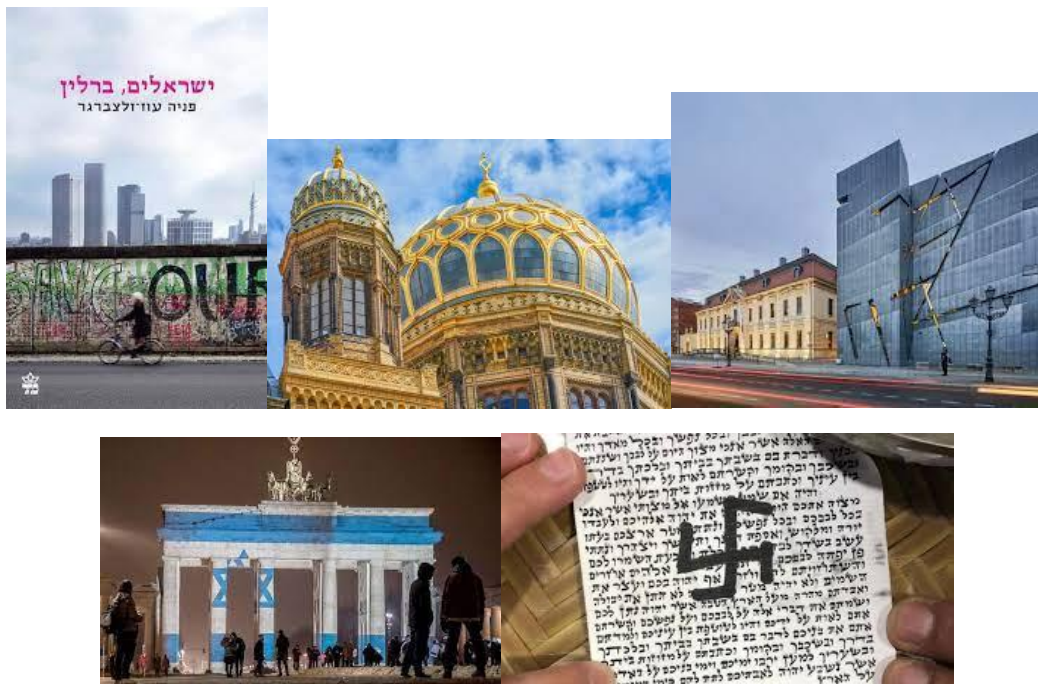




12-15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Berlin

‘All that is old, is new’



When ‘we’ were young, Berlin was one of the first JJ trips in a city freshly liberated from the Cold War. History has moved on and it seems the time is ripe to revisit and catch up with this fast and ever-changing city at the heart of contemporary European Jewish imagination. And as we have never tired of saying on Jewish Journeys, the past keeps changing to adapt for the present, and so on this trip, our perspective is firmly 21<sup>st</sup> century now! A community is fully functioning, thousands of Israelis now fill the cities as do Jews whose parents left Russia after Communism. The conversations about who we are and what the past means have never stopped. There are places to reinterpret, new people to meet ... all leading us from the city of Enlightenment, through the roaring city of the 1920s, the city of Nazism and its defeat, the Soviets and their disappearing legacy ... and the city of today!

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October      Entry Points

**As always, asking the question of how to begin, what is the way into the Berlin Jewish story, this opening half day introduces a series of familiar and hidden locations where memory offers a chance to talk about the present.**

1300    Introductions, hotel

1400    A cluster of memorials

- The local synagogue memorial - Site of former synagogue, Levetzowstrasse,
- The two directional memorial - Putlitz Bridge;
- The non Jewish memorial *Wir waren Nachbarn* (We were neighbours), Schoneberg Town Hall;
- The embarrassed 'victory' monument – *Siegersauller*
- Parliament that is not a memorial but is anyway. Reichstag.
- The long overdue memorials: Roma and Sinti, T4, Gays and European Jews

18.00            Dinner

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October    Rethinking origins and the journey to modernity

**Berlin is one of the classic 'modern' cities of Europe, a late starter far behind Paris, London and Vienna. It has become an icon for many things: European enlightenment; innovation in secular arts; and radical politics. For Jews it is even more sharply synonymous with the modern world, bequeathing the phrase 'Berlin Enlightenment', inspiring excitement and contempt from different quarters.**

08.30            A literary introduction: Beginning the day in the hotel with samples of a Berlin Jewish literature.

09.30            (walking and bus tour)

- Berlin Year Zero I (1573): Judenstrasse
- Berlin Year Zero II (1945): Volksbuhne, Rosa Luxemburg Platz
- Berlin Year Zero II (1671): RosenthalerPlatz
- Gross Hamburger Str. (Enlightenment thinkers from Mendelsohn )
- Tucholskystrasse and the world of modern religious movements

13.00    Lunch

14.30    Jews and shops: Reimagining the Jewish story of Kufurstendamn (walking tour)

16.00 Break

17.30 Depart for Synagogue, joining local Jewish communities for Friday night tfilla

19.30 Dinner

### **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October Curating the present.**

**There is no Jewish journey to Berlin that does not bump into the ‘thick’ legacy of the Holocaust years. What is intriguing, occasionally uplifting but no less disturbing, is how the legacy of that period twists and turns through the decades. This day has some locations featured in other trips, but with a very clear understanding that the past has been adjusted occasionally as the lens of the present has turned.**

09.00 The darkest chapter: Walter Rathenau memorial, Wannsee House, Deportation memorial, Duppel Centre DP Camp

14.00 Berlin Jewish Museum .... "The history of the Jews has not changed, but our perspective on it has," says Hetty Berg, the new director of the Jewish Museum. After being closed for a year, the iconic Berlin Jewish Museum finally reopened with new exhibitions and a new lens on the past.

17.00 Screening and discussion of ‘Mazal Tov Cocktail’, the prize winning 2020 short film, opening all the questions about contemporary Jewish identity.

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 Nothing is old.**

**Our ‘exit point’ is a mixture of the newest iteration of Jewish Berlin, its Israeli side, and also a chance to revisit some of the classic sites of Berlin’s grand past looked at through the lens of 2023.**

09.00 ‘Berlin- Tel Aviv’ Inside the world of Israeli Berlin

11.00 Unter den Linden – from Frederick the ‘Great’ to the Humboldt University and beyond, fresh perspectives on the classic of Berlin’s central boulevard

13.00 Finish