

INTERNATIONAL *March* OF THE LIVING

REMEMBER THE PAST

ENSURE THE FUTURE



2020 *March* OF THE LIVING

In Association with Central Agencies of Jewish Education Youth Movements and Organizations

In the spring of 2020, thousands of Jewish teens and adults from all corners of the earth will gather together in Poland and Israel for an educational experience that will change their lives.

Eligibility and Preparation

High school students who will be in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades in 2020 (at the discretion of local communities) are eligible to participate. All qualified applicants will be carefully screened. Not everyone can be accepted. Applicants must complete an application, medical form, submit an essay, participate in a personal interview and supply letters of recommendation. If you are chosen, you will be provided with a study curriculum of Poland and Israel and will be expected to attend educational seminars that have been specifically created to prepare you for the **March**.



Travel Dates

You will depart the USA or Canada on April 18 and April 19. You will return home approximately two weeks after your departure date.

Cost & Flights

This program is partially subsidized. Based on your departure city the cost will vary. Please check with your regional March of the Living office for the program cost. **Cost is subject to a possible fluctuation of up to 5%.** Scholarships may be available, upon request, from your Central Agency for Jewish Education, Federation or Synagogue. EL AL & LOT (Polish Airlines) will be the principal air carriers. IYHA will be the principal land service provider in Israel.



For more information about the **2020 March of the Living**, please contact your local Federation, Central Agency for Jewish Education, Youth Movement or call or write to:

International March of the Living

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www.motl.org

An International Educational Program

On April 21, 2020, thousands of Jewish teens and adults, from countries all around the world, will share in a once in a lifetime experience when they march three kilometers from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis during World War II. The **March** commemorates **Yom Hashoah**, Holocaust Remembrance Day. You can be there – along with over 10,000 participants who will be part of this historic event. As a proud Marcher, your experience will be in direct contrast to the tragic fate of hundreds of thousands of Jews and others, who were forced by the Nazis to take part in the infamous death Marches, across vast expanses of European terrain, under the harshest of conditions. This time, however, there will be a difference. It will be a **March of the Living**, with thousands of Jews, like yourself, marching shoulder to shoulder. You will participate in a memorial service at one of the gas chambers/crematoria, in Birkenau, which will conclude with the singing of Hatikvah, reaffirming Am Yisrael Chai – The Jewish People Live. From Poland, you will fly to Israel to join the entire Jewish community in celebrating **Yom Ha'atzmaut**, Israel's 72nd Independence Day, on April 29th. You will participate in a week of unforgettable experiences.

A Study in Contrasts

Your stay in Poland and Israel will be a study in contrasts. In Poland you will search for traces of a world that no longer exists. You will discover that, of the hundreds of Jewish schools, synagogues and institutions that once existed in Warsaw before the war, sadly, very little remains. The century old Nozyk synagogue (used by the Nazis as a stable during the war) and the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery – the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe – are among the only reminders of the glorious Jewish life that once thrived there. Yet, you will also have moments of hope in Poland as you encounter a resurgence of Jewish culture. You will meet with your Polish peers and witness a blossoming of new synagogues, schools, organizations and youth groups. Like many, you may leave Poland wondering how it was possible for the destruction of almost an entire generation of Jews to occur– yet you will pledge to keep their memory alive. In Israel you will encounter a country that is striving valiantly to keep the age-old flame of Jewish nationhood alive. On **Yom Hazikaron**, Israel's Memorial Day, you will join together with all of Israel as they mourn their fallen soldiers and victims of terror and on **Yom Ha'atzmaut** you will celebrate Israel's independence along with the entire country. The March of the Living to Poland and Israel will cause you to encounter both the richness and anguish of our past and the hope for our future. This experience will help you understand how important both aspects are to your identity as a Jew living in the 21st century.



"We prayed, we sang songs, we cried.
In our own way we made a statement to the
world that embodies the meaning of the
March of the Living –Yes, but we are still here!"
– Moshe Sussman, Miami, Florida

Unforgettable Moments

Yom Hashoah and **Yom Ha'atzmaut** are two of the most important days in modern Jewish times. By taking part in these special events, you will share unforgettable moments in Jewish history and bear witness to the undying spirit of the Jewish people. Like those who participated in previous Marches (beginning in 1988), you will return home with a new sense of yourself, your people and your history. It will be an experience that will remain with you for a lifetime.

World Wide Participation

The **March of the Living** will bring together Jewish teens and adults from over 40 countries and regions around the world including Israel, USA, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Panama, South Africa, France, the United Kingdom, Hungary, Austria, Belgium and Poland. You will have an opportunity to meet some of your fellow participants. Together you will share moments of sadness and joy and create long-lasting bonds.

North America Participation

Approximately 3,000 Jewish high school students and adults, from every religious and educational background, and every part of North America, will participate. These groups will be accompanied by educators, survivors, medical professionals, political and community leaders.

In Poland

You will visit the concentration camps of Auschwitz-Birkenau, Treblinka and Majdanek. You will also visit historic Jewish sites in Warsaw (the Ghetto Memorial, Mila 18, the Jewish Cemetery, the restored Nozyk Synagogue), Cracow (the Jewish Quarter, the Ramah Synagogue) and Lublin (the famous Yeshiva). The highlight will be the **March of the Living**.

In Israel

During your stay in Israel you will take part in many special events organized specifically for participants of the **March**. You will visit a number of exciting locations and ancient sites, such as Jerusalem, Masada, Tel Aviv, the Golan Heights, the Galilee, the Negev and more. On **April 29th, Israel's 72nd Independence Day**, all of the groups from around the world will join thousands of Israelis in this national celebration.

