



'Galicia'

Lvov – Brody

31st May – 3rd June 2018

Jews on borders!

“(צווישן צוויי וועלטן)” **Between two worlds)**”

Over the years, Jewish Journeys has tended to focus on 'Jerusalems' – the Jewish 'capitals of...' (eg. Salonica, Vilna, Rome, Mainz and Cordoba) And now it is the turn of the borders to define our destinations. In 2018, we are focusing on Jewish sites and stories that sit on or traverse borders – physical or national borders, naturally, but also the intriguing, challenging and sometimes dangerous cultural and religious ones too. This year all our journeys are situated, in the words of the great Jewish 'border writer' S. Ansky, *tzvishen tzvei vellten* “between two worlds”.

We start in Lvov, once regarded as the capital of Galicia, a region that no longer appears on maps but was the border between the Slavic East and Austrian - Polish European West. In fact, in the last hundred years a Jew living in the city might have regarded their home as situated in Lemberg (Austria), Lwow (Poland), Lviv (Ukraine), or Lemberik (Jewish) without ever moving house. And catching the winds blowing from each direction, the community developed accordingly: being home to both Hasidism and also Reform Judaism, Yiddish speaking revolutionary socialists and Hebrew speaking Zionists, to say nothing of the small number of acculturating Polish and German speakers

Luckily, the city was not destroyed and so retains much of its original beauty and physical charm, and is fast becoming a popular tourist destination. Not surprisingly, for Jews the story is far more complicated – since the one other set of borders to be traversed are those of memory and forgetfulness. Jews no longer make up the forty per cent of the local population they once were and yet the city struggles to recognize that physically today. But even before getting drawn into the events of the Holocaust when Jews were caught between the aspirations of Nazi Germany, of Red Army soldiers of the USSR as well as of Ukrainian nationalists, it should be remembered that one hundred years ago during the

First World War, Lvov was a constant point of transit for Jewish soldiers and civilians confronting or escaping the dangers of the nearby front.

We will include a full day (travelling through former shtetls on our way) to visit Brody, the border town no less complex. Granted free trade status, Brody became the perfect conduit merchant city for trade between Russia and Austria, again the east-west divide. It should come as no surprise that as well as importing and exporting goods, ideas flowed through here constantly: from the heretical Frankist movement to 'heretical' Reform Jews from Germany! And best known by far, it was the birthplace of the twentieth century's most prolific Jewish writer, Joseph Roth, who in true 'wandering Jew' style, lived everywhere but never actually had a home anywhere. And just in case that was not enough, we should not forget that Lvov and Brody represent all the dramas faced by Jews in the First World War. Precisely because they were border cities, their railway stations were amongst the busiest in the continent, including the departure point for tens of thousands of Jewish war refugees.

We hope to finally 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.

Price will be £534 for double occupancy with a single supplement of £75. The price **excludes flights** and is based on a minimum of 30 participants. We reserve the right to add a surcharge if there is a significant devaluation of the pound against the destination currency. A non-refundable deposit of **£100 per person** is payable with your booking form. Final payment will be required by **28 February 2018**. To book please send completed booking form by email to julian@jewishjourneys.info or by post to Jewish Journeys c/o 35 Uphill Road, London, NW74RA with your deposit of £100 pp by cheque payable to Julian Resnick. If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer, full details are on the booking form.