



Humanus Network
Holocaust and Human Rights Education Consulting

"The Power of Place"

2026 European Summer Institute For Holocaust Educators



JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL
MINNESOTA & THE DAKOTAS

Special guest & acclaimed author of *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, **Alexandra Zapruder**, is traveling with us as we follow in the footsteps of several diarists.

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1 • Thursday, June 18 • Departure

Depart Minneapolis (Overnight flight).
Overnight Flight

DAY 2 • Friday, June 19 • Arrive Lithuania

Upon arrival in Lithuania, after clearing Customs and retrieving luggage, we will meet our charter bus for transfer to our hotel. We have arranged for a small welcome snack upon the group's arrival at the hotel where we will make introductions and welcome everyone.

Alexandra Zapruder will provide important framing regarding the diaries and experiences we will follow throughout our journey. She will discuss prompts and ideas for our own journaling that will enrich the experience and help us to process and make meaning of this difficult history.

Kristin will introduce a participant-centered pedagogical approach developed by Paul Salmons that was utilized during our 2025 "Power of Place" institute and participants found it to be incredibly valuable.

Later tonight, enjoy dinner on your own.

[Radisson Collection Astorija Hotel](#)

Address: Didžioji str. 35/2, LT- 01228 Vilnius, Lithuania

Phone: +370 5212 0110

DAY 3 • Saturday, June 20 • Vilnius, Lithuania

Salvaged Pages: Yitzhak Rudashevki, "Space stands as a witness to what happened."

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM This morning after breakfast, we'll meet with our guide, **Marius Galadauskas**, for a **walking tour of Vilnius** where we will follow in the footsteps of **Yitzhak Rudashevki** (3.5 hours).

Sites include:

- The Rudashevski family home
- The building of Rudashevski's Yiddish school where a Stolperstein is dedicated to him
- The house in the Vilnius ghetto where the Rudashevski family live
- The ghetto library building (Rudashevski was an active reader of this library)
- The ghetto theater building, still operating as a theater today
- The former Gestapo, later Soviet KGB, building where the Rudashevski family was interrogated before the massacre at Ponar. Now it houses the Museum of Occupations and Freedom Fighters
- Ponar Holocaust Memorial

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM Enjoy lunch on your own in Old Town Vilnius.

After lunch, our charter bus will take us to the **Vilna Judaica Research Center, a branch of the YIVO institute**, for a visit with **Dr. Lara Lempert** who leads the Center. YIVO was founded in Berlin and Wilno, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania) in 1925 as the Yiddish Scientific Institute with the support of leading intellectuals and scholars, including Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud. During WWII, the Institute was forced to relocate to New York City, where it has been headquartered since 1940. YIVO's archives and library represent the single largest and most comprehensive collection of materials on Eastern European Jewish civilization in the world

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM From there, our bus will transfer us to **The Ponar Forest** (Paneriai; approx. 40-min). The Ponar Forest is one of the most horrific mass murder sites of the Holocaust, often referred to as the "killing fields of Ponary". Marius will guide us here for approximately one-hour.

5:15 PM Our bus will transfer us back to the hotel

6:00 PM This evening, enjoy dinner on your own.

Radisson Collection Astorija Hotel

Meals Included: B

DAY 4: • Sunday, June 21 • Lithuania (Vilnius – Šeduva – Kaunas)

8:00 AM This morning after breakfast, our charter bus will take us to Šeduva (approx. 2.5 hr drive) where we will visit the [Lost Shtetl Museum](#) for our site tour beginning at **11:30 AM**.

The museum just opened to the public on Sept. 20, 2025. Here, we will experience a vivid re-creation of Lithuanian Jewish life before the Holocaust, honor the memory of the lost communities through immersive exhibits and memorials, and understand the rich history and cultural heritage of the shtetls through personal stories, traditions, and the poignant architecture of the museum itself.

Later, our charter bus will transfer us to Kaunas (approx. 2-hours) where we will check in to our hotel and you can enjoy dinner on your own (approx. arrival by **6:00 PM**).

[Radisson Hotel Kaunas](#)

Address: K. Donelaičio 27, Kaunas, Lithuania

Phone: +370 37 306 100

Meals Included: B

DAY 5 • Monday, June 22 • Kaunas, Lithuania

Salvaged Pages: Ilya Gerber

9:00 AM This morning after breakfast, our bus will transfer us to the [Sugihara House](#) (tour is 1.5 hrs max.) where Marius will lead our tour (60-90 min). We'll learn about the heroic actions of Chiune Sugihara and the thousands of Jews he saved during WWII by issuing transit visas for safe passage through Japan. The museum, located in the former Japanese consulate, provides insight into this act of humanity, showcasing personal stories and exhibits that honor his courage and offer a unique perspective on this little-known piece of history.

En route to our next stop (Ninth Fort), we will visit the largest and one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Lithuania located at Zaliakalnis.

