

JOIN US FOR THE MARCH IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES

From Auschwitz to Žilina

Option one: 2–8 July 2017

Option two: 6–12 August 2017



**VRBA
WETZLER
MEMORIAL**

JOIN US FOR THE MARCH IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HEROES

Dear friends,

We invite you to join us for a memorial walk dedicated to Rudolf Vrba and Alfréd Wetzler who risked their lives to try to save Hungarian Jews from certain death.

Their escape from Auschwitz and the Report they compiled in Žilina is a significant moment in the history of the Holocaust. And not only that. The Euro-Atlantic civilization is facing new challenges and it is quite relevant today to ponder the meaning of heroism in the face of hatred and prejudice.

The Vrba Wetzler Memorial is a joint endeavor of a wide community of active citizens, based on a vision by Fedor Gál.

It is an attempt to cultivate the spirit of community among people who share a concern for sustainable future. Our primary motivation is action: people who have not abandoned their thinking and feelings and want to be more than just passive witnesses are going to walk one hundred and thirty kilometers in the footsteps of Vrba and Wetzler from Auschwitz to Žilina. A week of physical effort, joint discussions and lonely meditation, concluded in Žilina by a festive meeting in a synagogue, is a strong and motivating experience for every participant.

The first three years have proved that the idea is feasible and the participation rewarding. Those who have done it make the best reference. It is our vision to support anyone who would like to walk the route, or its part, by providing useful information.

The main event in 2017 will again take place during the summer months and will consist of a package complete with accommodation, guided walk and accompanying services. Since the accommodation capacity is limited and the number of participants has been growing, we have decided to offer two identical walks on two different dates. Based on the number of registered participants, we will decide if both will be carried out. The route, the program, the team and the services will be identical for both walks.

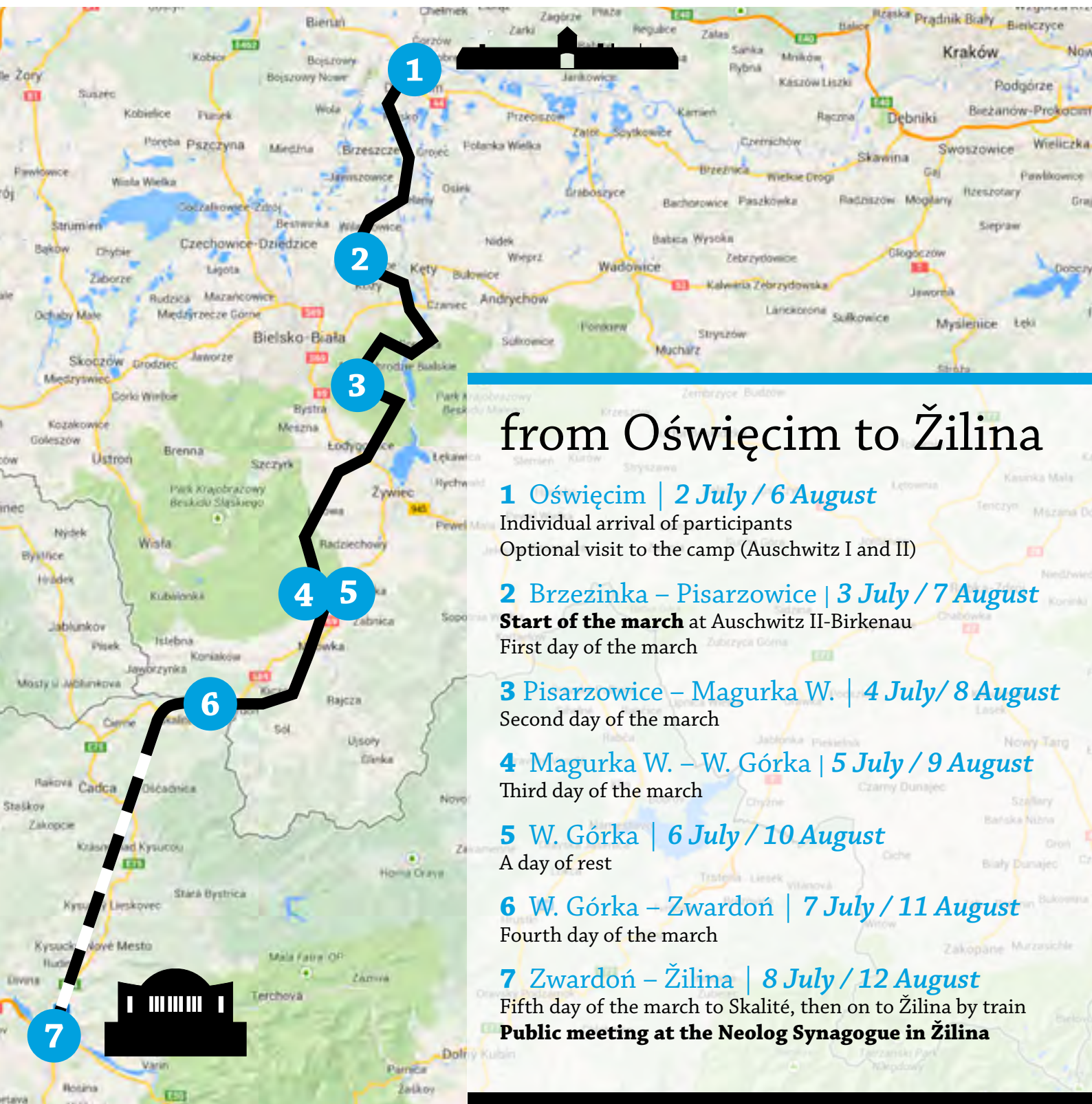
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The 130 km route is divided into four walking days with one day of rest in Węgierska Górka. Those who are interested may register for an optional full-day visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum. On the last day of the march, the participants will take a train for part of the journey. The program concludes with an evening in the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina.

