



THE CHASSIDIC ROUTE

The Chassidic Route is a tourist route following the traces of Jewish communities through southeastern Poland, and soon also western Ukraine. Twenty-three communities in which priceless reminders of a centuries-old Jewish presence have survived have already joined the project. These are: Baligród, Biłgoraj, Chełm, Cieszanów, Dębica, Dynów, Jarosław, Kraśnik, Lesko, Leżajsk (Lizhensk), Lublin, Łańcut, Łęczna, Przemyśl, Radomyśl Wielki, Ropczyce, Rymanów, Sanok, Tarnobrzeg, Ustrzyki Dolne, Wielkie Oczy, Włodawa and Zamość.

The Chassidic Route runs through many picturesque areas, like the Roztocze Hills or the Bieszczady Mountains, and joins localities where one can find imposing synagogues and Jewish cemeteries with gravestones dating back to the 18th, 17th or even the 16th century. Many of them are still visited by Chassidim from all over the world.

Within the framework of the Route, the Foundation supports local authorities and non-governmental organizations in protecting and promoting their townships' multicultural heritage. Our aim is also to stimulate the development of dedicated tourism based on Jewish heritage through the establishment of permanent inter-sector partnerships.

The Chassidic Route gives many places in Poland the opportunity to appear on the map of tourist attractions. Apart from well-known Zamość, included on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, there are many places along the Route that are often omitted by tourists unaware of their significance.

The Chassidic Route
is a tourist route following the
traces of Jewish communities
through southeastern Poland

We invite you to take a trip along the
Chassidic Route!





THE MOST INTERESTING MONUMENTS OF JEWISH CULTURE ALONG THE CHASSIDIC ROUTE

WHY THE “CHASSIDIC ROUTE”?

For many centuries Poland was home to several generations of Jews as well as the scene of an unprecedented development of Jewish culture, religious thought and writing. It was here that Chassidism, one of the most important currents ever to come into being within Judaism emerged in the 18th century. Chassidism gained particularly many supporters in eastern Poland, including territories through which the Chassidic Route runs today.

It is traditionally believed that the creator of Chassidism (in Hebrew, chassid means “pious”) was Israel Ben Eliezer of Medzhybizh in Podolia (today, a region of the Ukraine), known as the Baal Shem Tov. Chassidim believed that religion could not be limited to the strict observance of the commandments of Judaism, and that obeying them in too literal a manner could even distance man from God. They therefore strongly emphasized the emotional experience of faith.

Chassidim concentrated around tzadikim (in Hebrew, tzadik means “the righteous one”), charismatic spiritual leaders, each of whom preached a distinct way of approaching God: specific ways of studying religious texts and celebrating rituals. Some tzadikim became famous for their theories, for example that prayers would be heard by God only if shouted or accompanied by dancing. In the 19th century the post of tzadik became hereditary, which led to the creation of whole dynasties, taking their names from the towns where tzadikim courts took root.

On yartzeit, or the anniversary of a tzadik’s death, Chassidim gather round the tzadik’s grave, believing that on this day the rabbi’s soul visits his place of rest. They pray and leave kvitlech – pieces of paper bearing their requests – on the tzadik’s tomb. This tradition is still alive and Chassidim from all over the world still regularly visit the graves of tzadikim in Dynów, Leżajsk, Ropczyce or Rymanów.

However, not all the places along the Chassidic Route were centers of the Chassidic movement. Tzadik “courts” existed in Cieszanów, Dębica, Dynów, Lesko, Leżajsk, Lublin, Łańcut, Przemyśl, Ropczyce, Rymanów and Tarnobrzeg (or, more precisely, in nearby Dzików). The most important center of Chassidism in Poland was Leżajsk, where the famous tzadik Elimelech was active. Other places along the Route were home to smaller groups of Chassidim, affiliated with tzadikim from other towns and villages. This, however, does not reduce the appeal of the Jewish heritage sites located there.

Zamość
renaissance synagogue built at
the beginning of the 17th c.
9 Ludwika Zamenhofa St.
the so-called “new cemetery”
founded in 1907 *Prosta St.*

1



3

Cieszanów
synagogue built at the end of the 19th c.
Ks. Ignacego Skorupki St.
cemetery founded in the 19th c.
Armii Krajowej St.

Biłgoraj
cemetery founded in the 19th c.
Marii Konopnickiej St.

2



4

Wielkie Oczy
synagogue built at the beginning of the 20th c.
Rynek St.
cemetery founded in the 18th c. *Krakowiecka St.*



Jarośław

two synagogues built in the 19th c.
5 *Ordynacka St.* and 12 *Opolska St.*

building of the Yad Charuzim Society
1 *Tarnowskiego Sq.*

cemetery founded at the beginning of the
18th c. *Kruhel Pelkinski St.*

5

Leżajsk (Lizhensk)

cemetery founded in the 18th c.;
resting place of Tzadik Elimelech of Leżajsk/
Lizhensk (1717–1787), pilgrimage destination
for Chassidim from all over the world
Górna St.

