

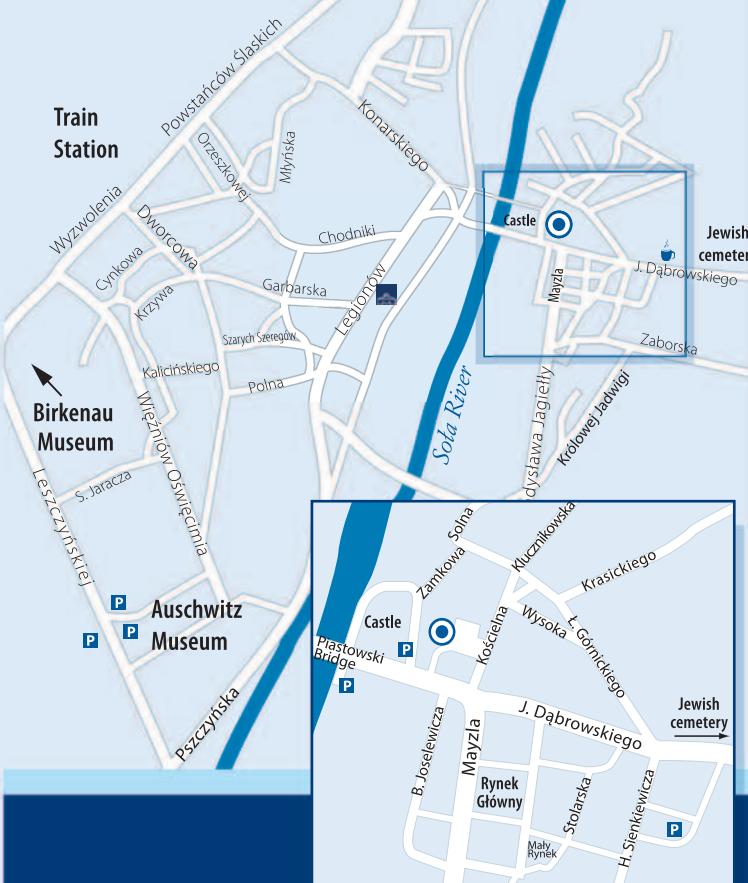
Auschwitz Jewish Center

Before Auschwitz

Before Auschwitz became the ultimate symbol of the Holocaust, it was just an ordinary Polish town known as Oświęcim.

The majority of its citizens were Jewish. Generations of merchants, rabbis, doctors, and lawyers raised families here and contributed to a richly textured Jewish culture. Jews worked, married, studied and worshipped, cared for their families, and served the community. The tragedy of the Holocaust suddenly ended the vibrant Jewish life of the town. In September 2000, the Auschwitz Jewish Center opened its doors to honor the former residents of the town and to teach future generations about the destruction caused by the Holocaust.

The Center facilities include the Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot Synagogue, the adjoining Kornreich House - a Jewish family home before the war, and the Kluger House, which after World War II belonged to the last Jewish resident of Oświęcim, Szymon Kluger.



O Auschwitz Jewish Center
Pl. Ks. Jana Skarbka 5
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Poland
www.ajcf.org

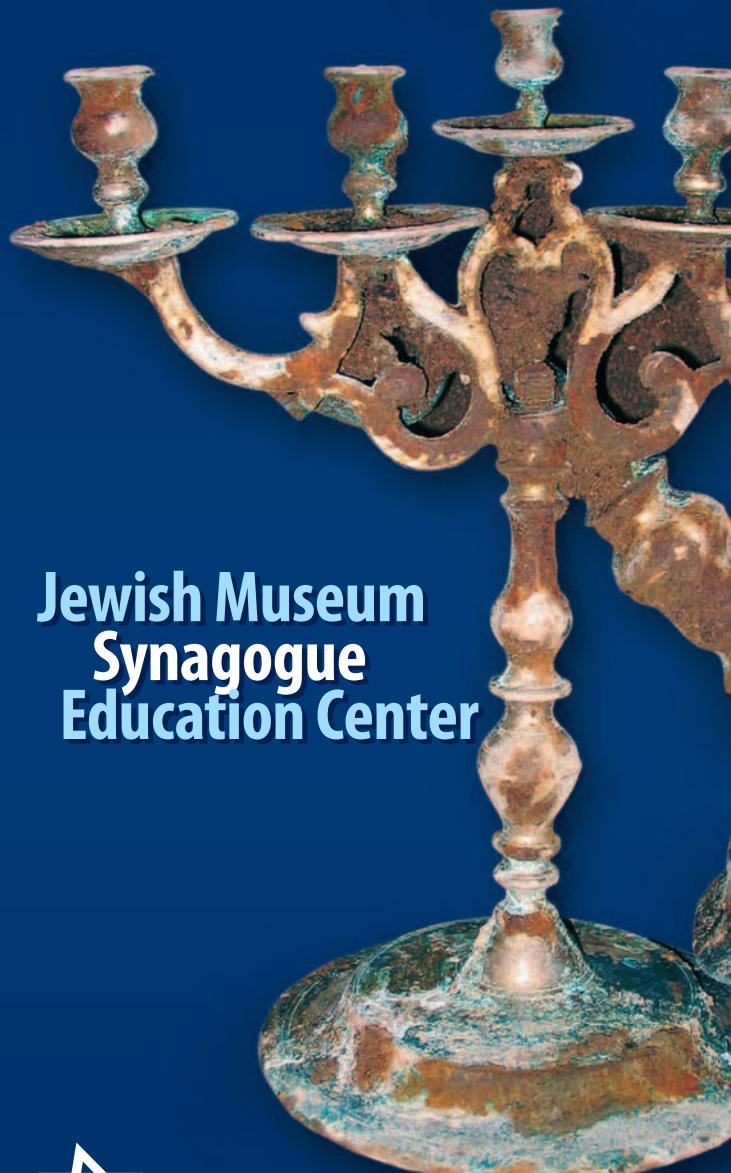
Phone +48 (33) 844 7002
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Hours
November to February: 8.30 am - 6.00 pm
March to October: 8.30 am - 8.00 pm

