

Fully Escorted Tour with **Eli Rabinowitz**

# Jewish Litvak

PAST & PRESENT HERITAGE ROOTS TOUR

An opportunity to connect to your roots & experience the new Lithuania and Latvia

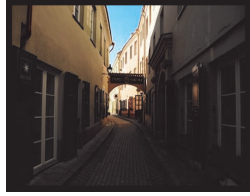
20th to 31st August 2014

**DAY 1: Wednesday 20 August**

**ARRIVAL INTO VILNIUS (Vilna)**

Arrival at Vilnius Airport, make your way to the hotel. Welcome drink and orientation meeting.

**Hotel:** Novotel



**DAY 2: Thursday 21 August**

**VILNIUS**

We visit the Hill of Three Crosses, Parliament, Gediminas Castle, Cathedral Square, the Old Vilnius University, the Yiddish Institute, the Presidential Palace and the Amber Museum. Walking tour of the medieval pedestrian mall in the Old Town. Continue to the Jewish Community Centre, the Cheap Houses and the Widow and Brothers Romm printing house. Drive to the New Jewish Cemetery, the Ohel of the Vilna Gaon and the Ponar Forest Memorial. *Evening talk.*

**Hotel:** Novotel



**DAY 3: Friday 22 August**

**VILNIUS**

We visit the State Historical Archives, where original records dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century are housed. With advance notice, you may be able to obtain copies of records of your ancestors. Then on to the Jewish State Museum consisting of the Green House Holocaust exhibition and the Centre of Tolerance, and then to the former KGB Building and the Museum of Genocide Victims. Drive to Trakai, the ancient Lithuanian capital and the residence of Grand Dukes of Lithuania. Visit the 14th century Island Castle and Museum, and the Karaites Museum featuring the small ethnic group who profess Judaism, brought by Vytautas the Great from the Crimea 600 years ago. Continue to the Trakai National Park. *Shabbat Dinner.*

**Hotel:** Novotel

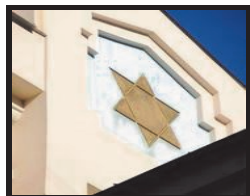


**DAY 4: Saturday 23 August**

**VILNIUS**

Attend service at the Choral Synagogue. Walking tour of the medieval Jewish Quarter, the Middle-Ages Ghetto, the Great Vilna Synagogue and the Shulhof. Learn about sculptor Mordekhai Antokolski, the Vilna Gaon and the struggle between the Mitnagdim and Hasidim. See the Large Ghetto, the courtyard of the Judenrat building, City Hall Square, the Church of St. Kazimir and the Gates of Dawn. *Afternoon free to relax or sightsee.*

**Hotel:** Novotel

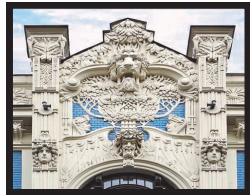


**DAY 5: Sunday 24 August**

**VILNIUS—ZEZMARIAI (Zhezhmer) - RUMSISKES (Rumshishok) —KAUNAS (Kovno)**

We drive to Ziezmariai and its surviving wooden synagogue. Then on to the open-air museum in Rumsiskes (Rumshishok), representing the 18th and 19th century way of life, architecture, traditions and crafts of Lithuania. Continue to the Old Town of Kaunas, with its Catholic churches, narrow streets and cobble squares, cafes and art galleries. Visit Laisves Aleja, with its two and three storey buildings, restaurants and shops as they looked before the war, the Kaunas Archives, the M. K. Ciurlionis National Art Museum, the Kovno Synagogue and the Children's Memorial, poetess Leah Goldberg's house and the Sugihara Museum. *Evening talk.*

**Hotel:** Daugirdas

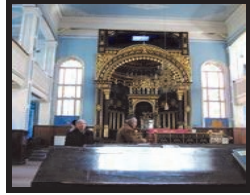


**DAY 6: Monday 25 August**

**KAUNAS-KEDAINIAI (Keidan) -UKMERGE (Vilkomir) -DAUGAVPILS (Dvinsk) -ROKISKIS - KUPISKIS (Kupishok) -PANVEZYS (Ponevezh)**

We visit Slobodka, the Jewish neighborhood in pre-war Kaunas and the ghetto, the Old Jewish cemetery, the Ninth Fort Museum and Memorial. Drive to Kedainiai, town of the Radzivils and the Vilna Gaon, where the synagogues now house the Kedainiai Regional Museum. Then on to Ukmerge, the former synagogue, study houses, a cemetery with only one stone and the mass grave of Jews in the Pivonijos Miskas. Continue to Daugavpils, Latvia, to visit the synagogue and museum. In Rokiskis, where the Tyzenhaus family lived, walk through Market Square to Synagogue Street and the Old Jewish Cemetery. In Kupiskis, view the remnants of the Synagogue, Schmidt's Mill, Synagogue Street and the Holocaust mass grave. Arrive late in Panevezys.

