

We're Off To Odessa!



The Journey Begins

- LOT – Polish Airlines (Please, no jokes – like smoking on the left hand side of the plane only -- until we land.)
- LOT # 16 Oct. 29 from Newark at 11.35 pm to Warsaw the next day at 12.50 pm and connect to
- LOT # 769 Oct 30 from Warsaw at 2.35 pm to arrive Odessa at 5.20 pm



Ukraine Today

- In the Soviet era, “the Ukraine” was a state in the USSR.
- Today it is simply “Ukraine.”
- The troubles we hear about are in Crimea, in the southeast.
- We are in the South (center bottom of map)



Odessa, The City By The Sea

- Odessa has always been an international, cosmopolitan city.
- Being a southern port, it has Russian, Greek, Turkish and Ukrainian influences
- The city is the site of an old Turkish fortress.
- The Russians captured it in 1789.
- Czarina Catherine the Great had the area settled.
- Soon, the population grew quickly...
- And Jews followed.



An Enlightened Group

- The Enlightenment (haskalah) starting in the late 18th century took root here quicker than anywhere else in Russia.
- By the 1860s, Jewish intellectuals switched writing and speaking from German to Russian.
- This was home to some of the first Jewish newspapers & journals, such as Melitz.
- In 1863, a stunning 37 of 85 municipal council members were Jews.
- By 1865 more than 70% of commercial businesses were owned by Jews.



Then Tragedy Struck

- On May 27, 1871, a 3-day major pogrom took place.
- Six were killed, 21 wounded
- 863 houses and 552 businesses damaged or destroyed
- It started with a false rumor that Jews had desecrated a Greek Orthodox church and cemetery.



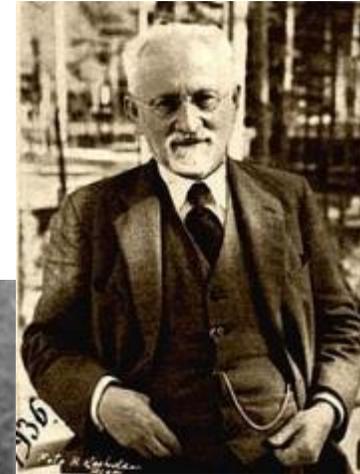
Still, Jews Kept Coming

- From the 1880s until the 1920s, Odessa's Jewish population was second only to Warsaw in the Russian Empire.
- There were 264 Jews in 1795
- In 1926 there were 153,243 – about 35% of the town.
- By 1939 there were about 200,000
- The last census, in 2001, reported 12,500 Jews
- ***NOTE: Many people in the Former Soviet Union have Jewish family links they either do not know or ignore.***



Some Became Legendary

- Isaac Babel (read *Odessa Tales*); Vladimir Jabotinsky (founder of Zionist Revisionism), Ahad Ha'Am (Zionist, essayist), Leon Pinsker (Zionist ideologue), Chaim Nachman Bialik (poet), Mendele Moykher Sphorim (author), Shaul Tchernichovsky (poet), Shimon Dubnow (historian), Joseph Klausner (historian), Moshe Leib Lillienbaum (author), etc.
- These were truly giants of literature and Zionism.



Jews In Odessa Today

- Jewish Baltimore's partner community is doing relatively well – when one considers the struggles of the Ukraine
- There is anti-Semitism – as in the rest of Europe – but as in days of old, it is not as pronounced in Odessa.
- Jews are in the open and recognized by the government as important to the city's life.

NOTE: These are the famed Potemkin steps; they are not far from our hotel.



Jewish Life In Odessa Today

- **Migdal Shorashim (Jewish Museum) 66**
Nezhinskaya Ul., apartment 10; migdal.ru
- The Great Choral Synagogue, 24 Evreskaya Street
- The Brodsky Synagogue
- Chabad of Odessa, 21 Osipova Street (known as The Old Synagogue)
- The Mishpacha Orphanage
- Avner Chabad School System
- The Tali Jewish Sunday School (works with ORT)
- The Jewish University (Chabad)
- *Note: There are likely more, and we'll soon see them.*



Oh, You Want To Read More?

- The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews In Eastern Europe Entry (goes up to present)
- <http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Odessa>
- A 1906 Jewish Encyclopedia article, written at the height of the community's creativity
- <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/11660-odessa>
- Odessa During the Holocaust
- <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005476>
- Jan. 2017 article in The Forward (translated from Yiddish) on Jews in Odessa today
- <http://forward.com/culture/360492/in-odessa-everyone-has-a-jewish-history-and-theyre-not-keeping-it-secret-an/>
- May 2017 article in The Times Of Israel on contemporary Odessan Jewry
- <http://www.timesofisrael.com/ukraines-jews-walk-narrow-line-between-murderous-past-and-uncertain-future/>
- Extensive article on the 1905 pogrom in Odessa and the situation for Jews there
- <http://faculty.history.umd.edu/BCooperman/NewCity/Pogrom1905.html>

Sleep Well At Hotel Bristol

- It's in the fancy-shmancy district!
- It's across from the famous philharmonic house!
- It opened 1899 and was closed for a while by the Soviets – who then used it for offices and then a hotel
- Reviews say it's stylish and chic



The Journey Home

Shalom
שלום

- LOT # 668 Nov 2 from Odessa at 2.50 pm to Warsaw at 3.40 pm and connect to
- LOT # 15 Nov. 02 from Warsaw at 5.10 pm to arrive Newark the same night at 9.45 pm

Newark Liberty
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Odessa
international airport



Back Home, When Shabbat Hits...