6

Łańcut

Baroque synagogue built in the 18th c.
16 *Jana III Sobieskiego Sq.*

cemetery founded in the 17th c.;
resting place of Tzadik Naftali Tzvi Horowitz
of Ropczyce (1760–1827) and Eleazar Shapiro
of Łańcut (d. 1865), the founder of the Dynów
tzadik dynasty *Stanisława Moniuszki St.*

7

Dynów

cemetery founded at the end of the 18th c.;
resting place of Tzadik Tzvi Elimelech Shapiro
of Dynów (1785–1841) *Józefa Piłsudskiego St.*

8



9

Przemyśl

the so-called "new synagogue"
erected at the beginning of the 20th c.
5 *Unii Brzeskiej Sq.*

the so-called "new cemetery" founded
at the beginning of the 19th c.; the
largest Jewish cemetery in Podkarpackie
province *Juliusza Słowackiego St.*

10

Ustrzyki Dolne
cemetery on Mount
Gromadzyń, founded
in the 18th c.

11

Baligród
cemetery founded
at the beginning
of the 18th c.
Jana Dupleka St.

12

Lesko

synagogue built in the 17th c.
16 *Berka Joselewicza St.*

cemetery founded in the 16th c.; one of the
oldest surviving Jewish cemeteries in Europe
Juliusza Słowackiego St.

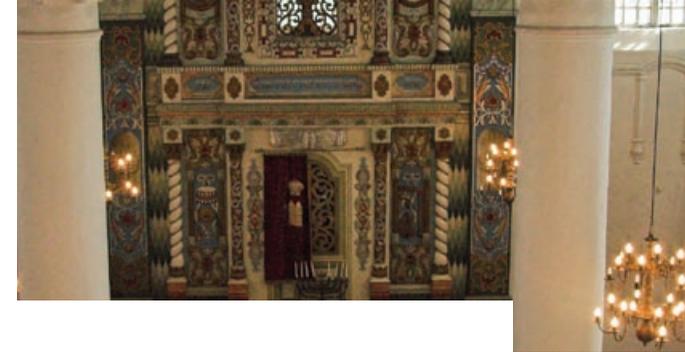
13

Sanok

the synagogue of the Yad Charuzim Society
built in the 19th c. 5 *Franciszkańska St.*

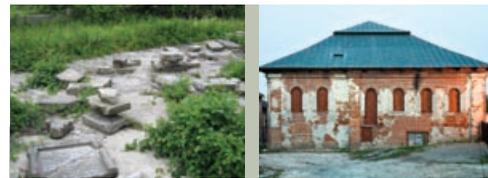
the Sadogóra synagogue erected in the interwar
period 10 *Rynek St.*

the so-called "new cemetery" founded in the
19th c. *Kiczury St.*



Rymanów
Baroque synagogue built in the 17th c.
restored since 2005
corner of Rynek and Ignacego Bieleckiego St.
cemetery founded in the 16th c.; resting
place of Tzadik Menachem Mendel of
Rymanów (1745–1815)
Juliusza Słowackiego St.

14



19

Kraśnik
synagogue complex consisting of two
synagogues built in the 17th and 19th c.
6 and 6a Bożnicza St.
the so-called “new cemetery” founded
ca. 1850 *Szewska St.*

Ropczyce
cemetery
founded in the
18th c.
Monte Cassino St.

15



20

Lublin
the Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin (the School
of the Wise Men of Lublin) built in 1930 as
the biggest Jewish religious school in the world
85 Lubartowska St.
the so-called “old cemetery” founded in
the 16th c.; resting place of Tzadik Jacob Isaac
Horowitz, known as “The Seer of Lublin”
(1745–1815) *Sienna St.*
the so-called “new cemetery” founded at the
beginning of the 19th c. *Walczych St.*

Dębica
synagogue built at the
end of the 18th c.
3 Krakowska St.
cemetery founded at the
turn of the 18th c.
Cmentarna St.

16

Radomyśl Wielki
cemetery founded in the 19th c. *Kąty St.*
mikvah (ritual bath) *Targowa St.*
the so-called “Tefłówka”; former house of
rabbi Chaim Englam *2 Tadeusza Kościuszki St.*

17

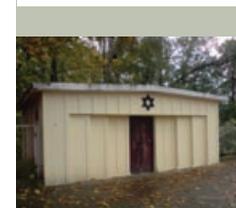


21

Łęczna
the Great Synagogue, built in 1648
19 Bożnicza St.
the Small Synagogue, built at the
beginning of the 19th c. *21 Bożnicza St.*
cemetery founded in the second half of
the 16th c. *Pasternik St.*

Tarnobrzeg
cemetery founded at the beginning of
the 20th c.; resting place of Tzadik Eliezer
Horowitz of Dzików (d. 1860)
Marii Dąbrowskiej St.

18



22

Włodawa
Baroque
synagogue
complex erected
in the second half
of the 18th c.
*7 Czerwonego
Krzyża St.*

23

Chełm
the so-called “new
synagogue” built at
the beginning of the
20th c. *8 Kopernika St.*
cemetery founded in
the 15th c.; one of the
oldest surviving Jewish
cemetaries in Europe
Kolejowa St.