



## Spain & Portugal Jewish Heritage 15 Days



Spain is considered the world's leading country in foreign tourism (about 60 million foreign tourists annually) – blessed with people who come to visit its famous sites or relax on the golden beaches of the Costa Brava or the Costa del Sol. To us, Spain is important for other reasons: the rich Jewish history of Catalonia, Andalusia and the city of Toledo is firmly planted in our national psyche – mainly because of the Spanish Inquisition in the late 15th century. We will visit the main sites connected to the Jewish history of Spain, as well as some of the primary sites that attract tourists from all over the world.

Gibraltar is a small peninsula, but it's huge in history, geology and Jewish warmth. A British crown colony located in the southern Iberian Peninsula, it's the entrance gate to both the Mediterranean basin as well as a bridge between Europe and Africa. At the foot of the Rock of Gibraltar, one can find a population of about 300,000 people from 16 different faiths, including a warm and close-knit Jewish presence. We visit Gibraltar on Shabbat, which we spend together with the local community, in all its synagogues.

Portugal stands somewhat alone in Europe separated from everyone by its border with Spain. It's a small country, but it offer so much: a spectacular Atlantic coastline, dotted with classic and historic fishing villages such as Nazare; majestic mountain ranges and dense forests; and vineyards as far as the eye can see alongside quaint, picturesque hamlets in the Doro Valley. History, monumental architecture, religious and secular art, all finds expression in churches and monasteries both ancient and modern. Combine all this with an entire population that is discovering its Jewish roots, and renewing Jewish life in this beautiful land. Then add warm hospitality, fine wine and great food – and you'll discover a Portugal you never knew existed.

**DAY 1: MONDAY – BARCELONA**

We will meet at the airport and fly to Barcelona, Spain, the capital of the province of Catalonia. Arrival to Barcelona till 12:00 PM.

2:00pm - After landing we'll take a tour of one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. We will see the Sagrada Familia, one of the famous works of the architect Antonio Gaudi, and also one of the symbols of the city. Gaudi never lived to see it finished. During the tour we will be impressed by the architect's other buildings, which are scattered throughout the city. We will see the Plaza Cataluña, the city's famous main square, as well as the Columbus column, a monument near the harbor built to honor the famous explorer, Christopher Columbus. We will stroll along the famous, vibrant Ramblas Avenue, as well as the nearby Boqueria Market. Finally, we will visit the ancient synagogue of the Rashba – Rabbi Shimon Ben Adret

**DAY 2: TUESDAY, BARCELONA – BESALÚ – GERONA – BARCELONA**

After breakfast we will travel to the province of Catalonia to Besalú, a beautifully preserved medieval town. We'll tour the city and visit what used to be the Jewish quarter. Here there remains the mikveh, which was built in 1264, near the remains of the ancient synagogue. We'll continue to Gerona – the city of the Ramban - Nachmanides. Gerona is one of the centers of Jewish creativity in the Middle Ages and one of the wellsprings of the Kabbalah. We'll wander through the old city's alleyways to the Jewish quarter, where only street names remain to tell of its glorious past. We'll visit the museum that displays ancient Jewish tombstones. At the end of the day we'll head back to Barcelona.

**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, BARCELONA – GRANADA, ALHAMBRA PALACE, ALBAISIN QUARTER, JEWISH QUARTER**

