

## Tal Tours – Deluxe Kosher Tours Presents:

### Lithuania and Latvia

*The Jewish history of Latvia and Lithuania is a rich one, spanning over seven centuries, and in fact predating Christianity's spread in some regions. Both Hebrew and Yiddish were originally spoken by most Litvaks, and although the atrocities of the Holocaust decimated the region's Jewish population, the post-Soviet world has nevertheless signaled a new beginning for the Jewish community here. DELUXE KOSHER Tours' trip to Lithuania and Latvia is a chance for you to experience a pilgrimage in exploration of Jewish life, and to see some of the hidden jewels of Europe.*

Sunday, August 1

In Transit

Depart from the US to Vilnius, Lithuania

Monday, August 2

Vilna

Your carefully selected DELUXE KOSHER Tours escort will welcome you at the airport, and escort you to the deluxe Radisson SAS Astoria Hotel in Vilnius (Vilna). Spend the remainder of the day exploring the vibrant and exciting city. In the evening, rejoin the group for a warm welcome dinner.

Tuesday, August 3

Vilna

After breakfast, visit the Vilna Yiddish Institute at its location on the Old Campus of Vilnius University. Spend your time there learning about Lithuanian Jewish history and culture through a fascinating series of lectures by Professors Sarunas Liekis and Dovid Katz (they may be substituted for others if not available), and an exploration of Eastern European Jewish art by one of the local leading artists. This afternoon, DELUXE KOSHER Tours will escort you on a walk through the Jewish Quarter of Vilna, guided by Ms. Roza Bieliauskiene, the former collection curator of the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum of Lithuania. Spend your evening visiting the beautiful Choral Synagogue of Vilna, and come face to face with history in a moving visit with Vilna's Holocaust survivors. Dinner will follow.

Wednesday, August 4

Vilna-Yoneshik-Zhager-Riga

After breakfast, you will depart for Latvia. On the way, however, DELUXE KOSHER Tours offers you a rare chance to experience shtetl life: a visit to the shtetls of Zhager and Yoneshik. Upon your arrival in Riga, you will get the opportunity to savor local color and cuisine with dinner at one of Riga's many charming restaurants.

Thursday, August 5

Riga

Spend the morning visiting the last remaining synagogue in Riga, and meet with prominent members of Riga's Jewish community for a chance to share and learn about the Jewish experience in Latvia. Afterwards, learn more at the Jewish Museum and Documentation Center, tracing the history and contributions of Latvia's Jews to the present day. After lunch, you will take an excursion outside the city limits to the Jewish Cemetery there, followed by a pilgrimage to the Holocaust Memorial. Here, come face to face with the brutality of history: thousands of victims of the Holocaust were brought here only to be executed, their identities shrouded in mystery as they were thrown into mass graves. Only in 2001 was the monument erected. A return to the city leads to a trip to the former Jewish ghetto, which retains but former traces of its

pre-war viDeluxe Koshery. Nearby, take a moving visit to the remains of the Chorale Synagogue - now a monument to the power of Jewish faith: the Nazis burned the building as the entire congregation bravely prayed within. Later in the afternoon, spend time in the elegant and beautiful "Art Nouveau" district, once home to many of Latvia's most famous artists, writers, and scholars, including philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin. Riga's collection of buildings in this nineteenth-century style are among the finest and best-preserved in the world. After the experiences of the day, dine with members of Latvia's Jewish community and partake in cross-cultural communication.

### Friday, August 6

### Riga-Daugavpils (Dvinsk) - Vilna

After breakfast, DELUXE KOSHER Tours will bring you on a new adventure as you head to Daugavpils - once known as Dvinsk, famous for its tradition of *mitnagedim* and Chabad rabbis. You will be given the opportunity to meet with survivors and learn from the power and tragedy of their experiences. After a local lunch in Daugavpils, you will return to Lithuania again, checking in once more at the Radisson SAS Astorija in Vilna, after which you will be treated to a Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner at the Lubavitch Center.

