

Beth El Synagogue

St. Louis Park, MN

Jewish Tradition in Andalusia and Catalonia

Led by Rabbi Alexander Davis

October 23 – November 4, 2019

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 Departure

- Depart the United States.

Overnight: Flight



Thursday, October 24, 2019 Arrival in Spain

- Arrive at Madrid International Airport, with Assistance.
- Transfer to the hotel.
- Chance to rest and get settled, then meet in the hotel lobby at 4pm.
- Gentle stroll around Madrid, a chance to get your bearings.
- **Festive welcome dinner and trip orientation.**

Overnight: Madrid



Friday, October 25, 2019 A Day in Segovia



- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart for **Segovia**, a UNESCO declared World Heritage site, chosen as such due to its preservation of complex historical realities of medieval Spain. Explore the well preserved Roman and Medieval remains that testify to Segovia as a center of both tolerance among religions as well as a major manufacturing center. The visit will include:
 - The Jewish Quarter:
 - The **Segovia Jewish Quarter Education Center**
 - A walk through what once was the Jewish Quarter, with visits and views of buildings that housed many of the community synagogues and homes of communal leaders
 - Visit the **Corpus Christi Convent**, which was once the **Major Synagogue** of Segovia
 - Conclude the visit to the **Jewish Quarter** with a visit to the **Jewish Cemetery**, just outside the city walls
 - Lunch on your own in the area of the **Segovia Plaza Mayor**.
 - Central **UNESCO Heritage** Medieval Segovia, including:
 - **Roman Aqueduct** of Segovia, considered by many to be the largest and best preserved in the world.
 - **The Gothic Cathedral of Segovia**, located in the Plaza Mayor.
 - **The Alcazar**, Castle of Segovia, shaped like the bow of a boat, is one of the most famous in Spain due to its size, shape and location, and serves today as the Museum of Segovia.
 - Return to Madrid.
 - Time to prepare for Shabbat.
 - **Kabbalat Shabbat** at one of Madrid's synagogues, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the community.

Overnight: Madrid



Shabbat, October 26, 2019 Shabbat in Madrid

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Optional* visit to one of Madrid's synagogues.
- Explore Madrid on foot:
 - Stroll the main streets of **Madrid's oldest quarter**, the original site of Madrid, called "**Austrias**," with its small plazas and narrow streets
 - Visit the **Plaza de la Villa**, home to the city hall and the **15th century Tower of Los Lujanes**, the site of the **original Arab shuk of Madrid**
- Shabbat lunch.
- Late afternoon discussion—*The Meaning of 1492 and the Relationship Between Christianity, Islam, and Judaism*—with Tour Educator.
- Free time to rest, followed by Havdallah and a free evening.

Overnight: Madrid



Sunday, October 27, 2019 Toledo

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to **Toledo**.
- Guided visit to the **Old City of Toledo**, and capture a sense of the glory that was built on a convergence of Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Take in the **Jewish Quarter**, the **Shmuel Halevi statue** and the **Shmuel Halevi Abulafia Synagogue**, which was turned into a church, known as Nuestra Senora del Tranisito, the **Sephardic Museum**, and the **Santa Maria La Blanca Church** which was formerly the **Grand Synagogue**.
- Group lunch at a local restaurant.
- Visit the **El Greco Museum**, dedicated to the famous painter who influenced 17th century Toledo.
- Enjoy the **Grand Toledo Cathedral**.
- Group dinner together at a restaurant in Toledo, followed by a free evening.

Overnight: Toledo



Monday, October 28, 2019 Seville's Jewish Past

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to Seville and group lunch at one of Seville's restaurants upon arrival.
- Visit the **Santa Cruz neighborhood**, formerly **Seville's Jewish Quarter**, once known as La Juderia, with its winding alleyways and remnants of Jewish life found within the contemporary city. **Jewish Heritage walking tour with Moises Hassan.**
- Tour the beautiful **Alcazar Palace**, followed by a visit to the **Great Cathedral**, the **burial place of Christopher Columbus**, and **La Giralda**, built in the 12th century, whose **bell tower** became a symbol of the city. Your Tour Educator will share some thoughts about the role of Jews in the development of navigation cartography and astronomy.
- Dinner on your own and free evening in Seville. Time permitting check out the views from **Las Setas**.
- Evening stroll on the **Triana Bridge**.