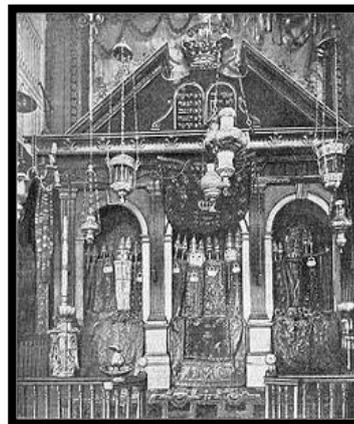
This morning we'll fly to Granada, a city that was nicknamed "Grant el Yahud" - "Grande of the Jews". After landing we will take a tour of the city. We will visit one of the most famous sites in Spain, the Alhambra Palace (entrance is subject to site approval). We will see the Ambassadors' Hall where the expulsion order of Spanish Jewry was signed by the Catholic Kings Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. It was from here that Columbus was sent to discover the "New World". We will admire the Lions' courtyard and the Hadasim courtyard, and we will mention them in the amazing context of Rabbi Shlomo Ibn Gabirol and Shmuel Hanagid, who was an army minister and the chief minister in the court of the ruler. Our visit to the palace will end with an enjoyable walk in the Generalife, a garden area attached to the Alhambra which became a place of recreation and rest for the Granadan Muslim kings when they wanted to flee the tedium of official life in the Palace. At the end of the visit, we will visit the Caves of Albaysin, where the Gypsies lived in Granada in the past (and some even in the present).

**DAY 4: THURSDAY, GRANADA – CORDOBA**

In the morning we will travel to Cordoba, the city of Maimonides, Yehudah HaLevi and other great Spanish Jewish sages, and the central symbol of the Golden Age of Judaism in Spain. We will cross the Guadalquivir (the Great River), walking on the ancient Roman bridge, and visit the Old City, which is a testimony to the glorious Jewish community that existed here during the period of the Moorish rule. We will visit the squares and streets that still bear names reminiscent of the Land of Israel, such as Tiberias Square and Yehuda Halevy Square. We will see the statue of the Rambam, erected by the city's leaders in memory of the "Great Eagle." We will enter the synagogue named after the Rambam, stroll along the picturesque alleyways and visit the Mezquita, once the great mosque of Cordoba that now serves as the local cathedral.

**DAY 5: FRIDAY, CORDOBA – GIBRALTAR**

After breakfast we'll travel to Gibraltar, the British enclave known as "the Rock." On the way we will tour the resort city of Malaga and its yacht harbor, Fuerte Banoche, on the Costa del Sol beach. Gibraltar is the abbreviation of Jabel al-Tariq - after the Berber conqueror from North Africa who invaded Spain and brought about the beginning of Muslim rule for 800 years. We will see Monkey Colony, walk through the city streets and soak in the British atmosphere that dominates the colony. During the tour we will experience the unique Jewish aspect of the place and will discuss the harmony between the different religions. We'll continue to our hotel to prepare for Shabbat.

**DAY 6: SHABBAT, GIBRALTAR**

The Jewish presence in Gibraltar is strong; it has five synagogues, three schools, a cemetery, stores and kosher restaurants, various minyanim, a kollel and a rabbi. We'll spend Shabbat with the community and after Shabbat lunch we'll go out for a walking tour of the area.

**DAY 7: SUNDAY, GIBRALTAR - RONDA - SEVILLE**

Today we will bid farewell to Gibraltar and travel to Seville, the capital of Andalusia. On the way we will stop at Ronda, the most famous settlement in the white villages, which has become one of the oldest white cities in Spain. The bullfighting tradition was born and grew up here. Generations of bullfighters from the local Romero family have created a legacy of martial art and styles, which to this day are accepted throughout Spain. But Ronda is not only famous for bullfighting. In this stunning city, sitting on its steep cliffs, Ernest Hemingway was inspired to write his book "For Whom the Bells Toll" about the terrible civil war in Spain. After the visit we will continue to Seville. Upon arrival, we will visit the fort of Alcazar and see the magnificent Cathedral of Seville, one of the largest in the world, where Christopher Columbus is buried. We will continue to the magnificent España Square and see the Spanish Pavilions of South America built for the exhibition planned for the late 1920s. We will continue with a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter, the "Juderia", now called the Santa Cruz District, and will discuss the city's Jewish roots and history.

