

Birthplace of Judaism in Europe

SchUM Cities

SPEYER, WORMS AND MAINZ



Introduction

round trip along the paths of Judaism

Mainz, Speyer and Worms constitute the birthplace of Judaism in Europe. Since the High Middle Ages, they have been known as the SchUM Cities. SchUM represents the abbreviation of the first letters of these cities' Hebrew names as they were known at the time. Schin (Sch) stands for Schpira, i.e. Speyer, Waw (U) for Warmaisa, i.e. Worms and Mem (M) for Magenza, i.e. Mainz.

During the Middle Ages, the SchUM Cities had the largest and most influential Jewish communities in the German-speaking world. They achieved their political and economic significance not just as diocesan towns but also as Free Cities. Because of their favored positions on the Rhine, they were, during the Middle Ages, important trading centers of national importance.

You are hereby invited on a historical round trip along the paths of Judaism in Mainz, Worms and Speyer.

Discover such historic sites as the oldest surviving ritual bath (called "mikveh" in Hebrew) in Germany, built prior to 1120 in Speyer and the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe, the so-called "Sacred Sands" of Worms, featuring well-preserved gravestones from the 11th century. At the same time, you will encounter modern, architecturally impressive buildings like the new synagogue in Mainz.

Unique testimonies to Jewish life and faith as well as outstanding Jewish ritual baths have been preserved until today in the SchUM Cities. For this and other reasons, these three cities have applied for recognition as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites.

We wish you many interesting and varied hours of exploration!

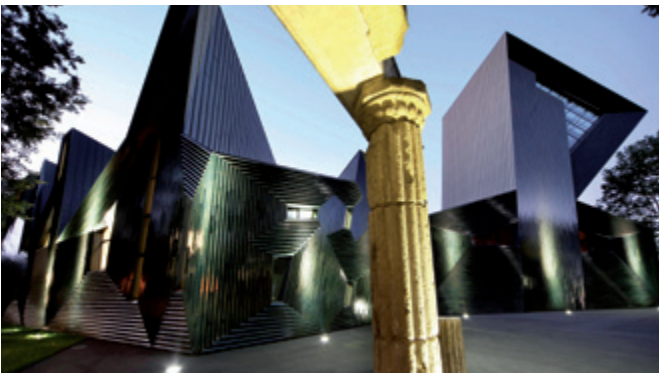
Take advantage of our all-inclusive group rate and experience a comfortable and eventful visit to all three of the SchUM Cities.

Day 1: Mainz

Enjoy a mid-morning trip, scheduled according to your own preferences, to Mainz and check into your hotel. Our tour guide will meet you in the lobby and will invite you to take a themed walk through the city entitled:

“Magenza, the Jewish Mainz – one of the three SchUM Cities”

Jewish Mainz can look back on 1,000 years of a significant but uneven past. On this tour, you will experience much that is amazing and worth knowing about Jewish history and religion. The tour ends at the new synagogue, which will impress you, as soon as you lay eyes on it, with its unusual architecture.



New Synagogue

Lunch – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

Once you are fortified with lunch, the tour continues.

Visit to the Collection of Judaica in the State Museum of Mainz

The Jewish cultural objects on display, primarily the work of goldsmiths and silversmiths in the 18th and 19th centuries, were originally the collection of the “Society for the Preservation of Jewish Antiquities in Mainz” which was founded in 1925. This organization opened the “Museum of Jewish Antiquities” on October 3, 1926 in a side aisle of the Main Synagogue which had been dedicated in 1912 in the “Neustadt” section of Mainz. That museum was closed in 1933 by the National Socialist Party and most of its collections of cultural objects, documents and manuscripts fell victim to the destructive frenzy of Crystal Night on November 9, 1938.

A large portion of the cultural objects that were saved are on display today in the State Museum on permanent loan from the Jewish Community in Mainz.

After visiting the museum, you will be able to explore the picturesque Old Town of Mainz on your own, admiring its quaint alleys and half-timbered houses.

Dinner – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

Enjoy the regional cuisine and conviviality of Mainz first hand in one of the numerous and cozy wine bars.

Overnight in Mainz



New Synagogue Mainz



New Synagogue Mainz – Prayerroom



The Judaica collection



The Judaica collection



The Judaica collection



Rashi yeshiva



Day 2: Mainz – Worms

After breakfast in your hotel, you continue on to Worms.

Worms:

After checking in at your hotel, you will take part in a:

Walk through Jewish Worms: The oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe, the so-called “Sacred Sands” with their well-preserved gravestones from the 11th century and the former Jewish quarter with its synagogue testify to the rich cultural heritage of Worms. On this tour through “Jewish Worms”, visitors will experience how Judaism was practiced in the “Sacred Community of Warmaisa”. The medieval Rashi yeshiva adjoining the synagogue (17th century) could have been where the famous Talmudic scholar Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak (1040-1105), popularly known as “Rashi”, studied and taught. Jewish tradition connected the yeshiva with the scholar, calling it “Rashi’s Chapel”, and the chair of learning the “Rashi Chair”. In addition, you will experience the mikveh, the community’s ritual bath.

