

# AYELET'S "Traveling University"



## THE BALTICS

with our Scholar-In-Residence

**Professor Stephen Berk**

JULY 16 – 28, 2009

\$3,949 per person

Based on double occupancy



### Tour Includes:

- ◆ Roundtrip airfare from New York
- ◆ 11 nights first class hotel accommodations
- ◆ 3 nights at the Grand Palace Hotel in Riga
- ◆ 1 night at the Kaunas Hotel in Kaunas
- ◆ 2 nights at the Radisson SAS Hotel in Vilnius
- ◆ 5 nights at the Minsk Hotel in Minsk
- ◆ Breakfast daily
- ◆ 5 Dinners including Shabbat Dinner in Minsk
- ◆ All touring with an English speaking guide
- ◆ Sightseeing per itinerary in deluxe motorcoach
- ◆ All transfers and entrance fees per itinerary
- ◆ Hotel taxes and service charge
- ◆ Porterage

### Featured Highlights:

- ◆ **The Ayelet Difference: Lectures by Professor Stephen Berk**
- ◆ Jewish Heritage tour of Riga including the Jewish Quarter, the memorial for the Great Synagogue, and the Jewish Cemetery
- ◆ Visit Salaspils memorial site
- ◆ City tour of Riga including the Old Town, Castle of Riga, and St. Peter's Church
- ◆ Jewish Heritage tour of Kaunas including the Old Jewish Cemetery, the Holocaust Museum and Memorial, and the Children's Memorial
- ◆ Visit to Zezmariai to see the surviving wooden synagogue
- ◆ Jewish Heritage tour of Vilnius including the Jewish Quarter, the Great Vilna Synagogue, and the former ghettos
- ◆ Vilnius landmarks including the Gediminas Castle
- ◆ Vitebsk tour including the Chagall House Museum
- ◆ Jewish Heritage tour of Minsk including the "Yama" monument and Pravednikov Lane, the surviving synagogue and Yeshiva
- ◆ Tour of Mir including the Holocaust Memorial, the Yeshiva, and the Jewish ghetto.
- ◆ Tour of Pinsk including a meeting with Jewish community members
- ◆ SO MUCH MORE!

**Dr. Stephen M. Berk** is a Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York. He has been named the Henry and Sally Schaeffer Chair of Holocaust and Jewish Studies at Union College. Dr. Berk is considered a superb lecturer and teacher. He is the author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* and is presently writing a book entitled, *Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1854-1965*. Dr. Berk is also the author of many articles on Eastern Europe, Russian Jewish History, anti-Semitism and American policy in the Middle East. He has lectured in numerous cities for UJA and Israel Bonds as well as at many colleges and universities throughout the United States. Dr. Berk has led numerous trips to Russia, Spain, Europe, Israel and Eastern Europe. It is a privilege to have him with us!



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**Day 1, Thursday, July 16, 2009:** We depart from the United States on our overnight flight to Riga.

**Day 2, Friday, July 17, 2009:** Upon arrival we meet our local representative and transfer to our hotel. We then enjoy a panoramic tour of the city including the Old Town, the Castle of Riga, the Dome Cathedral, Swedish Gate, and St. Peter's Church. Tonight we enjoy Shabbat dinner together. Overnight Riga.

**Day 3, Saturday, July 18, 2009:** We enjoy breakfast at the hotel and a full day at leisure to explore the city on our own. Overnight Riga.

**Day 4, Sunday, July 19, 2009:** After breakfast and a lecture from Dr. Berk, we visit the Jewish Quarter including the memorial for the burnt Great Synagogue. Visit the Jewish community museum "Jews in Latvia", the Jewish cemetery, and the Jewish memorials in Rumbula and Bikerkieki. We continue to Salaspils to visit the memorial site of the concentration camp. Return to Riga for overnight.

