

The ShUM-Sites are visible, tangible and experienceable. ShUM set standards in the Middle Ages, both architecturally and religiously. The sites reflect the centuries-old tradition of Ashkenazi Judaism in its brightest and darkest epochs. The intangible heritage includes religious laws, Torah commentaries, liturgical poems and wonder stories.

The monuments nominated for World Heritage status are spaces in which countless stories are hidden that want to be told.



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Synagogue and women's shul, Speyer

The Jewish heritage ShUM is part of the world cultures and of importance to Jews and gentiles alike. In order to communicate this on a broad basis in a sustainable way, we need your commitment.

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ShUM-Sites on the Rhine – Jewish Heritage for the World

»The state of Rhineland-Palatinate is convinced of the extraordinary importance of the ShUM-Sites. Therefore, we would like to make them visible for the whole world and all citizens through the World Heritage title. Hopefully, 2021 this aim will be reached«.

(Prof. Konrad Wolf
Minister for Science, Further Training and Culture
Rhineland-Palatinate, 2019)

»The time-honored synagogue in Worms is important for us Jews in Mainz, Worms and all over the world. However, it is not only a unique and monumental cultural heritage; it is also a living monument of Jewish history on German soil. Moreover, at the same time it is our synagogue, which is again thriving with Jewish life«.

(Anna Kischner
Chairwoman of the Jewish Community Mainz)

»Jewish heritage is European heritage. And ShUM is an outstanding example of Jewish culture in Europe. Its innovational strength with its monumental architecture lasts until today. It proves, that ShUM was the cradle of Ashkenazi Jewry and testifies the long tradition of Jewish life in Europe. The monuments are teaching us about history and present«.

(Michael Mail
Chief Executive of the Foundation for Jewish Heritage)

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ShUM- Sites on the Rhine

Jewish Heritage for the World

SchUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e.V.



ShUM - Jerusalem on the Rhine

In the Middle Ages, the three Jewish communities in the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz formed the unique association »ShUM«, which left its mark on the Jewish world until today.

ShUM: a term - composed of the initial letters of the Hebrew city names.

ש	Shin (Sch)	Shpira	Speyer
ו	Waw (U)	Warmaisa	Worms
מ	Mem (M)	Magenza	Mainz

ShUM was the cradle of Ashkenazic Judaism. Innovative Synagogue architecture was rethought and prototypes were created. Monumental ritual baths (Mikva'ot) were built here for the first time, and on the oldest and largest Jewish cemeteries of Ashkenaz - in Mainz and Worms - emerged a new sepulchral culture.

Scholars moved to the ShUM communities and then carried their knowledge into the world. The communities created joint ordinances for whole Ashkenaz. ShUM was an ideal place - it was Jerusalem on the Rhine!

Based on this, Jews in the ShUM communities attributed a high relevance to these spaces and places and their community compounds.

Old Jewish Cemetery
»Judensand«, Mainz



© Carsten Costard

Becoming UNESCO World Heritage

Since 2005, the state of Rhineland-Palatinate has been committed to the recognition of the unique ShUM-Sites as UNESCO World Heritage. The application will be submitted to UNESCO in 2020 and the decision will probably be made in 2021.

ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz e.V.

The State of Rhineland-Palatinate, the cities of Speyer, Worms and Mainz, the Jewish Community of Mainz K.d.ö.R, the Jewish Community of Rhine-Palatinate and the Regional Association of Jewish Communities of Rhineland-Palatinate are forming the funding body of the Association. The association coordinates and engages itself within the framework of the World Heritage application:

- for the future management of the ShUM-Sites,
- on education and public relations,
- to address the public locally, in the state and worldwide

Based on the UNESCO guidelines, the ShUM-Sites shall be sustainably preserved, developed, and made accessible for the future generations.



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Synagogue, Worms



© Klaus Venus

Mikveh, Speyer



© Stadarchiv Worms

Mikveh, Worms



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Old Jewish Cemetery »Heiliger Sand«, Worms

