

DAY STUDY TRIP TO TEREZÍN

Sunday, February 23

Trip itinerary will be provided to JS & those who signed-up by email

ITINERARY:

- Meeting at the Memorial at the assembly point from where Prague Jews were marching to the transport trains
- Transfer to Terezín and:
 - Visit to **Ghetto Museum** (exhibition telling the story of Nazi persecution of Czech Jews)
 - Visit to **Magdeburg Barracks** (exhibition about the reality of life in the overcrowded ghetto)
 - Visit to **hidden synagogue**
 - Optional visit to the **Small Fortress** (prison for political prisoners during the Habsburg, Nazi and Communist regimes)
- **Lunch and Museum tickets** provided by CET

The assembly camp of Terezín (Theresienstadt) opened its gates on **October 13, 1941**. It was set up shortly after the arrival of acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich in Prague. The deportees lay on straw mattresses or on the **bare floorboards**. They usually stayed there for three **with insufficient sanitation, little food and water**, and the provisions they had brought from home.



More than 150,000 Jews passed through Terezin until its liberation in 1945. Of these, over 80% were murdered, either in Terezin or after deportation to the east.

Theresienstadt, established as a ghetto and transit camp, was presented as a **model Jewish settlement** for propaganda purposes. 35,440 Jews died in the ghetto and 88,000 were deported.



When reports about the death camps began to emerge at the end of 1943, the Nazis decided to present Theresienstadt to an **investigative commission of the International Red Cross**. In preparation for the commission's visit **more deportations to Auschwitz** were carried out in order to reduce the overcrowding in the ghetto. **Fake stores, a coffee house, bank, school, kindergartens** and the like were opened and flower gardens were planted throughout the ghetto.

After the visit the Nazis produced a **propaganda film** about the new life of the Jews under the auspices of the Third Reich. After finishing filming, most of the actors in the film, including almost all of the independent leadership and most of the children in the ghetto, were sent to the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau.