

Jewish National Fund

# PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY MISSION

## PRE-MISSION TO BERLIN, GERMANY

October 31 – November 4 2012

Michael Blank, Mission Chair • Glen Schwartz, Mission Professional



East Side Gallery - Berlin Wall



Deportation Memorial



Hilton Hotel

## Wednesday October 31 • Arrival

Welcome to Berlin! Upon arriving into Berlin Brannenbug Airport, meet the guide and transfer to the hotel in Berlin.

Following hotel check-in, we'll depart for an overview of Berlin's important cultural and historical sites. During a bus tour, we'll drive by **East-Side Gallery**, which contains remains of the Berlin Wall and pass by **Addas Jisroel Community Center**. We'll also see the **memorial at Rossenstrasse**, which honors the German women's uprising against the Nazis in February 1943 following the arrests of their Jewish husbands. We will continue to **Bayerische Viertel** to see the moving memorial at Potslump Square, which shows the Nazi philosophy about how to treat Jews. We'll continue past the **Deportation Memorial** at Grunewald Station, one of three stations where a total of 55,000 Berlin Jews were deported, mostly to Theresienstadt - "the transit camp" - or directly to the extermination camps. Located near the ramp to Platform 17, this memorial is made of concrete and contains the prints of human bodies.

We'll continue to **Grosse Hamburger Strasse** to see the Jewish school, Christian Boltanski's "Missing House" and Berlin's destroyed first Jewish cemetery with the tombstone memorial of Moses Mendelssohn. We'll also see the impressive **memorial at Levetzowstrasse**, the former temple that was misused for gathering Jews to be deported.

Later this afternoon, we'll return to the hotel and have time to relax and rejuvenate. This evening, we'll enjoy a festive **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

**Overnight, Hilton Hotel, Berlin**

*Itinerary Subject to Change*

## Thursday November 1 • Berlin



Hackeshe Hofe

This morning we head to the exclusive private club at the Hilton Hotel. During breakfast there will be a **panel of economic and financial experts**, who will discuss the European economy and European markets.

Afterward, we'll meet the guide for a **walking tour through Berlin-Mitte**. We'll start at **Bebel Platz**, known as "Book Burning Square." Then we'll walk to the **Gendarmenmarkt**, known as one of Berlin's most beautiful squares.



Neue Synagoge

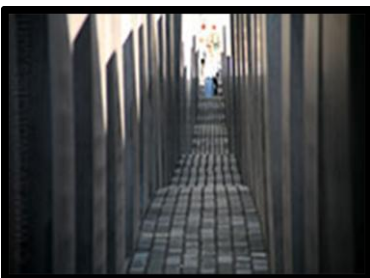
We'll continue to the **Neue Synagoge** at Oranienburger strasse and stop at **Hackesche Höfe**, the former **Jewish Quarter** of Berlin, for a tour of the **Museum of Otto Weidt**, known as the "Oscar Schindler of Berlin."

From here we will proceed to **Unter den Linden**, Berlin's magnificent boulevard and the centerpiece of the Old Berlin that leads from the Schlossbrücke to Pariser Platz at the Brandenburg Gate. During a tour, we'll experience the beauty of the **Pariser Platz**, originally a parade ground that is also home to the **Hotel Adlon**, Hitler's former headquarters. Time pending, we'll walk into DZ Bank to see one of Frenk Gehry's masterpieces.



Brandenburg Gate

We will then proceed to **Brandenburg Gate**, Berlin's only remaining city gate and symbol of the city's former location in "no man's land" just behind the Berlin Wall. Just steps away is **The Reichstag**, which was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to house German Parliament. The building was badly damaged by fire and the renovations started only in 1957. The latest rebuilding project began in 1995 and has transformed the Reichstag into a modern parliamentary meeting hall with an elliptical dome.



Holocaust Memorial

This afternoon, we'll visit the **Holocaust Memorial**, which opened in May 2005, the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII. The memorial commemorates the Jewish victims of Nazi terror and consists of approximately 2,700 concrete slabs arranged in a grid pattern of unevenly sloping ground. Symbolizing an undulating graveyard, this moving and solemn memorial contains the names of 4.4 million murdered Jews. We'll then spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure, providing us with an opportunity to shop and explore Berlin at our own pace.



Holocaust Memorial

Pending confirmation, this evening, we will enjoy **dinner** with some of Berlin and Germany's distinguished **politicians and government officials** at Berlin's parliamentary restaurant.

**Overnight, Hilton Hotel, Berlin**

## Friday November 2 • Berlin

Following breakfast, we'll depart the hotel to explore another part of Berlin. Our first stop will be at **Checkpoint Charlie**. After the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the checkpoint remained an official crossing point until the reunification in October 1990 when the booth was removed and the watchtower was later destroyed.



Jewish Museum

We will continue to the **Topography of Terror**, an outdoor museum on the site of the former headquarters of the Gestapo and SS. Recently completed in 2010, this museum is an outdoor timeline of Nazi terror in Germany.

From here we will proceed to the **Jewish Museum (Jüdisches Museum)**. Designed by Philip Gerlach, this museum was built in 1735 and served as Collegienhaus to the regal Court of Justice. It was redesigned in the 19th century but almost completely destroyed during the Second World War. The building was remodeled one more time in 1993 by Daniel Libeskind. The museum features exhibits on Jewish culture in Germany during the reign of the Third Reich; historical objects, documents and artworks of 2000 years of German-Jewish history.



Topography of Terror

This afternoon, we'll drive by **Nikolai Viertel**, known as the cradle of Berlin, to Potsdamer Platz, via **Kurfürstendamm**, the luxury avenue with boutiques of world famous designers. We'll also see **KaDeWe**, the largest department store in Germany known for its wide selection of high-end goods. The highlight, however, is the sixth floor food hall, Europe's largest gourmet hall.



Kurfurstendamm

Later this afternoon, we'll return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat. This evening, we may attend **Shabbat services** at a **local synagogue**, before enjoying **Shabbat dinner** at the new gallery located across the street. Joining us for dinner will be local **Jewish leaders** from Berlin's growing Jewish community.

**Overnight, Hilton Hotel, Berlin**

*Itinerary Subject to Change*



Pergamon Museum

## Saturday November 3 • Shabbat in Berlin

Today will be at leisure in honor of **Shabbat**. We may choose to attend local Shabbat services, relax at the hotel or participate in an **optional walking and Museum tour**.

The 4-hour optional walking and museum tour will include visits to local museums such as the **Pergamon Museum** and **Neues Museum**, known for fascinating ancient collections.

**Overnight, Hilton Hotel, Berlin**



Ishtar Gate

## Sunday November 4 • Berlin

Following an early morning breakfast, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to Tel Aviv.

**Overnight, Israel**