**Hotel:** Romantik



**DAY 7: Tuesday 26 August**

**PANEVEZYS-BIRZAI (Birzh) -JONISKIS (Yanishok) -ZAGARE (Zhager) -SIAULIAI (Shavl)**

We visit the building of the Ponevezh Yeshiva, the synagogue, the Jewish ghetto and the mass grave of Holocaust victims. Drive to Birzai, the town of beer lovers on Lake Sirvenos; then to Joniskis, with its two adjacent synagogues; Zagare's market square and synagogue. In Siauliai, meet with the members of the Jewish community and visit the Museum of Chaim Frenkel Palace, the Ghetto by the lake, the pedestrian mall on Vilnius Street and the Hill of Crosses. *Evening talk.*

**Hotel:** Saulys



**DAY 8: Wednesday 27 August**

**SIAULIAI-TELSIAI (Telz)-PLUNGE (Plungyan) -SALANTAI (Salant) -JUODKRANTE-NIDA-KLAIPEDA (Memel)**

We visit Telsiai and the Yeshiva founded in 1875 by R. Meir Atlas. In Plunge, shtetl of many South African Litvaks, meet Yaacov Bunka and his wooden sculptures. Next on to Salantai, which is linked to the Musar movement and R. Israel Lipkin, the Salanter. Continue along the Curonian Spit, the Hill of Witches in Juodkrante, and Nida, a summer resort with its 60 meter-high sand dunes, and the Thomas Mann summerhouse. Overnight at the Old Town of Klaipeda, distinguished for its German influenced medieval architecture.

**Hotel:** Amberton Klaipeda



**DAY 9: Thursday 28 August**

**KLAIPEDA - PALANGA - LIEPAJA (Libau) - AIZPUTE (Hasenpoth) -TUKUMS (Tukum) - JURMALA - RIGA**

We drive to Palanga, a popular resort on the Baltic Sea, with a Botanic Park and Amber Museum. Continue to Liepaja, the Latvian seaport in Courland, which had a vibrant Jewish life including schools, a Great Synagogue, and Jewish banks. We visit the Holocaust memorial at Skede Beach. Drive to Aizpute, the area conquered by Teutonic knights, to Tukums, the site of the former Livonian Order Castle, and the former synagogue building. Then on to Jurmala, the seaside spa resort town on the Gulf of Riga. Arrive in Riga. *Evening Talk.*

**Hotel:** Radisson Ridzene



**DAY 10: Friday 29 August**

**RIGA**

We visit the Latvian State archives. With advance notice, you may be able to obtain copies of records of your ancestors. Drive to the Central Market and see the Art Nouveau architecture. Continue to the Jewish area, Maskavas Forstate, the Riga Ghetto Exhibition, the ruins of the great Choral Synagogue and the Wall of the Righteous among the Nations. Drive along the small and big Ghettos to the Salaspils Labour Camp Memorial and Rumbula Forest, and the active Peitavas Street Synagogue. *Shabbat Dinner.*

**Hotel:** Radisson Ridzene

**DAY 11: Saturday 30 August**

**RIGA**

Walking tour of the Old Town of Riga, includes the Dome Cathedral, the Great and Small Guilds, the Swedish Gate, the Cats' House, the Three Brothers, and the House of the Blackheads. View the city from the tower of St. Peters Church. Other highlights are the Freedom Monument, Livu Square, the National Opera House, the Old Gate, the Powder Tower, the Swedish Gate, the Presidential Palace and the Occupation Museum. *Free time to relax or sightsee.*

*Evening: Wrap up.*

**Hotel:** Radisson Ridzene

**DAY 12: Sunday 31 August**

**RIGA-DEPARTURE**



## ADD ON A PERSONAL POST-BESPOKE SHTETL TOUR

An optional post-tour 2 night stay with a tailor-made visit to the shtetl of your ancestors. You will have your own local guide and spend two days enriched in the history of your family culture. Transfers, Private Cars and Accommodation can be booked, subject to availability.

# Jewish Litvak – Past and Present Heritage Tour

An opportunity to connect with your roots and experience the new Lithuania and Latvia.

Explore first hand the Jewish life and culture in Lithuania and Latvia and how this relates to your own family history.

**Eli Rabinowitz**, the South African born Australian genealogist and photographer, has been on this journey many times, with fascinating experiences and results. Eli, having strong and long standing Lithuanian and Latvian roots, invites you to join his 12 day tour which will help you connect to your Jewish roots and heritage, while you enjoy the interesting cityscapes and scenic countryside.



