



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland

Secretary of State
Władysław Bartoszewski

Dear Pilgrims,

Since Russia launched its full-scale war against Ukraine, large groups of pilgrims travelling to Uman, Ukraine, which houses the burial site (ohel) of Tzaddik Nachman of Breslov. Every year have to use alternative routes. In many cases, these routes pass through Poland.

In connection with this year's pilgrimage, we would like to provide you with the most important information concerning travel across the Polish-Ukrainian border. The information has been prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Polish Border Guard.

We kindly ask you to take the following information into account when planning your journey. This will help reduce the risk of long waiting times at the border and other difficulties. New border control procedures – the EES system. Since April 2026, the Entry/Exit System (EES) has been in operation at the European Union's external borders.

It also applies to border crossing points along the Polish-Ukrainian border. This means that **all pilgrimage participants will be registered in the system**. During the initial registration, fingerprints and other biometric data will be collected. These additional procedures may increase the time required for border checks, particularly during periods of heavy traffic. More information about the EES is available on the European Union's website: [Information on the EES](#)

Situation at the Medyka-Shehyni border crossing Another important issue is the large-scale modernization work currently underway at the Medyka-Shehyni border crossing. The work, which began in June, is aimed at modernizing the existing infrastructure and increasing the capacity of the crossing in the future. At present, however, the works limit the number of buses that can be processed at the crossing. Since 15 June, temporary traffic arrangements have been in place for buses entering Poland. As a result of the restrictions at Medyka, many transport operators have redirected part of their bus and heavy-goods traffic to other crossings, particularly Malhowice and Krościenko. This means that these crossings may also experience increased traffic. This situation is particularly important during the return journey from Uman. In previous years, the border was especially busy at this time, resulting in significantly longer waiting times.

We recommend using alternative border crossings We therefore strongly recommend that, when returning from Uman, you use the border crossings at Korczowa and Budomierz whenever possible. Please avoid using the Medyka crossing if possible. Due to the ongoing works and limited capacity, choosing this crossing may result in waiting for many hours. We encourage you to plan your route well in advance and allow additional time for possible delays at the border.

Information about pilgrimage groups will help us prepare better We kindly ask the organizers of the pilgrimage to provide information about planned travel arrangements, in particular:

- the expected number of people in each group;
- the airports that pilgrims will be using;
- the border crossings through which the groups plan to enter and leave Poland.

Please send this information to the following Polish Border Guard officers:

Renata.Kosiacka@strazgraniczna.pl

Ilona.Matyjasik@strazgraniczna.pl,

Cc: wsg.zg.kg@strazgraniczna.pl.

The earlier and more accurate the information we receive about planned travel arrangements, the better the Border Guard and customs services will be able to prepare the necessary staffing at individual border crossings.

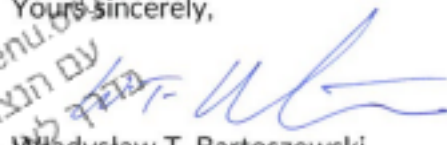
The information will also help us work together on solutions to minimize the difficulties caused by heavy traffic, infrastructure limitations and the additional procedures required when crossing the European Union's external border.

We are ready to assist

We are fully aware that the pilgrimage to Uman is an event of a special nature and that, for many of you, travelling through Poland is an important part of the journey. **We will do everything we can to make your journey through Poland as safe and smooth as possible.** The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Polish Border Guard, the Customs Service and other relevant authorities remain ready to cooperate and seek practical solutions to help reduce waiting times and other difficulties. We also count on your cooperation, particularly in planning your journey well in advance and choosing the appropriate border crossings.

We wish you a safe and smooth journey.

Yours sincerely,



Władysław T. Bartoszewski

Warsaw, 31 August 2026