

Brandeis | TRAVELERS

Cruising the
ELBE RIVER

MAY 2-12, 2025



BERLIN TO PRAGUE Aboard the *Elbe Princesse*



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

Join us for an 11-day journey to explore Jewish history and heritage from Berlin to Prague. Linking the two fascinating capital cities, the Elbe River traverses a land filled with captivating treasures including cosmopolitan cities and picturesque towns; terraced vineyards and lush orchards; fortress-crowned crags and spectacular gorges.

Begin in Berlin with an overnight stay at the iconic, centrally located Adlon Kempinski. After a city center tour and landmark sites, you'll embark on the *M/S Elbe River Princesse* for eight nights. In Berlin, visit the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial and the Jewish Museum.

En route to Potsdam, visit the Holocaust study center at Wansee House, and upon arrival, explore the whimsical Sanssouci Palace and gardens, the summer residence of Frederick the Great, and in Wittenberg, the city of the Reformation, tour the Castle Church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses. Admire the treasures of Meissen's fine porcelain factory, then continue to Dresden where you will see the Theater Square, the Old and New Synagogues, the Church of Our Lady, and the Green Vault.

Before crossing the border into Czechia, enjoy an afternoon excursion to Saxon Switzerland National Park, which boasts magnificent views of the Elbe River. Spend the next morning in the royal town of Litomerice, one of the oldest Bohemian cities and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. Conclude your journey with a tour of Jewish Prague, with visits to the Altneu and Klausen Synagogues. Enjoy a private lunch with musical entertainment at Lobkowitz Palace.

In partnership with local guides and experts, Antony Polonsky, Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies, will enrich and inform the journey by sharing his insights and expertise in the Jewish history and heritage of the countries you'll visit from Berlin to Prague.

We are delighted to share this journey with travelers from Jewish Heritage Travel on board the deluxe, all-inclusive *Elbe Princesse*. Extend your stay with an optional post-lude extension in Prague.

Make your reservations today, as we expect this program to fill quickly, by calling our tour operator Criterion Travel at **(888) 328-2089** or email **res@critteriontravel.com**.

Sincerely,

F. Patricia Fisher

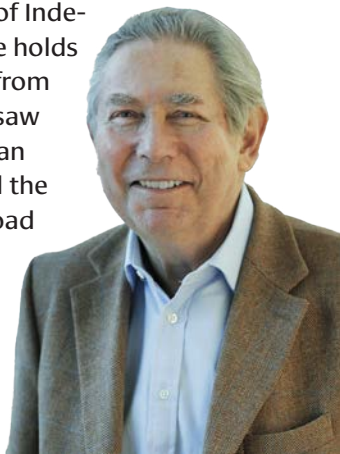
Vice President, Alumni Relations



FACULTY LEADER

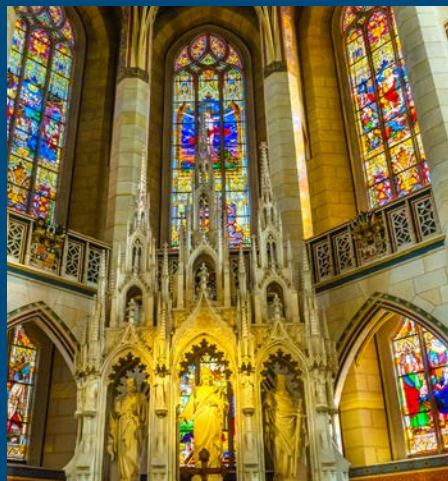
ANTONY POLONSKY is Emeritus Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University and Chief Historian of the Global Education Outreach Project at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. He is co-chair of the editorial board of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*; author of *Politics in Independent Poland* (1972), *The Little Dictators* (1975), *The Great Powers and the Polish Question* (1976); co-author of *A History of Modern Poland* (1980) and *The Beginnings of Communist Rule in Poland* (1981); and co-editor of *Contemporary Jewish writing in Poland: an anthology* (2001) and *The Neighbors Respond: the Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland* (2004).

His most recent work is *The Jews in Poland and Russia* (Oxford, 2010, 2012), published in three volumes and in an abridged edition as *The Jews in Poland and Russia. A Short History* (2014), which has been translated into French, Polish and Lithuanian. In 1999, he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Independent Lithuania. He holds honorary doctorates from the University of Warsaw (2010), the Jagiellonian University (2014) and the Polish University Abroad (Polski Uniwersytet na Obczyźnie) (2022).



