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For Immediate Release

**Sophia's Travel / the Jewish Travel Agency Announces
 a Travel Agents' Study-Tour to
 the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
 Highlighting Jewish Heritage on the year of the 25th Anniversary of
 these nations' Independence from the Former Soviet Union**

May 5-13, 2016, 8 nights/9 nights

Palm Harbor, FL ... March 2016 -- [Sophia's Travel](#), Winner of the **2016 Travvy Gold Award** for **Best Small Retail Travel Agency** and its sister company [The Jewish Travel Agency](#) announce a new Travel Agent Study-Tour to the Baltic States: Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia. The tour takes place May 5-13, 2016, the year of the 25th anniversary of these nations' independence from the former Soviet Union. Major tourist sites will be visited in all countries, but a special emphasis will be placed on the Jewish Heritage of the region. According to TravelPulse, "[Heritage Travel is the 'Next Big Thing'](#)." For Sophia Kulich, a Jew, who emigrated from the former Soviet Union, Jewish heritage has been her passion. Sophia is looking for six to twelve agents to come on this trip, eat delicious local food, marvel at the magnificent scenery and architecture, and as she puts it, "come out with the know-how to sell this rich, under-rated destination, especially on this important anniversary year."

Highlights of the 8-night/9-day educational FAM tour include:

- *The Jewish Quarter in Vilnius, called "Lithuanian Jerusalem," and the Ghettos where 40,000 Jews were concentrated.
- *The Jasha Heifetz music school, the historic ORT school building, the Tarbut Gimnazia (now the JCC), the former Yiddish theatre, and the Rabbis' Council (hosted Theodor Hertzfel's visit to Vilnius).
- *The grounds of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius (destroyed by the Soviets in 1955), the Vilna Gaon monument and his former house.
- *Trakai, the ancient capital and residence of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, where the Karaims - a small ethnic group from Crimea that confessed Judaism – was brought by Vytautas the Great 600 years ago.
- *Mapu and L. Zamenhoff Streets in the Old Town of Kaunas, the location of the pre-War Jewish Real and Schwabe gymnasiums and the site of the Ghetto during World War II.



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- *The Seventh and the Ninth Forts of Kaunas, which were the murder sites of thousands of Jews from Lithuania, France and Germany during World War II.
- *The remarkable "Curonian Spit," that runs along the southeastern coastline of the Baltic Sea and is split between Lithuania and Russia's Kaliningrad province.
- *The lovely Lithuanian Baltic seaside resort communities of Klaipėda, Nida and Palanga
- *The Lithuanian city of Siauliai, including the Jewish neighbourhood, Chaim Frenkel tannery, and the synagogue.
- *The Great and Small Guild Houses of Riga, Latvia
- *Riga's chic "Art Nouveau" District, where many prominent Jewish Latvians, such as the philosopher Sir Isaiah Berlin, once lived.
- *The memorial to the burnt "Great Synagogue of Riga," the 19th C Jewish school, the museum "Jews in Latvia," and the Jewish community Center.
- *Riga's "Spiker Quarter," with its Ghetto Museum and Hospital Bikur Holim—all small traces of past, brave Jewish lives.
- *Riga's Rumbula and Bikierniki Memorials, where Nazis murdered tens of thousands of Jews from Latvia, Germany and Czechoslovakia.
- *The Salaspils in Riga -- the memorial site of a concentration camp during World War II
- *The Janis Lipke Memorial Place, in Kipsala, Latvia, memorializing how this Riga dock port worker saved 55 Jews during World War II
- * Jurmala – one of the oldest Spa resorts on the Baltic Sea
- * Sigulda – a Latvian town with much culture, nature, and recreational activities
- * "Old Town," Tallinn, Estonia and the "Singing Field," the site where 25 years ago, Estonians "sang" for independence from the former Soviet Union
- *Tallin's Jewish sites, including: the modern Tallinn Synagogue, the JCC, and Jewish Museum.

Hotels: All hotels in the major cities (Vilnius, Riga and Tallinn) are centrally located, 5* boutique and historic properties with luxury and personality.

Price: The total price per person, based on a minimum 6 people, is **\$2500**. The single supplement: **\$850**. Price for agent and companion is the same. Airfare is not included, but is currently running at \$813 from JFK on Finnair.



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Study Trip Reimbursement Incentive:

Travel Agents who participate in this trip can earn reimbursement from Sophia's Travel up to a maximum of the total study trip cost.

*Each new booking will earn 20% of the cost of the study tour in bonus commission.

*Valid for bookings with minimum value \$2000, from June 1, 2016 until June 1, 2017

Payment: Full prepayment is required.

Credit Card form: <http://www.sophiastravel.com/creditcard-authorization-form>

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[Sophia's Travel](#) is an award-winning travel agency and travel consulting service specializing in Jewish Heritage Travel, Food & Wine, and Cultural Travel, especially in Western and Eastern Europe, and Russia.