



JEWISH COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS COUNCIL  
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

*“The Power of Place”*

## 2025 European Summer Institute For Holocaust Educators



Humanus Network  
*Holocaust and Human Rights Education Consulting*

### DAILY ITINERARY (DRAFT)

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#### DAY 1 • Friday, June 13 • Departure

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Our tour begins with departure from the U.S. to Austria. (Overnight flight).

##### **Overnight Flight**

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#### DAY 2 • Saturday, June 14 • Arrive Austria

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Upon arrival in Austria, we will be transferred via charter bus to Linz (approx. 2 hrs). After checking in to our hotel you'll have a short time to drop bags and freshen up. Then we'll meet in the hotel lobby for a welcome event to introduce everyone.

This evening we will also be met by [Paul Salmons](#), renowned Holocaust scholar and educator (please see his website for more information regarding his impressive resume of work in the field of Holocaust education). Paul will introduce the new pedagogical approach to site visits that he has developed for the Claims Conference and that we will utilize during our time in Austria; focusing on group discussion and joint meaning-making. Later tonight, enjoy dinner on your own.

##### [Leonardo Boutique Linz City Center](#)

**Address:** Steingasse 6 • 4020 Linz

**Phone:** +43 732-210-400

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#### DAY 3 • Sunday, June 15 • Austria

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**9:30am** This morning after breakfast, we will meet with Paul Salmons and his associate, Wolfgang Schmutz, for an introduction to their participatory approach to authentic sites, followed by a short walking tour of Linz.

**11:30am** We will depart via charter bus to the [Hartheim Castle Memorial Site](#) with lunch en route at noon.

**1:30pm** We will explore the Hartheim village and castle with Paul and Wolfgang as we learn about the Nazi Euthanasia Program (T4).

**4:15pm** We will depart Hartheim Castle and return to our hotel at **4:45pm**. After a short break to rest and freshen up, we'll take part in the **6:00pm** Linz City Express Tour where our group will have the tourist train to ourselves. Our tour concludes at **6:30pm**.

Enjoy the remainder of your evening at leisure to have dinner on your own.

**Leonardo Boutique Linz City Center**

**Meals Included: B**

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## **DAY 4: • Monday, June 16 • Austria**

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**8:30am** This morning after breakfast, our charter bus will take us to [Mauthausen Memorial](#) (approx. 25 min).

**9:00am** Upon arrival at Mauthausen Memorial, we will spend the day working with Paul and Wolfgang as we explore how to make meaning at difficult sites.

Lunch will be on your own in the café onsite and we will reserve a seminar room for our debrief at the end of the day.

**5:00 pm** Our charter bus will transfer us back to Linz where you can enjoy dinner on your own.

**Leonardo Boutique Linz City Center**

**Meals Included: B**

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## **DAY 5 • Tuesday, June 17 • Austria to Poland**

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**9:00am** This morning, we'll meet with Paul and Wolfgang in the hotel conference room for time to reflect on the groups' encounter and the participatory method.

**12:00pm** We'll have lunch at the hotel and say our farewells to Paul and Wolfgang.

**1:00pm** We'll depart Linz, Austria for Oświęcim, Poland via charter bus (approx. 6hrs).

Upon arrival in Oświęcim, we'll check-in at our hotel, and you will have the remainder of the evening at leisure for a late dinner.

### **Hampton Inn by Hilton Oświęcim**

**Address:** Oświęcim, ul. Dąbrowskiego 2, 32-600 Oświęcim, Poland

**Phone:** +48 33 444 9000

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## **DAY 6 • Wednesday, June 18 • Poland**

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This morning after breakfast, we'll be met by our professional local guide, **Maciek Zabierowski, Director of Learning at the [Auschwitz Jewish Center](#)**.

9:00 – 10:00 AM We'll have early access and a private tour of the Jewish Museum and the [only synagogue left in the town](#).

10:00 – 11:00 AM We'll take a walking tour of the town of Oświęcim, including Jewish sites and history of the Holocaust.

11:00 – 11:30 AM We'll go back to the museum for a short coffee break at [Cafe Bergson](#) - the house of the last Jewish resident of the town.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Our coach bus will transfer us to Bielsko-Biala, the childhood home of Gerda Weissmann Klein. We know that many of you utilize her testimony, film, and books with your students; *All But My Life, One Survivor Remembers*.

12:30 – 1:30 PM Maciek will provide a tour of sites related to the biography of Gerda Weissmann Klein.

1:30 – 3:00 PM Enjoy lunch on your own at the market square in Bielsko-Biala.

3:00 – 4:30 PM Our coach bus will transfer us to Bedzin.

4:30 – 6:00 PM Here, we'll visit the city that was home to Rudka Laskier. She shares her birthday with Anne Frank and they both wrote diaries as young girls during the Holocaust; she is often referred to as "*The Polish Anne Frank*". We will visit Rudka's house and sites in the Bedzin ghetto including the recently opened Ghetto Fighters House at Rutka Laskier's Street.