10:30 AM From here, our bus will transfer us to [Ninth Fort of the Kaunas Fortress](#) (approx. 45-min drive). Ninth Fort was a killing field where victims were shot and buried in mass graves. As many as 50,000 people were murdered there between 1941 and 1944. In October 1941, the site was the location of the "Great Action," a single event where the Nazis murdered 9,200 Jews in one day. In 1943, the Nazis used Jewish prisoners to exhume and burn bodies in an effort to destroy evidence of the mass murders. A group of these prisoners escaped, bringing the horrors committed at the fort to light even before the war ended.

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Staff of Ninth Fort will provide our guided tour (90-min).

1:00 2:30 PM We will have lunch in Old Town Kaunas at **PJazz**. (Please note: Although we will all stop together at one restaurant for lunch, each person will need to pay for their own meal; cards may be accepted, but also have cash on hand, please.)

2:30 PM We will then return to Kaunas for a **walking tour** with Marius that will include:

- **Kaunas Ghetto** (also known as Kovno, the name used by Russian authorities, and was the common Yiddish name for the city, reflecting the significant Jewish population there). – Bus needed here.
- **Ohel Yakov Choral Synagogue**
- Meeting with **Mrs. Bella Shirin** - an icon of the Jewish community in Kaunas (45min)

This evening, enjoy dinner on your own.

Radisson Hotel Kaunas

Meals Included: B

DAY 6 • Tuesday, June 23 • Kaunas, Lithuania to Lodz, Poland

This morning after breakfast and check-out, we'll depart Lithuania via charter bus to Lodz, Poland (approximately 6.5-hours).

Upon arrival in Lodz, we will check in at our hotel and you will have the remainder of your day / evening at leisure to explore the city on your own.

Puro Hotel

Address: Ogrodowa 16, 91-065, Lodz, Poland

Phone: +48 42 71 59 000

Meals Included: B

DAY 7 • Wednesday, June 24 • Lodz to Krakow, Poland

Salvaged Pages: Minia Kuper (formerly Anonymous Girl), Abram Isaac Laski (formerly Anonymous Boy)

Also important diaries, although not in *Salvaged Pages*: Dawid Sierakowiak, Rivka Lipczyk

This morning after breakfast and check-out, we will meet our guides, **Ewa Wiatr** and **Adam Sitarek**, who will provide our **tour of Lodz** including the **Jewish cemetery** and **Radegast station**.

Following our time in Lodz, our bus will transfer us to Krakow (3.5-hours) where we will check in at the hotel and you can enjoy a late dinner on your own.

Radisson Blu Hotel Krakow

Address: Straszewskiego St. 17, Krakow, Poland

Phone: +48 12 392 88 88

Meals Included: B

DAY 8 • Thursday, June 25 • Krakow to Bodzentyn, Poland

Salvaged Pages: Dawid Rubinowicz

8:00 AM This morning after breakfast, our charter bus will transfer us from Krakow to Bodzentyn / Krajno (approx. 2-hours).

10:00 AM We will meet our **guides, Ewa Wymark and Agata Wicenciak-Szulc**, and our journey will start at the former site of the school that **Dawid Rubinowicz** attended. We will see a photo of Dawid and his classmates from a 1937 outing to the hilltop of Łysica, as well as photocopies of his grades and the covers of the school notebooks in which he kept his diary.

Lunch will be arranged at the hilltop restaurant in Krajno. En route, we will pass the spot where Dawid's house once stood. (Please note: Although we will all stop together at one restaurant for lunch, each person will need to pay for their own meal; cards may be accepted, but also have cash on hand, please.)

After lunch, we will drive to Bodzentyn (15-min). Director **Ewa Kołomańska** will welcome us to the Adela Nawrot Public Library and Cultural Center. We will meet with **Mr. Rachtan** who will explain how the diary was found. Our guides will then provide an historical overview of the Jewish community and a walking tour of the nearby streets and markets, following in the footsteps of Dawid.

From here, we'll take a short bus ride (2-min) to the Catholic cemetery and meet **Father Sikorski** where we will pay our respects to the **Dziuba family** who were recently awarded the title Righteous Among the Nations. We will learn how their story is closely intertwined with that of Dawid Rubinowicz's cousin, Abram. Then, we'll take another short bus ride to the Jewish cemetery (5-min) where we will honor and remember the former Jewish community.

We will leave Bodzentyn for a short bus to ride to Suchedniów (20 min). In Suchedniów, we will stop at the railway station from which the Jews from Bodzentyn and other nearby towns and villages were taken to Treblinka, including Dawid and his family. From Suchedniów, our bus will return to Krakow where you can enjoy dinner on your own (expected arrival by **6:00 PM**).

Radisson Blu Hotel Krakow
Meals Included: B

DAY 9 • Friday, June 26 • Krakow to Oswiecim, Poland

7:30 AM This morning after an early breakfast, our coach bus will take us to the **Memorial and Museum Auschwitz – Birkenau**, where we'll meet our guide, **Łukasz Lipiński**, for our tour of **Auschwitz I** that starts promptly at **9:00 AM**. Lukasz will provide historical context as we visit original camp buildings and areas like Block 11, the prison within a prison, and the camp commandant's house. We will see exhibits showcasing archival photographs, documents, and evidence of the Holocaust such as piles of shoes, hair, and personal belongings confiscated from the victims.

