



Jews on borders!

(צווישן צוויי וועלטן)

(Between two worlds)

Lvov – Brody (former Galicia)

31st May – 3rd June 2018

Trieste - Venice

October 4th – 7th 2018

Jewish Journeys is enthusiastically devoting our 2018 trips to the theme of 'borders', or to be more accurate, the dramas and challenges of Jews living on them and between them. Indeed, there seems nothing more characteristic of the Jewish story than the attempt to navigate the boundaries that separate Jews from each other, from their neighbours, and from all the cultural and political currents swirling around them.

So in 2018, we are travelling to frontier towns and cities.

In the last hundred years a Jew living in Lvov could also have been a citizen of Lemberg (Austria), Poland (Lwow) or Ukraine (Lviv), without ever moving house. Each one brought its own culture, religion and politics, constantly challenging Jews to re-assess who they were and the boundaries of their loyalty. And those Jews from nearby Brody were understood to be residents of the border town that separated the Enlightenment of the west and the traditionalism of the East.

These two cities were home to the most remarkable array of writers, artists and thinkers for whom the boundaries of culture defined their very existence.

In a similar vein, our autumn 2018 programme in northern Italy: Venice probably needs no explanation – a Jewish community famously defined by the boundaries imposed on it by the Venetian authorities and later adopted by the Catholic empire as a model for how Jews should exist alongside their neighbours. Yet, far more interesting were the transnational boundaries that existed within the ghetto between Jews from right across the diaspora (Ottoman, Spain, France, Germany and of course Italy).

And in nearby Trieste, the borders were of a different type altogether. This beautiful and vibrant frontier city was (and still is) simultaneously Austrian and Italian, as well as one of the most important port cities for Jews leaving Europe for Palestine in the midcentury.

And just in case that was not enough, we should not forget that these particular locations represent all the dramas faced by Jews in the First World War. Precisely because they were borders cities, they played key roles in the lives of Jews during that time. We hope finally to tell the oft forgotten story of Jews in WWI, in the year that marks the 100th anniversary of when the guns fell silent.

2018 promises to be an exciting year for Jewish Journeys.