6:00 – 7:00 PM Our coach bus will transfer back to Oświęcim where you can enjoy a late dinner on your own.

### **Hampton Inn by Hilton Oświęcim**

**Meals Included: B**

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## DAY 7 • Thursday, June 19 • Poland

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This morning after breakfast, we'll be spending a full day touring **Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II – Birkenau**. We'll have a short prayer ceremony and light candles as we remember all those who perished here. We'll then have a special meeting with the Collections Department (or Education Department) as the site begins to close to general visitors. Following this meeting, we will have time to walk the grounds on our own and reflect on the day. This will be a quiet time as the site will be closed to all regular visitors and just small groups with special permission will still be on site.

**Hampton Inn by Hilton Oświęcim**  
**Meals Included: B**

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## DAY 8 • Friday, June 20 • Poland to Italy

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This morning after breakfast, we will depart Poland for Rome, Italy. (Approx. 2-hour Flight)

Upon arrival in Rome we will check-in at our hotel and you will have some free time to explore this vibrant city that is rich with historical sites before we gather for Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

### [Double Tree by Hilton Rome Monti](#)

**Address:** P.za dell'Esquilino, 1, 00185 Roma RM, Italy

**Phone:** +39 06 4577 4500

**Meals Included: B, D**

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## DAY 9 • Saturday, June 21 • Poland to Italy

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Today, we'll meet up again with our local guide, Dr. Krisztina Ruth Boka, and be transferred just outside of Rome (approx. 20 minutes) to the site of the **Fosse Ardeatine Caves**. This site was an ancient Christian catacomb used as a convenient venue to carry out the reprisal shootings for resistance members detonating a bomb that killed 30 police officials. Jewish prisoners and Roman civilians (335 total) were taken to the catacombs where they were shot then the entrance to the cave was sealed to conceal the bodies of the victims. Today it is a memorial site.

This afternoon, we'll be transferred to **Castel Gandolfo** (approx. 45min from Fosse Ardeatine Caves), the Pope's summer residence that is part of a 135-acre complex surrounded by beautiful

gardens. Once the summer retreat for the Pope, including Pope Pius XII, the Papal Palace is now open to the public, offering a glimpse into 500 years of papal history and art.

Following our tours, we'll be transferred back to our hotel in Rome where you can enjoy dinner on your own and the remainder of the evening at leisure (approx. 1 hr).

**Double Tree by Hilton Rome Monti**  
**Meals Included: B**

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## DAY 10 • Sunday, June 22 • Italy

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This morning after breakfast, we'll meet our local guide, **Dr. Krisztina Ruth Boka** for a walking tour of the area including ruins of the Jewish Ghetto, the Jewish Quarter, Great Synagogue and Spanish Synagogue (approx. 3 hrs).

After lunch on your own, we'll meet with [Dr. Suzanne Brown-Fleming](#), Sr. Project Director, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is currently heading the Museum's Vatican Archives Initiative and will share her time and expertise with us on a walking tour as it relates to the Vatican & the recently "opened" Vatican Archives, Pope Pius XII, and the Holocaust. In addition to the four archives, we'll also visit St. Peter's Square, and Pontifical Institute of Santa Maria dell'Anima. The Rector at Santa Maria dell'Anima, Alois Hudal, was instrumental in securing safe passage for Nazi war criminals to escape through the RATLINE. (Total tour time is approx. 4-hours).

**Double Tree by Hilton Rome Monti**  
**Meals Included: B**

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## DAY 11 • Monday, June 23 • Italy

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This morning after breakfast, we'll meet [Federika Wallbrecher](#) who will escort us and provide a tour of **Collegio Militare in the Palazzo Salviati in Trastevere**. We will meet inside the historical courtyard where Rivka, Sara, and Grazia Spizzichino will present their family's story (they are grandnieces of the only woman who survived the round-up of the Roman Jews on October 16, 1943).

Later, we'll take part in a Pizza and Pasta Master Class in Rome with Wine and Tiramisu (approx. 3.5 hours). We will learn the secrets of making pizza and pasta, taught by a true licensed Mastro Pizzaiolo and Pastaio. We will make and eat pizza and pasta, try the chef's famous tiramisu, and

enjoy wine (both red and white) from the chef's vineyard. You will also receive a recipe book to take home with you. All of this will take place in a bucolic setting (pastoral), immersed in the marvelous archaeological area of the Ancient Appia (one of the earliest and strategically most important Roman roads of the ancient republic).

**Double Tree by Hilton Rome Monti**

**Meals Included: B, D**

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**DAY 12 • Tuesday, June 24 • Italy**

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This morning after breakfast and check-out, we'll be transferred to the airport for our transatlantic flight to the U.S.

Welcome home!