Closed Saturdays and Jewish holidays

Please support the Auschwitz Jewish Center.
For more information, please contact the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation:
www.ajcf.org or (646) 437-4276.

The Foundation is a registered not for profit 501(C)(3) organization.



AUSCHWITZ JEWISH CENTER
CENTRUM ŻYDOWSKIE W OSWĘCIMIU
אושוויז'יץ' יהודית צנטרום

An affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, NYC

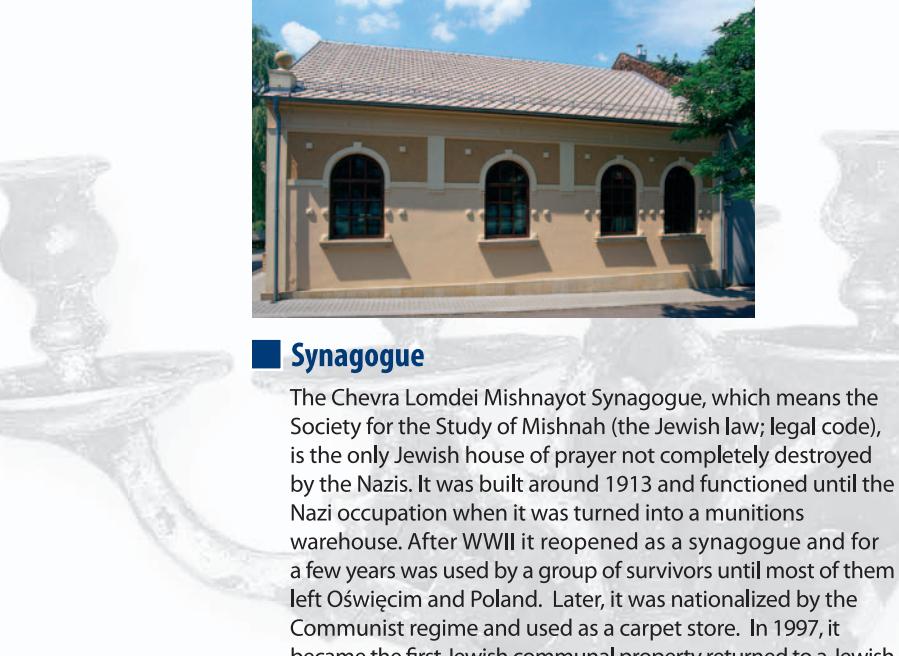
Before Auschwitz There Was Oshpitzin...



Jewish Museum

Since the first half of the 16th century Jews called Oświęcim home. A visitor to the Auschwitz Jewish Center has an opportunity to connect with the pre-war Jewish life of the town through the exhibition of photographs and artifacts. The pictures of individuals and families portraying their daily life as well as documents and items from local Jewish organizations and businesses, bring alive the image of once thriving Jewish community of the town.

A unique *Auschwitz Treasure*: Judaica found in 2004, buried beneath the site of the former Great Synagogue in Oświęcim, is also on view.



Synagogue

The Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot Synagogue, which means the Society for the Study of Mishnah (the Jewish law; legal code), is the only Jewish house of prayer not completely destroyed by the Nazis. It was built around 1913 and functioned until the Nazi occupation when it was turned into a munitions warehouse. After WWII it reopened as a synagogue and for a few years was used by a group of survivors until most of them left Oświęcim and Poland. Later, it was nationalized by the Communist regime and used as a carpet store. In 1997, it became the first Jewish communal property returned to a Jewish community in Poland after the collapse of communism. It was returned to the Bielsko-Biala Jewish community which then donated it to the Auschwitz Jewish Center. The entire building has since been fully restored to its pre-war condition

by conservationists and art historians according to the testimonies and recollections of survivors. It was reopened to the public in 2000. Today, Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot has neither a rabbi nor a local congregation; but as the only Jewish house of worship near Auschwitz, it is available to visitors for prayer, reflection, bar/bat mitzvahs, and other celebrations.



Education Center

The Auschwitz Jewish Center is dedicated to public education. A wide range of programs for visitors include lectures, seminars, meetings, and cultural events. The Center organizes tours of the synagogue, the exhibit, the town, and the cemetery for family, school, and adult groups. Please contact us to schedule a tour.

The Center's library contains more than 1000 books in English, German, Hebrew, and Polish. All of the Center's programs teach about the richness of pre-war Jewish life and build awareness of the dangers of xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

Visit www.ajcf.org for program updates.

