



JOURNEY IN THE LAND OF THE BA'AL SHEM TOV, A HASIDIC EXPERIENCE

APRIL 24 – MAY 1 2018

We will travel through the land of the Ba'al Shem tov in the West-Ukraine. We will visit old shtetls where Hasidic rebbes lived and worked. There we will visit the material remnants of their existence: old synagogues, a mikveh, graveyards. We will enjoy the nature where some rebbes found their inspiration. We will walk in their trails literally and figuratively. Next to travelling through the physical land of the Ba'al Shem Tov and his followers we will also make an inner journey. We will learn about the spiritual legacy of the Hasidic rebbes, practice meditations in the spirit of their work, like they did with their students, and sing their old niggunim and Yiddish songs, in the places where they lived and worked, in nature and inside.

TRAVELLING SCHEDULE

Flight

April 24 2018: departure Amsterdam 9.30 a.m. – arrival Kiev 1.15 p.m.

May 1 2018: departure Kiev 2 p.m. - arrival Amsterdam 4 p.m.

Tuesday april 24: Day 1 – Kiev



Flight from Amsterdam to Kiev according to flight schedule. After arrival in the airport, a city tour will follow of approximately one hour. Around 4 p.m. you will be dropped at your 4* hotel President, Kiev. In the hotel reception with a welcome drink. In the evening you will enjoy a 3-course dinner in the hotel, kosher style.

Wednesday april 25: Day 2 – Kiev – Zhytomyr – Berdichev (180 km)

After breakfast the bus will bring you to Zhytomyr. In this town lived reb Zev Wolf of Zhytomyr (d.1800), a student of the Magid of Mezzeritch, who himself was student of the Ba'al Shem Tov. He wrote Ohr haMeir, an authoritative work in Hasidism, and led the yeshiva.



After lunch we continue to Berdichev, founded in the 15th century. After arrival in your 4* Hotel Deja Vu, Berdichev, there is a welcome drink. In the evening a 3-course dinner in the hotel, kosher style, will follow.

Thursday april 26: Day 3 – Berdichev – Medzhybizh (150 km)

After breakfast we will visit the cemetery with exceptional tomb stones, and the synagogue of Berdichev.

Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev (1740 – 1809) was known to act as the spiritual advocate of the Jewish people. He was a student of the Magid of Mezzeritch, and of rabbi Shmelke of Nickolsburg, whom he succeeded. He wrote the Kedushat Levi.



After lunch the bus will take us to Medzhybizh. In the afternoon you will see several Jewish renovated buildings. After arrival in your 3* hotel Medzhybosh, Medzhybizh you get a welcome drink. In the evening you will enjoy a 3-course dinner in the hotel, kosher style.

Friday april 27: Day 4 – Medzhybizh - Kamenets Podilsky (145 km)

After breakfast you will visit Medzhybizh, where the Ba'al Shem Tov (1700 – 1760), the founder of Hasidism, lived and worked, and where rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav (1722-1810) was born. You will visit the old Jewish cemetery where the tomb of the Ba'al Shem Tov is.

Next to this cemetery there is new building, so the famous graves are not lost. The Apter synagogue and the synagogue of the Ba'al Shem Tov are recently renovated and brought back in original state. At the beginning of the river, the place where the Ba'al Shem Tov used to bathe, a Mikve is built.

Lunch kosher style in Medzhybizh. After lunch the bus will bring us to Kamenets-Podilsky, close to the birth place of the Ba'al Shem Tov. Here he used to withdraw in the woods, before he made himself known as spiritual teacher and healer. In Kamenets-Podilsky you are welcomed with a welcome drink in your 4* Hotel Kleopatra Kamenets-Podilsky. After Friday night service there is a kosher style dinner.

Saturday april 28: Day 5 - Kamenets-Podilsky

A shabbat experience. You will sing, pray, meditate, learn, walk in nature and rest. In the evening kosher style dinner and second night in Kamenets-Podilsky.

Sunday april 29: Day 6 - Kamenets-Podilsky – Nemirov – Bratslav – Uman (353 km)

After breakfast the bus will bring you to Nemirov, for a visit and a lunch. The most important student and assistant of rabbi Nahman of Bratslav, Nathan of Nemirov (1780 – 1844), came from this place. He acted as scribe for rabbi Nahman. After rabbi Nahman's early death, Nathan became leader of the Breslover Hasidim. Not their new rebbe, rabbi Nahman did not appoint a successor. Nathan published the works of rabbi Nahman.

Subsequently the bus brings you to Bratislav. This is the place where rabbi Nahman of Bratslav (1772 – 1810), great grandson of the Ba'al Shem Tov, worked. His most important works are Likutei Moharan and Sipurei Ma'asiyot, 13 stories with a deep mystical meaning. He died in Uman. In 3* Hotel Uman, Uman, you will get a welcome drink and dine kosher style.

Monday april 30: Day 7 Uman – Kiev (215 km)

After breakfast you will visit the cemetery with the grave of rabbi Nahman. Subsequently you will make a walking tour through Uman. After lunch the bus will bring you to Kiev. In 4* Hotel Kazatsky Stan, Kiev, you will get a welcome drink, and in the evening a 3-course dinner kosher style.

Tuesday may 1: Day 8 Kiev - Amsterdam

After breakfast your transfer will bring you to the airport for your flight back to Amsterdam.

Price incl. return flight with 20 kilo luggage, 7 nights hotel in a double room, bus, excursions, guides and full board

€ 1589,00 per person

€ 185,00 surcharge for a single room

Minimum number participants 15

GUIDANCE

Rabbi Hannah Nathans, HaMakor Centre for Jewish Spirituality, and OJC Klal Israel, www.hamakor.nl

Shura Lipovsky, singer/magid, winner Dreaming in Yiddish Award 2017, www.shuralipovsky.com

Wilma Menko, dayly guidance, mail her for questions on content: wjmenko@gmail.com

TRAVEL AGENCY

IVORY TRAVEL information and registration: info@ivorytravel.nl, 0297 – 532 927

This journey is organised in cooperation with PaRDeS: www.stichtingpardes.nl

The Ba'al Shem Tov: 'Purpose and essence of my pilgrimage on earth is to demonstrate that one can serve the Always Being with gladness and joy. Who is full of joy is full of love for men and all creatures'.