ULLATRAVEL

Jewish Lithuania

season 2025

4 DAYS | 3 NIGHTS



THE JEWISH HERITAGE OF LITHUANIA AS A TESTAMENT TO THE TRAGIC AND MAJESTIC HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

1 day

Arrival in Vilnius.
Known as the "Jerusalem of the North," Vilnius was one of the largest centers of Jewish culture and intellectual thought in Eastern Europe. The Jewish community had been established here since the 16th century.



Transfer to **Holocaust Memorial in Paneriai** — in the forests of Paneriai (Ponary), on the outskirts of Vilnius, around 100,000 people were killed during World War II, 70,000 of whom were Jews. Paneriai has become a symbol of the mass extermination of Jews in Lithuania. From 1941 to 1944, systematic executions were carried out here, organized by the Nazis and their Lithuanian collaborators.



Vilnius Old Jewish Cemetery — established in the 15th century, this cemetery is the final resting place of many prominent figures of the Jewish community, including rabbis, scholars, and community leaders. It symbolizes the longevity and cultural heritage of Jewish presence in Lithuania.



Vilnius Jewish Ghetto — one of the largest ghettos in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, it existed from 1941 to 1943. Around 40,000 Jews were confined here, most of whom were deported or killed. Today, only traces of the ghetto remain, but walking through its streets evokes deep reflection on the tragedies of those years.



Choral Synagogue — built in 1903, this synagogue is the last functioning one in Vilnius. Before the war, Vilnius had about 100 synagogues, but the Choral Synagogue survived because the Nazis used it as a warehouse. After the war, it also served as a storage facility until it was returned to the Jewish community. Restored in the 1950s, it continues to function as a cultural and religious center for the Jewish community of Vilnius.

Jewish Lithuania (4 days | 3 nights)



Monument to the Vilna Gaon — the greatest Jewish thinker and scholar, the Vilna Gaon (Eliyahu ben Shlomo Zalman, 1720–1797) played a key role in the development of Torah and Talmudic studies. His commentaries became foundational for many religious movements. The monument serves as a reminder of the rich legacy of Jewish intellectual life in Vilnius.
(Overnight in Vilnius)

An additional visit to the Vilna Gaon Museum, dedicated to Jewish culture and the Holocaust, will provide a deeper understanding of the Jewish contribution to Lithuania's cultural and religious life.

2 day

In the morning, you will *depart for Švenčionys (85 km),* where a Jewish community had existed since the 16th century. By the early 20th century, Jews made up nearly half of the town's population. However, in 1941, during the mass killings, Nazi forces and collaborators exterminated almost the entire Jewish population of Švenčionys.



Švenčionys Jewish Cemetery — this historic cemetery symbolizes the long-standing presence of the Jewish community in the region.



Holocaust memorial in Švenčionys is located at the site of the mass execution of the town's Jews, commemorates the Jewish community that had existed since the 16th century. By the early 20th century, Jews made up almost half of the town's population. In 1941, shortly after the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, the Jews of Švenčionys were victims of mass executions. Most were killed in a forest near the town, and for a long time, their graves were left without proper recognition.
Transfer to Biržai (175 km) — this town, with a long Jewish history, had a significant Jewish presence dating back to the 17th century. At the beginning of World War II, about 2,400 Jews lived in Biržai. In August 1941, nearly all of them were killed by the Nazis.



The Holocaust Memorial in Biržai, unveiled in 2005, commemorates the Jewish community that had existed in the town since the 17th century. The Jews of Biržai were artisans and traders, playing an important role in the region's economic life.

In August 1941, around 2,400 Jews from the town were killed in mass executions in the Astravas Forest near Biržai. The memorial was established with the support of the local and international Jewish community to honor the memory of the victims of these tragic events.
Transfer to Panevėžys (70 km).
(Overnight in Panevėžys)

3 day

Panevėžys was one of the key centers of Jewish life in Lithuania. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Jewish culture thrived here, and the city became famous for its renowned yeshiva, founded in 1909. The Panevėžys Yeshiva attracted students from across Eastern Europe, and its curriculum was focused on the in-depth study of the Torah and Talmud. Rabbi Yitzchak Yaakov Rabinovich, the founder of the yeshiva, was a recognized authority in Judaism, and its graduates became prominent rabbis and scholars.



Panevėžys Synagogue — one of the few remaining synagogues in Lithuania, it was built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After the war, when nearly the entire Jewish community of the city was destroyed, the synagogue ceased to function as a place of worship. Today, it stands as an important historical site, though it no longer serves as a prayer house.
Panevėžys Jewish Cemetery is the final resting place of the

Jewish Lithuania (4 days | 3 nights)



city's Jewish residents. It has preserved numerous tombstones with Hebrew inscriptions, reminding visitors of the once-thriving Jewish community that lived here.

Holocaust Memorial in Panevėžys was erected in memory of the thousands of Jews who were killed in the region in 1941. Panevėžys was occupied by the Nazis at the start of the war, and mass arrests and executions of Jews began shortly thereafter.

Transfer to Šiauliai (80 km).

Before the war, Šiauliai was one of the largest Jewish centers in Lithuania. By 1941, Jews made up about 30% of the city's population. Shortly after the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, a ghetto was established in Šiauliai, holding around 5,000 Jews. The ghetto existed until 1943, when most of its inhabitants were deported to concentration camps and killed.



Šiauliai Synagogue — one of the few synagogues that survived in Lithuania, it was built in the 19th century. Like many other synagogues, it was damaged during the war, but it remains preserved as a historical monument, symbolizing the once-thriving Jewish life in the city.

Holocaust Memorial in Šiauliai was established in remembrance of the thousands of Jews who were killed during the Holocaust.

Transfer to Kėdainiai (100 km).

The Jewish community of Kėdainiai had existed since the 17th century. However, in 1941, with the arrival of the Nazis, mass repression against the Jewish population began. Almost the entire Jewish community of the town was exterminated.

Holocaust Memorial in Kėdainiai stands at the site of the mass executions.



Kėdainiai Jewish Cemetery — one of the oldest surviving Jewish cemeteries in the region.

Transfer to Kaunas (50 km).

(Overnight in Kaunas)

4 day

Kaunas was one of the most important centers of Jewish culture in Lithuania.



Slabodka Yeshiva — one of the most renowned Jewish educational institutions, founded in the 19th century, it had a profound impact on Jewish religious education. Many of its graduates became leading rabbis around the world.



Kovno Synagogue was built in 1872, this synagogue served as the spiritual center of the Kaunas Jewish community. It survived the war and remains a symbol of Jewish life in the city to this day.



Ninth Fort Memorial — this site witnessed mass executions of Jews during the war. The Ninth Fort was part of the Kaunas fortress system and became an execution site during the Nazi occupation, where over 50,000 Jews were killed. Today, it houses a memorial and museum dedicated to the memory of the victims.



Kaunas Jewish Cemetery — one of the few remaining Jewish cemeteries, where many members of the Jewish community are buried.

Transfer to the airport.

Departure.

NB!
Route can be arranged in reverse order:
Kaunas–Panevėžys–Vilnius