Highlights

- ▶ Begin with two days immersed in **BERLIN'S VIBRANT CULTURAL EMERGENCE** from rubble to renewal, including visits to the **Alte Nationalgalerie** (National Gallery) on Museum Island, **Checkpoint Charlie**, the **Holocaust Memorial** and the **Jewish Museum**.
- ▶ **TRAVEL IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARTIN LUTHER**, whose religious ideas triggered far-reaching reformation, during an exploration of **Wittenberg's Castle Church** and the **Luther House**.



Wittenberg Castle

- ▶ **VISIT LITOMERICE**, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site that was once home to a Jewish population in the 16th century, or opt to visit **Terezin concentration camp**.
- ▶ Delight in a **PRIVATE LUNCH AND CLASSICAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE** at the magnificent **Lobkowitz Palace** in Prague.
- ▶ **GLIDE FOR EIGHT NIGHTS** through the idyllic green countryside that lines the River Elbe, traveling from Berlin to Prague aboard the all-inclusive **M/S Elbe Princesse**.



Potsdam



Bastei

ITINERARY

Friday-Saturday, May 2-3

BERLIN

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Berlin, Germany. Upon arrival, transfer to the Adlon Kempinski and enjoy time at leisure this afternoon. Take an optional late afternoon walking tour of Berlin, which includes Brandenburg Gate and Peter Eisenman's Holocaust Memorial. Gather for a welcome reception this evening. ADLON KEMPINSKI (R)

Sunday, May 4

BERLIN

This morning view the masterpieces on display at Alte Nationalgalerie on Museum Island followed by an afternoon visit to the Jewish Museum. Later this afternoon, embark *Elbe Princesse*.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Monday, May 5

BERLIN/POTSDAM

Enjoy a specially arranged visit at Pestalozzi Street Synagogue, then continue to the Holocaust study center at Wansee House. In Potsdam, visit Sanssouci Palace before reembaring the ship late evening.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 6

CRUISING/ MAGDEBURG

Delight in the educational program this morning as the *Elbe Princesse* cruises to Magdeburg, one of the oldest cities in Germany. Upon arrival, visit the Magdeburg Cathedral, the country's oldest Gothic construction, the New Synagogue, and the Green Citadel. Here see how the architect's environmental ethics influenced its abundance of vegetation. There will also be an opportunity to join an optional e-bike tour of Magdeburg (at an additional cost).

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 7

WITTENBERG/CRUISING

Spend the morning in Wittenburg, the city of Reformation. Tour the Castle Church, where Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in 1517, and the Luther House before returning to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising. *ELBE PRINCESSE* (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 8

MEISSEN/DRESDEN

Visit Europe's oldest porcelain factory, then continue by coach to Dresden for a private lunch of regional

specialties. Next take a guided tour of Dresden including Opera Square, the Old/New Synagogue, Church of Our Lady, and Green Vault treasures. The remainder of the day and evening are free to explore Dresden independently.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Friday, May 9

BAD SCHANDAU/ CRUISING

This morning enjoy an excursion to Saxon Switzerland National Park. Walk along the German part of the Sandstone Mountains with free time to walk at Bastei, with its distinctive rock formations and panoramic views over the mighty Elbe River. Embark *Elbe Princesse* and resume cruising as the ship crosses the border into the Czech Republic.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 10

LITOMERICE, CZECH REPUBLIC/ CRUISING

Spend the morning in Litomerice, a royal town established in the 13th century and one of the oldest Bohemian cities. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was also home to a Jewish population in the



General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE: All meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary **including one hotel night and eight nights aboard *Elbe Princesse***

- Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations
- Group airport transfers for all participants on program arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling
- **Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers**
- **Gratuities to shipboard personnel**
- Port charges
- Entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- **Open bar while on board *Elbe Princesse*, including wine, beer, spirits, soft drinks, mineral, water, coffee & tea (excluding champagne and premium drinks).**
- Professional tour manager throughout the program.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT: This a moderately strenuous program that is, at times, physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to two miles of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by Brandeis Travelers or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws.

GROUP SIZE: This program can accommodate up to 40 participants including travelers from Brandeis Travelers and Jewish Heritage Travel.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE: U.S. domestic and international airfare

- Passport/visa expenses
- Medical expenses and immunizations
- Private air transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days
- Travel and trip cancellation insurance
- Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options
- Airline baggage charges
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; wines from the ship's premium list
- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature.