You will visit both historical and contemporary sites, a broad range of important towns and shtetls, providing an excellent balance and cross section of Litvak life, past and present, making this a most comprehensive and rewarding experience. You will meet leaders and educators who will add a new dimension to your own history. Local experts will talk on subjects such as the archives, cemetery renewal, the Holocaust and Jewish life. There will be opportunities to interact with young Jewish leaders and experience the contemporary Jewish community.

You will learn more about how to research and document your family history using the archives and digital tools such as the web and social media. Eli will assist you by offering guidance on genealogy and photography. Your tour will be device-friendly, offering you Wi-fi most of the way.

You will have leisure time and explore-on-your-own time during the tour.

In addition to Eli's leadership of the tour, your local guide is the most professional Jewish Baltic tour company.

Early registration is needed for archival requests for records and documents. Early registration will also enable us to help plan your own shtetl visit as an add on, if requested. This will be limited due to the availability of guides.

**You can contact Eli via email with any questions: [eli@elirab.com](mailto:eli@elirab.com)**

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

**Accommodation in 4 star hotels** (Standard rooms, Half Board)

**Tour Guides**

**Entrance to Museums**

**Air-Conditioned Coach**

**Welcome drink at orientation meeting on Day 1**

**12 Kosher-Style Breakfasts**

**10 Kosher-Style Dinners**

**2 Shabbat Dinners** (Fully Kosher)

*Optional—Airport to Hotel Arrival Transfer is available and can be booked at time of registration.*

## THE COST?

**EUR€2170.00 per person (twin share)**

**EUR€2690.00 per person (single room)**

NOTE: LAND ONLY. NUMBERS ARE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY TO SECURE YOUR PLACE

## HOW TO BOOK?

Bookings can be made by completing an online booking form with full names (as per passport) & other booking details, together with a non-refundable deposit of **EUR€450** for twin or **EUR€550** for single per person

To receive booking form, please email [groups@fbitravel.com.au](mailto:groups@fbitravel.com.au)

**Initial Deposit of EUR€450 (twn) or EUR€550 (sgl)** can be accepted by credit card (credit card fees apply)

## Booking Terms & Conditions

### General:

Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others. *Kosher-Style* meals are without Pork and have a Vegetarian option available.

### Tour Operator:

Jerulita is the tour operator. Freeway Balaclava International (A.B.N 71 153 266 885) (FBI Travel) acts as agent.

### Tour Costs:

The tours costs are based on general transport, accommodation costs, entrance fees, meals where stated. FBI Travel reserves the right to alter the costs if any of these factors change, giving any passenger that has booked the right to withdraw with full refund of monies paid or modify arrangements. No alterations to prices will be made within 45 days of departure from Australia. An additional administration fee will be added to payments by credit cards (amount subject to type of CC).

### Deposits and Payments:

A non-refundable deposit of 20% per passenger is required at the time of booking. Full payment will be required 45 days before departure –04 July 2014

### Cancellation conditions for tour are as follows:

Cancellations 45 days or more prior to departure will result in 20% cancellation fee.

Cancellations inside 45 days prior to departure will result in 100% cancellation fee.

In case of *force majeure*, the only penalties we will charge will be those charged to Jerulita by our suppliers.

In the case of cancellations during the trip, no refund will be given for unused services and all expenses and all costs relating to returning the participant to his or her home will be the sole responsibility of the participant.

### Travel insurance:

Insurance is strongly recommended to cover the costs of cancellation fees due to illness, etc. FBI Travel can assist with a suitable policy to cover this tour.

### Minimum Tour Numbers:

The tour has been based on a minimum of 14 passengers having booked 45 days prior to departure. In the case of numbers not being met, FBI Travel reserves the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of all monies paid or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified cost. FBI Travel reserves the right to change advertised entrances if necessary for the smooth operation of the tour.

### Refunds:

The tour is based on arrangements, which do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilized after the tour has commenced.

### Responsibility:

Jerulita (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is responsible to you in making arrangements for the tour services offered here, including transportation, sightseeing, and hotel accommodation.

FBI Travel acts only as agents for passengers in the making of arrangements with carriers, hoteliers and others for the tour. As a result we cannot accept liability for any act or omission whatsoever, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or other persons providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss, delay, change of schedule or any other events which are beyond our direct control, such as, but not limited to, war, acts of terrorism, flood, fire, civil disturbance, acts of God, acts of Government, or any other authorities, accidents to or failure of machinery or equipment, or industrial action. The passage contract in use by the carriers concerned, shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies or firms and the purchasers of these tours and the passengers. Baggage is at own risk throughout the tour. The contract shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria.

Further information and a booking form can be obtained by contacting FBI Travel via the following

**TOLL FREE:** 1800 359 324

**PHONE:** 03 8573 0900

**FAX:** 03 8573 0999

**EMAIL:** [groups@fbitravel.com.au](mailto:groups@fbitravel.com.au)