The shrine of the Black Madonna of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa is the most sacred Catholic site in Poland, to which thousands of pilgrims have streamed annually since the seventeenth century. A Jewish community was not formally organized until 1808. Jews played important roles in the development of industry and commerce and were particularly active in mining, metallurgy and the production of Christian religious souvenirs. During the interwar period, the latter activity became the focus of intense protest and anti-Jewish legislation by the church and Polish nationalists, leading many Jews to convert their factories to toy production.

When the Germans entered Częstochowa on September 3, 1939, the Jews were immediately subjected to a reign of terror that took hundreds of lives within the first days of the occupation. Thousands of Jewish refugees poured into the city from other parts of western Poland. A ghetto was imposed in April 1941. Between September 23 and October 5, 1942, about 39,000 Jews were deported to Treblinka; 2,000 others were shot in the city. The Żydowska Organizacja Bojowa (a united Jewish Fighting Organization) led by Mendel Fiszlewicki formed in December 1942 and made repeated efforts at armed resistance in the city and the formation of guerrilla units in the forests. In June 1943, the Częstochowa ghetto was liquidated; most of the surviving Jews were transferred to slave-labor factories. After the war, survivors returned to rebuild the Jewish community, but most eventually left Poland.

**Location**

114 km NW of Kraków
50°48′/19°07′
Voivodship: Częstochowa

**General Population, 1939**

129,486 (22% Jewish)

**General Population, 1994**

259,722

**SYNAGOGUE**

ul. Wilcza 16
Great Synagogue constructed in 1899.
Burned by Germans on December 25, 1939
(only synagogue foundation remains).
Current site use: Częstochowa Philharmonic Orchestra.

**JEWISH CEMETERY**

ul. Złota
Cemetery founded in eighteenth century.
1,000 tombstones remain.
Cemetery is now within the premises of the steelworks.
HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

ul. Kawia 20–21
Monument and memorial plaque commemorating Jews shot during liquidation of ghetto on September 24, 1942.

ul. Złota
Monument and mass grave in Jewish cemetery where Jews from the ghetto were killed.
Second monument to Jewish resistance fighters.

Monument at Plac Bohaterów Getta (Ghetto Heroes Square).


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