**DAY 8: MONDAY, SEVILLE – EVORA**

After breakfast, we will head to Portugal. On the way we will stop at the visitors' center of the charming town of Aracena, to learn about the geography and geology of this amazing place. We will cross the border to Portugal and travel to Evora, the former capital of Portugal. In the walled city, which has been declared a cultural heritage site by UNESCO, we will find ruins including the oldest Roman Temple in Portugal. A Jewish community was once concentrated in the Juderia district and to this day remains can be found dating back to the 15th and 16th centuries, as well as symbols from the Inquisition period, when many "Marranos" were burned at the stake. This city was the headquarters of the Inquisition of Portugal. We will walk through its alleys and visit the Roman temple of Diana.



### **DAY 9: TUESDAY, EVORA - CASTELO DE VIDE- BELMONTE**



After breakfast we will tour the small town of Castelo de Vida. We will visit the Roman remains in and around it. Most of the town's fame comes from the most impressive Juderia (Jewish Quarter) in Portugal. It contains the oldest synagogue in Portugal, now recently restored. In the synagogue there is a display showing the integration of Jews in the town's famous textile industry and in various other industries. Here, the President of Portugal, Mario Suarez, apologized to the Jewish people for the terrible injustice and murder his people have committed. We will walk through paved alleys and hear about the community

that lived here in the past and how they came to accept Christianity by royal decree. We will also see the fortress that gave the city its name. At the end of the tour we will drive to Marvao, the city of the hilltop citadel, and from there we'll continue to Belmonte, built around a 13th century fortress. The town preserves the history of the Jews well – to such an extent that it is also home to a community former Marranos who, after 500 years without Jewish tradition, decided to return to Judaism in the 1980s.

### **DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, BELMONTE, GUARDA, TRANCOSO**

Today we will tour the city and visit the Jewish Museum, which presents a fascinating display of Jewish life during the period of the Inquisition. There is also an exceptional display dedicated to Jewish life in the Marrano villages. After visiting the museum, we will stop at the local synagogue, Beit Eliahu, and become acquainted with the local people and the Shavei Israel organization, which works to help bring the Marranos back to Judaism. We will continue to Guarda, to visit the Jewish Quarter, to see the engravings of various shapes on the door frames of the Marranos. After that we will travel to Trancoso, which was an important Jewish center in the Middle Ages, and visit the synagogue and the newly opened Jewish museum, and if we are lucky, we might meet some of the local Jewish / Marrano residents.

### **DAY 11: THURSDAY, TRANCOSO – COIMBRA – TOMAR - LISBON**

After breakfast we travel go to Coimbra, a beautiful cliff-top city surrounded by a river. We will visit the local university - the oldest in Portugal - and the library of King Joao, which is built in Baroque style with some 300,000 ancient books. We will see the "Fountains of Love and Tears". At the end of the tour we will continue to the old town of Tomar. We will visit the ancient synagogue that was built in 1430 and named after Rabbi Abraham Zacuto, a Jewish astronomer and mathematician after whom a crater on the moon is named. We will stroll through the quiet streets of the town, between ancient buildings and conservation sites, and walk up to the impressive 12th century fortress - a Templar monastery that dominates the city. At the end of the visit, we'll head for Lisbon, the capital of Portugal.

### **DAY 12: FRIDAY, OBIDOS, LISBON**

Today we will visit Obidos, a small walled museum-town. The town looks like a toy. Everything here, except for the castle on the hill, is of especially small dimensions, including the white houses and the squares. For the courageous among us there is a real challenge - walking on the town wall. But the reward for accepting the challenge is the amazing view of the surrounding landscapes that are revealed. We'll continue to Nazare, a beautiful fishing village that sits atop a rocky outcrop that overlooks the sea. After the tour we will depart to Lisbon, Portugal's capital city which sits astride the Tejo river estuary on the Atlantic coast. Lisbon, like Rome, is built upon seven hills. The most famous hill is the Alfama upon which the old city is built, as is Lisbon's ancient Jewish quarter. We'll make our way to our hotel to prepare for Shabbat.

**DAY 13: SHABBAT, LISBON**

After Shabbat services and lunch we will take a walking tour of the area near our hotel.

