



Alsace – Lorraine
[Strasbourg- Metz – Colmar – Verdun]
Jews in the eye of a European storm
With Jeremy Leigh
7 – 11th May, 2020

Not for the first time on Jewish Journeys, we head to the eye of the storm!

In the beautiful and rich landscape of northern France, we turn our attention to some of the oldest Jewish communities in Europe, to the very origins of 'Western Ashkenaz' and on a broader level, to the essence of the European Jewish story.

(Naturally, and with full awareness that it may be hard, please dispel any weary connotations of the Europe that is of 'backstops' 'Leaving' 'Remaining' or referenda of any type since this is way bigger, far more engaging and frankly much more interesting than that!)

In every sense, on this Jewish Journey, we are 'visiting' the story of Jews of Europe, on the border of France and Germany, in communities touched by all the highs and lows of the European experience, from lowly achievements in the fields of trade to the cultural richness of the Renaissance. At its high point we encounter the most influential thinker of the premodern period, Yosel of Rosenheim, and Cerf Baer, described by some as the very first Jewish 'citizen' of Europe. And at the same time, we meet the Dreyfus family whose famous 'son', Alfred, seems to characterise the modern world in much harsher ways. Crucially, we devote time to visit the fields and memorials at Verdun, where the same 'European' French and Germans who had been neighbours for centuries, fought each other in some of the most bitter battles of the First World War.

But above all else, and ironic though this might seem given the above, this is a Jewish Journey that investigates the theme of 'optimism' (!). All of history is behind us and new history is being created. The Jews of Strasbourg and Metz are building themselves afresh in times no less fraught, but with a clear sense that there is no future without optimism.

Price will be £ 795 for double occupancy with a single supplement of £219. The price **excludes flights** and includes 3 nights in 4* hotel in Strasbourg and one night in 3* hotel in Metz. Trip is based on a minimum of 30 participants.

A non-refundable deposit of **£150 per person** is payable with your booking form. Balance of payment due by 7th February 2020.

To book please send completed booking form and deposit of £150 pp (by cheque or bank transfer) to Marcel Manson at West End Travel, 70 Edgware Way, Edgware, HA8 8RZ or contact Marcel by phone on 07712 290520 or email marcel.manson@westendtravel.co.uk