### Saturday, August 7

### Vilna

Spend Shabbat with members of the Vilna Jewish community. Tefillot and meals will be enjoyed with the community.

### Sunday, August 8

### Vilna

After breakfast, DELUXE KOSHER Tours offers you the chance to take a tour through the Holocaust Museum (also known as the Green House) guided by the Deputy Director of the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum himself. Afterwards, you will be treated to a walking tour of the winding streets of Vilna's wartime ghetto. After lunch, you will be given the opportunity to go to the Vilnius Yiddish Institute to participate in a discussion about various topics in twentieth-century Jewish history. You will speak not only with prominent Lithuanian and Jewish intellectuals, but also with government officials, all of whom will be open to questions. Learn more, too, about the friendship and cooperation between both groups, and spend part of the evening in the Jewish Museum's Tolerance Center - once a Jewish theatre - to listen to Vilna Ghetto songs performed by Dr. Maria Krupoves-Berg before a delicious dinner.

### Monday, August 9

### Vilna-Kaunas-Vilna

Leave Vilna in the morning to visit Kaunas - Lithuania's provisional inter-war capiDeluxe Koshery and second-largest city. You will spend the morning visiting notable sites of Jewish interest. After a post-lunch visit to the Kaunas Synagogue, you will be given the chance to spend time with members of its Jewish community, including Holocaust survivors. Then visit the Holocaust site at the infamous Ninth Fort, a chance to reflect and to pay respects to all those who lost their lives in the Nazi atrocities. In the evening, return to Vilna.

### Tuesday, August 10

### Vilna

Today, DELUXE KOSHER Tours offers you a visit to a testament to the power and strength of the Jewish people: the secret Second World War partisan base location in a forest outside the city. Led by Fania Brantsovsky, a Vilna Yiddish Institute librarian, once an inmate of the ghetto and Jewish partisan, who in fact lived at the base from 1943 to 1944, you will learn more about the history of the Jewish partisans. Fania Brantsovsky will then lead you to the Ponar Forest, the tragic site of many mass deaths, where a Memorial Center now commemorates those who were so cruelly murdered and stands as a sign of hope for the future. After a return to Vilna for

lunch, visit the Lithuanian Jewish Community Center, where you will spend time with a variety of Jewish community leaders and participate in another panel on "The Jewish Cultural Legacy of Lithuania in the Present and Future." Then, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at the Vilna Yiddish Institute and a concert with Dr. Maria-Krupoves-Berg and invited guest performers.

Wednesday, August 12

In Transit

Say goodbye to your fellow travelers and companions in this moving experience as you return to the airport for your flight home, enriched by all you have discovered.

***Please note that some of the individuals listed in the itinerary that we will meet with or will lead parts of the tour are subject to change without notice.***

**LATVIA/LITHUANIA**

**COST PER PERSON**

\$6,295 based on double occupancy (two to a room)

Includes air fare from: New York

LAND ONLY (no air fare included – even domestics) – \$4,995

**ADDITIONAL COSTS**

- Visa fees for non-US citizens (if applicable)
- Snacks or items of a personal nature
- Single Supplement – \$995

**HOTELS**

Vilna Radisson SAS Astoria

Ruga Radisson SAS

**ITINERARY & HOTELS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

**RATES MAY BE ADJUSTED IF THERE'S A FLUCTUATION IN CURRENCY OF MORE THAN 4% FROM JANUARY 1, 2010**

**RATES MAY BE ADJUSTED IN THE EVENT OF AN INCREASE IN AIRLINE FUEL CHARGES**

When you register for your Deluxe Kosher trip through Emunah of America, you are helping to support over 250 Emunah projects and programs throughout the land of Israel. Recipient of the 2008 Israel Prize for 60 years of outstanding service to the people of Israel, Emunah continues to build a Jewish future in Israel, one child, one family at a time!

**Emunah acts as reservation agent only and accepts no responsibility or liability for the program.**

For additional information contact Emunah: (212)947-5454, (800) 368-6440 Carol Finkel, Ext. 320 Email: carolfinkel@emunah.org