organize informal Jewish education activities.



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An ORT technology center was established in 2002, providing a computer lab, photography lab and server. In more recent years, **World ORT** has provided interactive whiteboards for the school and a cutting-edge NOVA 5000 computer lab for teaching science. In February, 2013, Vilnius ORT School was accredited as “Gymnasium” and was renamed the Vilnius Sholom Aleichem ORT Gymnasium School. In 2015, a new building was constructed in the center of Vilnius; it was completely re-equipped by World ORT and the Lithuanian government.

Lunch

Vilnius Sightseeing tour

At one time, Vilnius was a very important Jewish center in Europe. From the 14th century on, Jews settled in the city, and by the 18th century, Vilnius had become the world center of traditional Talmudic learning, eventually known as the Jerusalem of Lithuania, or more generally, the Jerusalem of the North. Your tour will include the main historic and architectural monuments of the town, the small and big Ghetto, the monument to the Vilna Gaon (one of the most prominent Jewish Sages and a world famous Torah and Talmud analyst), the monument to the Tsemakh Shabad (legendary doctor active in charity, education, science and public affairs), and the Vilnius Choral Synagogue.

Dinner

Overnight - Kempinski Hotel

Tuesday September 19, 2017

Breakfast at the Hotel

Departure for the airport