16th century. There will also be an optional visit to Terezin, once a ghetto and concentration camp during World War II. Cruise the rest of the afternoon with time for a lecture.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 11

PRAGUE

Disembark outside of Prague and drive to the city for an engaging walking tour of Jewish Prague. Visit Prague's fabled Alt-Neu Synagogue, the oldest functioning Jewish house of worship in Europe, and the Klausen Synagogues that presently serve as exhibition halls for the Jewish Museum. At Lobkowitz Palace, enjoy lunch with a musical performance. This afternoon there is an option for time at leisure or for a guided visit through Prague's Old Town. Return to the *Elbe Princesse* for a reception and final dinner on board.

ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,R,D)

Monday, May 12

PRAGUE/HOME

After breakfast disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home or join the post-trip extension in Prague. (B)

May 12-14, 2025

POST-LUDE EXTENSION IN PRAGUE

Prague's elegance and breadth of architectural design has inspired artists, musicians, and thinkers for more than a millennium. During this two-night post-tour extension, delve into the treasures found in the imposing Prague Castle, a royal residence as far back as the 10th century and still the seat of the Czech government. Enjoy a specially arranged visit to the beautiful library inside Strahov Monastery. Enjoy a guided tour of the National Theater and learn about the role the city played in the Cubism and Art Nouveau movements. Your junior suite at the centrally located and incomparably appointed Grand Mark Prague allows outstanding access to Prague's finest restaurants and sites in the city's Old Town. *Further information and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.*





ELBE PRINCESSE



Main Deck



Upper Deck



LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2016, the *Elbe Princesse* is ideally suited for voyages along the Vltava and Elbe Rivers and the Havel Canal. The vessel is powered by two side-mounted paddlewheels, allowing for an ultra-shallow draft of barely three feet, thus avoiding the issue of low water levels on the rivers. Each of the comfortable outward-facing cabins features either large non-opening picture windows on the Main Deck (*Pont Principal*), or a sliding glass door with floor-to-ceiling windows on the Upper Deck (*Pont Supérieur*). The vessel combines contemporary comfort and modern, sleek design with state-of-the-art marine technology. The public areas are elegantly decorated, with panoramic windows allowing you to relax and enjoy the passing scenery. There is also a spacious sun deck with comfortable deck furniture. With a low crew member to passenger ratio, personal attention is assured throughout the voyage.

UPPER *Pont Supérieur*



MAIN *Pont Principal*

Program Rates per person

CATEGORY DOUBLE SINGLE

A \$6,990 \$11,990
Main Deck, 156 sq ft, picture windows

B \$7,790
Main Deck, 156 sq ft, picture windows

C \$9,490 \$12,790
Upper Deck, 156 sq ft, sliding window with balcony rail

D \$9,990
Upper Deck, 156 sq ft, sliding window with balcony rail

General Info cont.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Brandeis Travelers partners exclusively with Meyer and Associates to offer trip insurance for our tours. Please inquire about trip insurance options once you've made your reservation to meet any time-sensitive requirements. For more information, please call Meyer and Associates at (800) 635-7801 or email info@meyerandassoc.com.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES: Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject

to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

Terms & Conditions

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:

To reserve space online visit https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/BRAN/250502_ELB/tour or email

Criterion Travel at res@criterion-travel.com. You may also return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due January 2, 2025. After January 2, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed

by Brandeis Travelers and Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After January 2, 2025, final payment deadline: All payments are 100% non-refundable. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE: Neither Brandeis Travelers nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.**

HEALTH: All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Brandeis Travelers and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Brandeis Travelers and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER: Brandeis University is not responsible for any tour operator policies or for any refunds. Criterion Travel is the operator of this program and solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities associated with it. Additionally, Brandeis University, as a sponsor, has no financial or legal responsibility for the program. Further documentation, including applicable Terms & Conditions associated with participation in this program, will be sent to confirmed participants.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

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Cruising the ELBE RIVER

MAY 2-12, 2025



RESERVE
ONLINE

For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089; or email res@critteriontravel.com.

You may also complete and return this reservation form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax the completed form to (650) 560-6400.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) _____ BIRTHDATE _____

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) _____ BIRTHDATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE _____

HOME PHONE _____ MOBILE PHONE _____

EMAIL #1 ADDRESS _____

EMAIL #2 ADDRESS _____

PAYMENT

Please charge the \$1,000 per person deposit to my credit card (circle one): VISA / MC / AMEX / DISCOVER

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE _____

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD _____ DATE _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve _____ place(s) on Cruising the Elbe River.

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*)

OR

I plan to share accommodations with: _____

OR

I'd like to know about roommates. *I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of January 2, 2025, I will pay the single rate.*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Cruising the **ELBE RIVER**

MAY 2-12, 2025



Brandeis | TRAVELERS

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Waltham MA 02453-2728

BERLIN TO PRAGUE Aboard the *Elbe Princesse*