www.vrbawetzler.eu

MAP OF THE MARCH FROM OŚWIĘCIM TO ŽILINA



from Oświęcim to Žilina

1 Oświęcim | 2 July / 6 August

Individual arrival of participants
Optional visit to the camp (Auschwitz I and II)

2 Brzezinka – Piszczowice | 3 July / 7 August

Start of the march at Auschwitz II-Birkenau
First day of the march

3 Piszczowice – Magurka W. | 4 July / 8 August

Second day of the march

4 Magurka W. – W. Górka | 5 July / 9 August

Third day of the march

5 W. Górka | 6 July / 10 August

A day of rest

6 W. Górka – Zwardoń | 7 July / 11 August

Fourth day of the march

7 Zwardoń – Žilina | 8 July / 12 August

Fifth day of the march to Skalité, then on to Žilina by train

Public meeting at the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina

PROGRAM AND ACCOMMODATION

The Program:

Accommodation in Oswiecim on Sunday, a day before the start of the march, will be provided to registered participants who can arrive at their convenience. **The program officially starts on Sunday evening at the hotel.** The participants will get to know each other, information brochures will be distributed and practical instructions shared. The actual start of the march is scheduled for Monday in the morning.

A visit to the camp, which includes Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau, is not part of the program; however, we recommend taking it to anyone who has never visited the place. You can join an organized guided tour on Sunday from 10 am (see more details below) or you can take an individual tour (without guide) at your own pace. We do not arrange accommodation for the night from Saturday to Sunday; we recommend making a reservation at the Centre of Dialogue and Prayer (www.cdim.pl).

All participants will meet on Monday at 9 am at Auschwitz II-Birkenau at the main gate (see the exact location on the map). From there they will go to the place where Vrba and Wetzler were hiding before their escape, in the part of the camp called Mexico. The participants will learn about the circumstances of the escape and then they will set out for the journey of almost 130 km.