**Day 5, Monday, July 20, 2009:** After breakfast we depart for Kaunus. Upon arrival, we tour the small Jewish suburb and ghetto in Slobodka. We visit the Old Jewish Cemetery and the Seventh and Ninth Forts, site of the Nazi's mass extermination of thousands of Jews during World War II. Visit the Holocaust Museum and Memorial at the Ninth Fort, and tour the synagogue and Children's Memorial. This afternoon we will also visit the house of the famous poet Leah Goldberg. Dinner together this evening. Overnight Kaunus.

**Day 6, Tuesday, July 21, 2009:** Breakfast. We depart Kaunus this morning on our way to Vilnius. Along the way we stop in Zezmariai to hear the story of a unique Jewish community, and visit the surviving wooden synagogue. Upon arrival in Vilnius we take a tour of the city, including the Gediminas Castle, where we enjoy panoramic views of major landmarks including the Cathedral and the Presidential Palace. Overnight Vilnius.

**Day 7, Wednesday, July 22, 2009:** After breakfast with Dr. Berk, we enjoy a Jewish Heritage tour of Vilnius, beginning with a walking tour of the medieval Jewish Quarter. As we walk along the lanes and courtyards, we stop to learn about the Great Vilna Synagogue and the Gaon of Vilna. Visit the small and large ghettos where more than 40,000 Jews lived. In the afternoon we visit the Jewish Cemetery of Vilnius to learn more about the many important Jews buried here. We also view the "Cheap Houses" built by Baron Hirsch as affordable housing for Jews in the area. Overnight Vilnius.

**Day 8, Thursday, July 23, 2009:** After breakfast we depart Vilnius on our way to Minsk. This afternoon we enjoy a city tour of Minsk, including Independence Square with the Government Building and Victory Square's Eternal Flame, commemorating the heroes of World War II.... If time allows, we will then travel a short distance to the Khatyn complex, a memorial to victims of World War II.... Overnight Minsk.

**Day 9, Friday, July 24, 2009:** After breakfast with Dr. Berk we travel to Vitebsk to tour the Chagall House Museum to view the works and home of the famous artist. We then return to Minsk and enjoy a city tour including the "Yama" monument and Pravednikov Lane, the memorial to those who saved Jews during World War II. We visit the surviving synagogue and Yeshiva before meeting with the Minsk Jewish community for Shabbat services and dinner. Overnight Minsk.

**Day 10, Saturday, July 25, 2009:** After breakfast we enjoy the day at leisure in Minsk. Overnight Minsk.

**Day 11, Sunday, July 26, 2009:** After breakfast and a lecture from Dr. Berk, we depart for a day excursion to Mir. Here we visit the Yeshiva that existed between 1617 - 1939 and the Holocaust Memorial, and visit the 16<sup>th</sup> century castle where the Jewish ghetto was located. Continue to Slonim to view the 17<sup>th</sup> century synagogue, the Jewish housing and cemetery. Dinner together this evening. Return to Minsk for overnight.

**Day 12, Monday, July 27, 2009:** After breakfast with Dr. Berk, we enjoy a full day tour of Pinsk, including the sites where Chaim Weitzmann and Golda Meir used to work and study. We Visit the synagogue and meet with members of Pinsk's Jewish community this afternoon. Later on we enjoy a riverboat cruise. Return to Minsk for a farewell dinner together. Overnight Minsk.

**Day 13, Tuesday, July 28, 2009:** We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

**The Memories Last Forever! Itinerary subject to change**

Tour does not include: Departure Taxes, any Border Taxes or Visas, Insurance, Tips (pre-collected) or items of a personal nature. Shipping and handling \$15. Price is based on double occupancy, the single supplement is \$999. Land only \$2,749 per person based on double occupancy. Cancellation notification policy: \$100 per person charge more than 60 days before departure, plus any additional airline penalties; \$250 per person charge if cancelled 60-31 days before departure, plus any additional airline penalties. 100% penalties apply if cancelled 30 days or less before departure.

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**Yes! I want to join Professor Stephen Berk on the tour to the Baltics in July of 2009.  
I am sending this form with a \$500.00 per person deposit, payable to Ayelet Tours, Ltd.**

Name as it appears on passport: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please include a copy of the front page of each persons passport.

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