**DAY 14: SUNDAY, LISBON, ESTORIL, CASCAIS, SINTRA**

Today we will leave Lisbon for the charming town of Sintra, which offers fascinating architecture and a number of interesting museums, beautiful gardens and impressive palaces. Sintra in Portuguese means pink, and indeed this small town is all pink. Originally it was built as a summer palace for the kings of Portugal. We will see the unique palace with the huge chimneys above its kitchen. We will continue along the coast to the westernmost point of Europe, Cabo de Rocca, and continue to Cascais, the most prestigious resort town in Portugal, and see the "Devil's throat." From there we'll continue to the resort town of Estoril, a town with a casino, hotels and luxurious villas inhabited by some of the world's the richest people as well as some exiled kings. At the conclusion of this day full of experiences, we will return to our hotel in Lisbon.



**DAY 15: MONDAY, LISBON –HOME GATEWAY**

On our last day we will get to know Lisbon, the capital and heart of Portugal. The city, like Rome and other cities, spans seven hills. The most famous of these is the hill of Alfama, on which the Old Quarter is built, where the Jewish Quarter of the city was also located. We will visit the district of Belem (Portuguese for Bethlehem), a quarter built on the waterfront and where Vasco da Gama is buried. We will see the Tower of Belem and the monument to the explorers of Portugal. We will climb to the heights of St. George's Castle overlooking the city and then descend via the winding alleyways of the ancient Alfama district, which also includes the Juderia (the Jewish Quarter). Our fascinating excursion is over. We'll go to the airport in Lisbon and fly back home.

**DATES, PRICES AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Tour Code	Departs	Returns	Duration	Price	Single Supp.
ESPO1306	13 JUN 2022	27 JUN 2022	15 DAYS	\$4540	\$1750
ESPO2908	29 AUG 2022	12 SEP 2022	15 DAYS	\$4540	\$1750
ESPO2410	24 OCT 2022	07 NOV 2022	15 DAYS	\$4540	\$1750

**Price Includes:**

- Superior tourist class/First class hotel
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Comfortable air conditioned touring coach
- Kosher half board & supplies for making sandwiches for lunch
- Tips for local service providers
- Professional experienced English-speaking guide

**Price does not include:**

- International flights and taxes
- Travel & Health Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Tip for our Tour Guide (Recommended: \$5 per person per day)

**Important to Know:**

- There may be changes to the order of places visited. We will make every effort to visit every place mentioned in the itinerary.
- The tour organizers have no control over airline services such as seating, special meal requests, changes in departure times or delays. These remain the sole responsibility of the airline company.

**Kashrut on Tours**

Kosher food is provided to our travelers on all our tours. We work with the local Rabbinates to provide Hashgacha for all local ingredients and fresh meat and poultry. In some cases, we fly in kosher food from Israel and other sources, depending on the destination of the tour. We do not guarantee Pat Israel and Chalav Israel for all destinations. In many destinations we have our own crockery and cutlery. Where we don't, we provide disposables at the meals. When we cook in Hotel kitchens, we ensure proper Kashering and we use our own kitchenware on kashered and covered surfaces. All this is done under the strict supervision of our trained staff/guides that function as our Mashgichim. Our travelers enjoy satisfying meals prepared by our team including fresh local fish, fruit, and vegetables. This is an integral part of Jewish travel. We make great efforts to assure that our travelers will experience local foods first-hand, while maintaining stringent observance of Kashrut laws on all occasions.

**Deposit, Cancellation Fees & Policy:**

A \$300 USD Deposit per person must be received at the time of booking in order to confirm your reservation. **Payment in full is due 60 days before departure.** A minimum number of participants are required to operate tour dates. If a minimum number has not been reached prior to tour departure and the tour is cancelled you will receive a FULL refund.

- 60 working days before departure bookings are refundable less a \$100 administration fee
  - 30-59 working days prior to departure 25% of total per passenger
  - 15-29 days prior to departure: 50% of total per passenger
  - Less than 30 working days prior to departure: 100% of total - no refund
- We strongly recommend purchasing Travel