

Support our Activities

Become a member!

The Jewish Heritage in ShUM is visible, tangible and living. ShUM set architectural and religious standards in the medieval period. The preserved monuments and places are both historical and contemporary spaces in which the long-standing tradition of Ashkenazic Jewry is mirrored.



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Worms, Mikveh

The Jewish heritage ShUM is important to both Jews and non-Jews. It must be retained for coming generations and we need education and events. Without your commitment, we will not reach this aim. Write us if you would like to become a sustaining member.

Support us

Sparkasse Mainz

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ShUM-Cities on the Rhine

– Jewish heritage for the world

The ShUM-Cities connect Jewish history with German, European and global history. The remaining monuments in the ShUM-cities are important evidence of this outstanding Jewish tradition. The recognition of these places and relics as UNESCO World Heritage would put the Jewish Heritage of ShUM into a worthy place in memory of human mankind.

»The ShUM-communities once had been a whole Jewish world: Ashkenaz. And like Sefarad this diaspora heritage has an effect still today.«

Dr. Hanno Loewy
Director of the Jewish Museum at Hohenems

»In addition to the important physical remains of Jewish life in the medieval period that are uniquely extant in the Shu"m communities, these communities constitute a kind of 'cradle of civilization' with respect to the study of canonical Jewish texts including the Bible and the Talmud. Figures such as Rabbenu Gershom and Rashi pioneered modes of interpretation in the eleventh century. Taken all together, these figures and their works revolutionized the study of Jewish law and texts in ways that are still taken into account today.«

Prof. Ephraim Kanarfogel
Yeshiva University New York

General information

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Picture title: Worms, Jewish Cemetery © Dietrich Krieger

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ש"ם

The abbreviation ShUM is composed from the initial letters of the medieval cities' Hebrew names derived from Latin.

ש	Schin (Sch)	Schpira	Speyer
ו	Waw (U)	Warmaisa	Worms
מ	Mem (M)	Magenza	Mainz

The Jewish communities in Speyer, Worms and Mainz formed in the Middle Ages the federation of ShUM-cities, which profoundly shaped the architecture, culture, religion and jurisprudence of the Jewish world not only in Europe. Monuments such as synagogues, cemeteries and ritual baths (Mikveot) - together with the religious traditions tell of the height of the ShUM-cities.



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Speyer, Wall of Synagogue

Scholars like Rashi and Maharil wrote comments on the Torah, created liturgical poetry and drafted religious legal decisions which bear witness of a living tradition.

Becoming UNESCO World heritage

Since 2005 the German Federal State of Rheinland-Pfalz has been engaging in enlisting the medieval synagogues, cemeteries and ritual baths of the ShUM-Cities as UNESCO World Heritage.

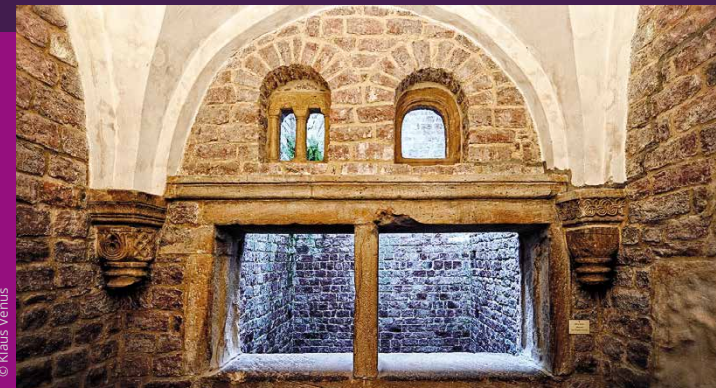
In 2020 Rheinland-Pfalz will send the application through the Foreign Office to UNESCO in Paris. In 2021 the decision will presumably be taken.

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

The ShUM-Cities Speyer, Worms, Mainz Association is supported by the German Federal State of Rheinland-Pfalz, the cities of Worms, Speyer, and Mainz, the Jewish Communities of Mainz and Rheinpfalz and the State Association of the Jewish Communities Rheinland-Pfalz.

The association engages in promoting during the course of the application to UNESCO:

- the future management around the Monuments of the ShUM-Cities
- education, marketing and public relations
- networking of the stakeholders
- project outlines
- integration of civil society in the cities, the region, the country and worldwide



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Speyer, Mikvah



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Worms, Synagogue



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Mainz, Jewish Cemetery