Lunch – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

After lunch, you will first visit the Jewish museum in Rashi House. After that, a very special Jewish speciality awaits you in the form of a wine tasting with kosher wine: Get to know the characteristics of kosher wines at an insightful wine tasting! The DomTerrassen wine store offers a one of a kind assortment of 300 wines, primarily from the Rhine-Hesse region.

On your own: Discover Worms on your own with a diverting stroll through the modern city centre; its numerous cafes will invite you to linger a while. We recommend a walk to the Rhine esplanade with its manifold gastronomic offerings.

Dinner – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

Overnight stay in Worms



Synagogue Beith Shalom



Day 3: Worms – Speyer

After breakfast in the hotel, you will board your bus, invigorated to begin the last stage of your trip, this time to Speyer.

Speyer:

After you have checked in to your hotel, you will begin your tour of discovery of the

Jewish section of Speyer with a visit to the new Beith Shalom

synagogue: The Beith Shalom synagogue (House of Peace) has, since November 9, 2011, been the Speyer Synagogue and the community center for the Jewish religious community in the Rhenish Palatinate. It is the fourth synagogue to be established in Speyer since the founding of its Jewish community.

Lunch – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

Guided tour through the Jewish Courtyard with Ritual Bath and

SchPIRA Museum: As a special climactic highlight of your Jewish discovery tour through the SchUM Cities, a tour of the Jewish courtyard from the Middle Ages with its Mikveh awaits you along with a tour of the SchPIRA Museum. The synagogue that dates from the Middle Ages and was dedicated in 1104, was constructed as a Romanesque hall, 10.5 meters wide and 17.5 meters long. The remains of the synagogue are credited with being the oldest Jewish religious structure still standing. The Mikveh which is decorated with rich Romanesque ornamentation is the oldest installation of its type in Central Europe. A barrel-vaulted staircase leads through a vestibule to the 10 meter deep quadratic bathing shaft with its groined vault. The original windows which have been preserved, other architectural details, gravestones, coins and floor tiles, all of which may be viewed in the SchPIRA Museum bear witness to the Jewish Speyer of the Middle Ages.

On your own: After visiting the Jewish courtyard built in the Middle Ages, you will have the possibility of exploring the enchanting historic Old Town of Speyer, sauntering along lively Maximilian Street and then allowing the day to fade away in one of the countless cafés along the street.

Dinner – We will be happy to advise you in your choice of restaurants and will make a reservation for you at no extra cost.

Enjoy culinary specialities from the Palatinate in traditional Speyer restaurants or in one of the city's rustic wine bars.

Overnight stay in Speyer

Day 4: **Return home**

All services at a glance:

- **3 nights' stay in *** or **** hotels**
including breakfast in Mainz, Worms and Speyer

Mainz

- **Themed city tour:**
“Magenza, the Jewish Mainz – one of the three SchUM Cities”
- **Admission to the State Museum's “Judaica Exhibition”**
- **Visit to the new synagogue** (if requested)

Worms

- **Tour through Jewish Worms with synagogue, mikveh and cemetery**
- **Visit to the Jewish Museum “Rashi House”**
- **Wine tasting with kosher wines**

Speyer

- **Visit to the Jewish courtyard with the SchPira Museum and mikveh**
- **Visit to the new Beith Shalom synagogue**

Price from: € 189.00 per person in a double room ***
 € 219.00 per person in a double room ****
 Single room upon request

- **We will gladly assist you in organizing transportation and will come up with a proposal tailored to fit your needs.**

Travel possibilities:

Mainz

Mainz, just 30 km away from Frankfurt International Airport, lies in the heart of the Rhine-Main region. Transfer time by high-speed Intercity Express (ICE) train from the airport to the main train station in Mainz is approximately 25 minutes with trains leaving hourly. In addition, Mainz can easily be reached by car over the German autobahn network.

Mainz to Worms

48 km (via the B9 state road), or 60 km (via A63, A61 autobahn routes) Worms lies on the beautiful Rhine rail line and can be reached by train from the main train station in Mainz in about 35 minutes. If you prefer to travel by bus or car, you will find that you can reach Worms via the B9 state road through Rhine-Hesse's portion of the Rhine plain or via autobahn routes A63 and A61.

Worms to Speyer

48 km. You can reach the main train station in Speyer from Worms in about 35 minutes. By car or bus, you can traverse the very scenic Rhine plain on the B9 state road or on Route A61 to its merger with the autobahn to Speyer.

You may alter the sequence of the cities to be visited.

Book your round trip to the SchUM Cities here:

Tourist Information Worms

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The Terms and Conditions of Tourist Information Worms apply to this trip.

■ **Travel price guarantee certificate included** ■ **Not included are meals, beverages, gratuities and transportation** ■ **Minimum number of participants: 10 persons**

If you need detailed information on the single cities, your partners are:

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Photos

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