Overnight: Seville



Tuesday, October 29, 2019 Cordoba: The Rambam's Home Town

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to **Cordoba**, home town of Moses Maimonides (the Rambam) and the capital of the Moorish Kingdom of **al-Andalus**.
- Group lunch at a local restaurant.
- Explore the **Jewish Quarter** inhabited by Jews since the year 840, including **Plaza Tiberias** and the **Yehuda Halevi Square**. View the statue of Maimonides and visit the small Moorish-styled building known as the **Maimonides Synagogue**.
- Special Program at **Casa de Sefarad**, dedicated to the history of the Sephardic Jews in Cordoba and Spain prior to the Inquisition and the expulsion of 1492. Meet with the people responsible for the creation of this private historical project in the Jewish Quarter, with a special workshop focused on **Ladino** music.
- Meet **Rabbi Haim Casas**, the first native born Spanish rabbi since 1492, sharing his vision for the Jews of Spain. Enjoy dinner with him at **Casa Mazal Cordoba**, with traditional Andalusian Jewish food and music.

Overnight: Seville



Wednesday, October 30, 2019 Cordoba Through the Ages

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit Cordoba's famous **Cathedral-Mosque and the Mezquita**, dating from 785 AD, with its 1,000 colored columns.
- Lunch on your own at a local restaurant.
- Stroll through the **restored heart of Cordoba**, one of the largest medieval quarters in Europe.
- Free afternoon to rest or explore Cordoba on your own, especially Cordoba's famous **craft scene**—pottery, jewelry, leather goods, and embroidery works. You might also catch some of **Cordoba's patios/courtyards**, secret treasures tucked away that beckon the curious.
- Masterclass in Andalusian music.
- Group Dinner at a local restaurant and free evening.

Overnight: Cordoba



Thursday, October 31, 2019 Legends and Dancers

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Cordoba and drive to **Granada**, the last stronghold of the Moors before it fell to Isabella and Ferdinand in 1492.
- Visit the **Alhambra Palace** and **Generalife Gardens**.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Visit the **Albaycn**, the old Moorish neighborhood, with its narrow streets and beautiful white houses, now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Guided visit to the **Realejo**, the former Jewish Quarter and the site of the original town bearing the name **Garnata al-Yahud**. Continue to the statue of **Samuel ben Yehudah ibn Tibbon**, translator of the **Kuzari** and the Guide for the Perplexed. Explore the streets and traditional neighborhood, which have no remains of the Jewish community but a host of legends.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Attend a **Flamenco performance**, followed by a **Flamenco** workshop with the musicians and dancers.
- **Dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Grenada



Friday, November 1, 2019 Barcelona

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Transfer to the airport for the flight to **Barcelona**.
- Land in Barcelona and start with a panoramic bus tour of the city beginning at **Montjuic** (The Mountain of the Jews), including a view over the whole city.
- Meander through the city's streets and avenues to **Sagrada Família** for a guided visit of Gaudi's unfinished masterpiece considered one of the world's awe-inspiring, unique places of worship.
- Continue to other Barcelona landmarks, such as the **Plaça de Catalunya**, the plaza which marks the beginning of the **Passeig de Gracia**, the most stylish street in Barcelona where one can see Antoni Gaudi's extraordinary buildings, **Casa Batllo** and **Casa Milo**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Time permitting, visit **Parc Guell** located on Carmel Hill.
- Continue to the **Old Port** of Barcelona for a **Sailing Experience** aboard a Turkish Wooden Gulet for a unique voyage that with sights along the Barcelona coastline.
- Check in to the hotel.
- Musical Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat Dinner with **Steve Berkowitz**, the rabbi of the liberal community in Barcelona and members of the Jewish community.

Overnight: Barcelona



Shabbat, November 2, 2019 Shabbat in Barcelona

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Optional* morning visit to Barcelona's synagogue.
- Walk along the **Ramblas**, Barcelona's historic promenade.
- Just off the Ramblas encounter **La Boqueria**, the world-famous market of Barcelona.
- Continue with a guided walk through the **Gothic Quarter** and then the ancient **Jewish Quarter**, with a synagogue that October date to the third century.
- *Picasso in Barcelona*, visit the **Picasso Museum Experience**, followed by a visit to some of Picasso's favorite haunts.
- Free time in Barcelona.
- In the late afternoon, optional visit to the **Barceloneta Beach**, including a possible **Bike Ride**.
- Free time and dinner on your own.

Overnight: Barcelona



Sunday, November 3, 2019 Girona and Besalu

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Drive to a full day tour to **Girona** and **Besalu**.
- Walk through the restored **Call** – what was once Girona's old Jewish neighborhood and continue to the **Bonastruc Ca Porta Centre**, a center of Jewish life and culture for a special program on the synthesis of Jewish mystical traditions and the Jewish Music of Spain.
- Drive arrive to the medieval City of **Besalu** and visit the **Medieval Mikve** – Ritual Bath, which has become one of Spain's most significant sites of Jewish heritage.
- Return to Barcelona.
- Free time for last minute shopping and personal exploration.
- **Discussion** and **Festive Concluding Dinner**.

Overnight: Barcelona



Monday, November 4, 2019 Departure

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Transfer to the Barcelona Airport.
- Return flight to the United States.