12:30 PM We'll retrieve our box lunches from the bus and take a 30-minute break for lunch.

1:00 - 3:15 PM After lunch, we'll meet our guide again and tour **Auschwitz II - Birkenau**. Here, we will experience the massive scale of the extermination camp through the ruins of barracks stretching into the distance as far as one can see. We'll also see the train tracks and original unloading ramp where victims arrived, and the ruins of the gas chambers and crematoria.

3:15 – 3:30 PM Our bus will transfer us back to **Auschwitz I, Educational Centre** at 15 Stanisławy Leszczyńskiej Street.

3:30 - 4:30 PM We will meet with **Lukasz Janiga** of the **Collections Department**. He will provide a “behind-the-scenes” look at artifacts within the museum’s collections such as luggage, shoes, or diaries.

4:30 – 4:45 PM Our bus will transfer us back to **Auschwitz II–Birkenau**.

5:00 - 5:15 PM We'll have a short **program / prayer** and light Yahrzeit Candles as we remember all those who perished here. This will help to set the tone for our personal reflection time.

5:15–6:00 PM You will then have time to walk the immense grounds on your 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.

Following our intense day, we will stop en route back to our hotel in Krakow to share Shabbat Dinner.

Radisson Blu Hotel Krakow

Meals Included: B, L (box lunches from hotel), D (Shabbat Dinner)

DAY 10 • Saturday, June 27 • Krakow, Poland to Amsterdam, Netherlands

This morning after breakfast and check out, our charter bus will transfer us to Krakow Airport for our non-stop KLM flight to Amsterdam (departs 11:50 AM, arrives 1:50 PM).

Upon arrival at the airport, our charter bus will transfer us to our hotel. After check-in, you can enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to explore the city on your own.

NH Leidseplein

Address: Stadhouderskade 7, 1054 ES Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 685 1351

Meals Included: B

DAY 11 • Sunday, June 28 • Amsterdam, Netherlands

8:30 AM This morning after breakfast, we'll meet our guide, [Gerben Post](#), for our 3-hour walking tour of Amsterdam that introduces us to the experiences of Dutch Jews during the Holocaust. The tour includes approximately 13 sites.

11:30 AM– 1:00 PM Following our walking tour, we'll have a short time to grab lunch in the city before departing for our next tour.

1:00 PM This afternoon, our charter bus will transfer us to [National Monument Camp Vught](#) which served as a Transit Camp during WWII and the Holocaust (90-min bus ride).

Camp Vught was the only SS concentration camp in the occupied Netherlands, placing it under direct SS control and giving it a unique role in the Nazis' administration of the country. It also served as a transit for Dutch Jews. It was a crucial link in the chain of deportation. About 12,000 Jewish prisoners were held here before being transferred to the Westerbork transit camp and then on to extermination camps like Auschwitz and Sobibór. A particularly somber aspect of the camp's history was the deportation of 1,269 Jewish children in June 1943, who were sent to Sobibór and murdered. While it was a transit camp for Jews, it also imprisoned political opponents, resistance fighters, Roma and Sinti, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others.

2:30 PM Upon arrival at Camp Vught, we will have a 75-minute guided tour and then time to explore the exhibitions and Barracks 1B – the last remaining authentic barracks from the camp - on our own.

5:00 PM Following our tour, our charter bus will transfer us back to our hotel in Amsterdam where you can enjoy dinner on your own. Expected arrival approximately **6:30 PM**.

NH Leidseplein, Amsterdam

Meals Included: B

DAY 12 • Monday, June 29 • Amsterdam, Netherlands

This morning after breakfast, we will make our way to the [Anne Frank House](#) where we will meet with [Jurmet Huitema-de Waal, Educational Projects](#). She has a special “behind-the-scenes” opportunity for our group to meet with her colleagues in the Collections Department regarding the physical diary of Anne Frank. We will also tour the site with her staff.

9:00 – 9:30 AM Welcome and preparation for museum visit

9:30 – 10:00 AM Introduction to the Diary of Anne Frank (from publication to museum artifact)

10:00 – 11:15 AM Museum Visit

11:15 – 11:45 AM Reflection and short break (coffee, tea, and snacks)

11:45 – 12:30 PM Diary of Anne Frank, focus on research and preservation

12:30 – 1:00 PM Q&A

This afternoon, enjoy time to explore the city on your own.

This evening, we will embark on a **private canal cruise** as part of our farewell event. We will also have a final closing session to share thoughts and wrap up our time together in Europe.

NH Leidseplein, Amsterdam

Meals Included: B

DAY 13 • Tuesday, June 30 • Amsterdam, Netherlands to U.S.

Today, after breakfast and check-out, we will bid farewell to this beautiful city and make our way to Amsterdam Airport Schipol (AMS) for our transcontinental flight home to the U.S.

WELCOME HOME!