The group will be accompanied by professional guides and accompanying vehicles. Relevant passages from Rudolf Vrba's book, "I escaped from Auschwitz", will be read on the very locations mentioned in his account of the escape. During the march the participants will have ample time to talk to each other, think and meditate.

After three days of walking, there will be a day of rest in Węgierska Górka. The participants may take a short trip in the vicinity, listen to a historic presentation or spend the day at their leisure.

The group will travel by train in the last part of the trip, on the Slovak side, just as the escaping heroes did. **After reaching the destination in Žilina and checking in the hotel, the participants will visit the building of the former Jewish retirement home where the Auschwitz Report was compiled. Then in the evening there will be a public meeting at the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina where the participants will have an opportunity to reflect on their experience.** A cultural program will wrap up the evening.

Accommodation: the following three options are available:

A: Accommodation in hotels in Oswiecim and Węgierska Górka. The participants will be picked up by coach at the end of each day, taken to the hotel and brought to the start of the next section the following morning;

B: Less expensive accommodation in simple mountain cabins (multiple-bed rooms, shared bathrooms). The participants will reach them on foot at the end of each day's section and continue from there the next day;

C: We also offer the option of sleeping in your own tent or in the open air near the mountain cabins. The participants registered under this option will be entitled to use the bathrooms in the cabins. They will be responsible for their own meals.

*All participants will walk together, regardless of their accommodation option. They will also spend evenings together. **Options A and B include half-board** (breakfast at the place of accommodation, dinners together in the mountain cabins). No meals are provided during the days.*

On Saturday in Žilina, refreshment in the synagogue and accommodation in a hotel from Saturday to Sunday are included in the package for all registered participants.

START OF THE MARCH IN BIRKENAU

3 July / 7 August | Auschwitz II–Birkenau

- ✗ **Start of the march** – the place where Vrba and Wetzler were hiding before their escape
- **Meeting Point:** car park near the main entrance to Auschwitz II - Birkenau at 9 am



CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

A. Conditions for Participants Accommodated in Hotels:

Registration fee for services: € 120 per person. It includes the transport of luggage, the provision of accompanying vehicles to help transport tired participants, if needed, tour guides, first aid and the participation in the final event in Žilina. Under this option it also includes the coach transport from and to the hotel during the march.

Accommodation and half-board fee: € 650 per person. It includes:

2x accommodation with breakfast in a hotel in Oswiecim (Centrum Dialogu i Modlitwy)

4x accommodation with half-board in a hotel in Węgierska Górka (no lunches provided, dinners together with other participants in the mountain cabins)

1x accommodation with breakfast in a hotel in Žilina

1x refreshment at the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina

The total fee per person under option A (on shared-room basis): € 770.

Single supplement: € 260.

B. Conditions for Participants Accommodated in Mountain Cabins:

Registration fee for services: € 80 per person. It includes the provision of accompanying vehicles to help transport the luggage and tired participants, if needed, tour guides, first aid and the participation in the final event in Žilina.

Accommodation and half-board fee: € 220 per person. It includes:

1x accommodation with breakfast in Oswiecim (Centrum Dialogu i Modlitwy)

5x accommodation with half board in mountain cabins (no lunches provided)

1x accommodation with breakfast in a hotel in Žilina

1x refreshment in the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina

The total fee per person under option B: € 300.

C. Conditions for Participants with Their Own Tents:

Registration fee for services and meals: € 60 per person. It includes the provision of accompanying vehicles to help transport the luggage and tired participants, if needed, tour guides, first aid and the participation in the final event in Žilina.

The camping fees and the refreshment at the final event in the Neolog Synagogue in Žilina is € 40. The camping locations: in Oswiecim, at the Center of Dialog and Prayer, during the march in the vicinity of the mountain cabins and in Žilina at the Žilina-Záriečie Station.

The total fee per person under option C: € 100.

The participants make their own travel arrangements to arrive in Oswiecim and depart from Žilina.

CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Recommendation:

The accommodation capacities are limited; participation will be guaranteed on the first-come first-served basis. We recommend, therefore, that you send your application as soon as possible. If the capacity at the August date is exceeded, we will open the second march in July. Please consider if you need to decide about the date already. **It will help us to distribute registered participants more evenly if you are willing to keep both dates open at this stage.** In any case, you will receive the final decision about the dates at the beginning of 2017.

We recommend the participants taking out travel insurance covering the whole period.

Parents or legal representatives shall be responsible for minors.

Additional Information on the Guided Tour at Auschwitz Museum:

Registered participants meet on Sunday at 9:30 am in front of the main entrance to the Auschwitz Museum (see map on the next page).

They will be divided into groups of maximum 30 persons according to languages. Each group will be guided by an official Auschwitz Museum guide.

T-shirts with logo 2017:

The participants can order T-shirts with the logo of the march in the version for 2017.

The price of one T-shirt is € 16. The T-shirts will be distributed upon your arrival in Oswiecim.

Specifications: T-shirt with short sleeves for men and ladies, 100% combed cotton, smooth knit, reinforced seams on the neck and shoulders, side seams. Men's 180 g/cm², Women's 155 g/cm². Turquoise color.

Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

Cancellation fees:


If a registered participant cannot take part in the march due to reasons for which he is responsible (sickness, accident, unexpected situation etc.), the following cancellation fees apply:

Until 2 April 2017:	no cancellation fee
61–90 calendar days before the start of the march:	25 % of the participation fee paid
31–60 calendar days before the start of the march:	50 % of the participation fee paid
30 days and less before the start of the march:	100 % of the participation fee paid

When returning any payment, we deduct a handling fee of € 2.

GUIDED TOUR AT AUSCHWITZ MUSEUM

2 July / 6 August | 9:30 am | Oświęcim / Camp Auschwitz I

 Main entrance to the
Auschwitz Museum

 **Meeting Point**



Auschwitz – Žilina March 2017 Application Form

Data about the person filing in this application:

First and last name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:

I hereby register the following persons:

First and last name:	Date of birth:	I am interested in the guided tour at Auschwitz (YES-NO):	Accommodation option: (A,B,C)*
Option A: Do you request single room? (please circle your choice)		YES	NO
Option B: Please indicate if all the persons registered with this form can share the same room (please circle your choice)		YES	NO

* A = hotel accommodation; B = mountain cabins; C = own tent

I order T-shirts with the VWM logo 2017:

Men's	Sizes and quantity:
Women's	Sizes and quantity:

The Date of the March from Auschwitz to Žilina:

By 31 December 2016 we will determine, on the basis of your interest, if two identical marches will be organized or just one on 6 – 12 August 2017. Minimum participation for the second march is 30 registered participants. Please indicate your choice:

- I prefer the date 2–8 July 2017 I prefer the date 6–12 August 2017
 I have no preference, I can go on any date

By 15 January 2017 we will notify all registered participants if both options have remained open and for which date they have been registered. Then you will receive the call for payment; by making the payment you will confirm your participation.

This application with scanned signature must be sent by 15 December 2016 to e-mail: icej@ecn.cz or by mail to: ICEJ, Na Žertvách 23, 180 00 Praha 8.

The fee (comprising registration fee plus selected accommodation option and T-shirts, if applicable) **shall be made by 15 February 2017 to the following account:**

Account Name: International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, Czech Branch, Na Žertvách 23, 180 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic
Bank Name: FIO Bank, V Celnici 1028/10, 117 21 Praha 1
IBAN CZ8520100000002801069402, SWIFT (BIC) FIOBCZPPXXX.

Please set the banking fee to (OUR), not (SHA) or (BEN). Please note we have changed the bank.

After receiving the payment we are going to send confirmation to your email or postal address along with further instructions.

Representation of the registered participant:

I hereby confirm that I have been acquainted with all the available information and agree with the conditions of the march from Oswiecim to Žilina in 2017.

At Signature of the person filling in this form: