



Temple B'rith Kodesh
Jewish Roots Trip to Spain

October 6-17, 2018

(rev 12 Dec 17)

Saturday October 6 DEPARTURE

- Departure from Toronto (YYZ) on Air Canada flight 836 departing at 6:45pm.

Sunday October 7 BUENVENIDOS A ESPANA-WELCOME TO SPAIN

- Arrival at Barajas airport in Madrid at 7:55am.
- Meet your Keshet Jewish educator and Spanish Tour Leader at the airport
- Board the bus and set off for the South-Andalucía
- Stop for a vegetarian lunch on the way. (All included meals will either be fish or vegetarian)
- Arrival in Cordoba. Check-in at hotel and time to rest and freshen up.
- Group Orientation and Opening Framing led by Keshet educator
- Vegetarian Dinner at hotel

Overnight: AC Cordoba Hotel

Cordoba is the largest city and the capital of the Province of Cordoba with more than two thousand years of history. The city was founded by the Romans 169 B. C. At one time, Cordoba was the world's largest city with about one million residents. Today, it has about 320,000 residents making it the tenth largest city of the Spanish mainland and the third largest city of Andalusia.

Monday October 8 CORDOBA: THE GOLDEN AGE OF JEWISH SPAIN

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Bus tour overview of Cordoba
- Explore the rich interplay between Muslim, Jewish and Christian cultures and the impact of this cross fertilization on Jewish scholarship and tradition as we walk through the Old City.
- Visit the beautiful "La Mezquita" Cathedral Mosque.
- Visit and meet local artisans working in traditional regional crafts including the workshop of Meryan Cordoban Leather. This craft work-shop is a family firm, exclusively dedicated to the hand-worked production of the traditional "Cordoban leathers", cordobanes and guadameciles, which made the city of Córdoba famous though out the world. The word MERYAN is a combination of the founders' names MERcedes Y ANgel.
- Lunch break (on your own)

- Tour of Jewish sites in Cordoba's Juderia neighborhood, including Yehudah HaLevi Square, Statue of Maimonides, and the Synagogue.
- On site learning: "The Hebrew Poetry Revolution"
- Visit Casa de Sefarad – the House of Sepharad Museum and Cultural Center for a guided tour and short concert of Ladino music.
- On-site learning: “Rambam, the Golden Mean & Holistic Medicine”
- Rest/free time
- Dinner at Café Mazal which specializes in Sephardi Jewish cuisine

Overnight: AC Cordoba Hotel

Cordoba played a pivotal role in Jewish history. In the tenth century under the leadership of Hasdai Ibn Shaprut (915-970), doctor, diplomat and scholar, it became the seat of Jewish learning, scholarship and culture, gradually eclipsing the Babylonian academies. The Cordoba Jewish community was wealthy and vibrant. In 1013, the Berbers lay siege to Cordoba and the city entered into a process of gradual decline. In later years, another famous native of Cordoba, Moses Maimonides, would flee the city, forced out by the ferocity of Almohade persecutions. In 1236 Cordoba was reconquered by the Christians and the community was labeled a "scandal against Christianity." Ferdinand and Isabella used Cordoba as their headquarters when they waged war against the remaining Moors in Granada, and the tribunal of the Inquisition established in Cordoba was especially cruel. Many Conversos were martyred during the 1480's. In 1483, Jews were exiled from Andalusia.

Tuesday October 9

LUCENA & GRANADA

- After breakfast at the hotel depart Cordoba to travel to Lucena (approx. 1 hour)
- Enjoy a dramatized guided Jewish history tour in Lucena, the Pearl of Sepharad and visit the Necropolis.
- Lunch
- Continue to Granada (approx 1.5 hours)
- Enjoy the spectacular view of the Alhambra from the outlook of the Mirador de San Cristobal.
- On-site learning: "Shmuel Ibn Nagrela Hanagid-Poet, Warrior, Vizier"
- Check-in at hotel.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Melia, Granada

The city of Lucena experienced a time of splendor during the Moorish occupation of Spain, when it became the main Jewish town of Al Andalus. There was an important Jewish university there, and many of its intellectuals subsequently travelled to Toledo to found the School of Translators. The co-existence of Christians, Jews and Arabs earned the city the name of "the city of the three cultures". It is currently the second most important city in Cordoba Province after the capital.

On March 31, 1492, the saga of the Jews of Granada came to a crushing conclusion, when Ferdinand and Isabelle signed the edict of expulsion in the "City of the Jews." The Juderia in Granada was never located in one specific spot during Moslem rule. Instead, it was moved, expanded, or contracted depending on the dictates of the various dynasties.

Wednesday October 10

ALHAMBRA

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Tour the impressive Alhambra, a palace and citadel dating to the 14th century, whose design may have been inspired by the home of Shmuel ibn Nagrela Hanagid.
- On-site learning: "Patron and Poet" –poetry by Judah Halevi, Shmuel ibn Nagrela, Abraham ibn Ezra, and Shlomo ibn Gvirol
- Visit & meet local Taracean artisans working in traditional regional wood crafts.
- Stroll through the beautiful Generalife Gardens.
- Lunch break (on your own)
- Visit the Jewish Museum in the Realejo neighborhood, once the Jewish neighborhood of Granada.
- Time to rest and freshen up.
- Group Dinner followed by live Flamenco performance.

Overnight: *Melia, Granada*

The Alhambra is a palace and fortress complex constructed during the mid 14th century for the last Muslim Emirs in Spain and its court, of the Nasrid dynasty. It is now one of Spain's major tourist attractions, exhibiting the country's most significant and well known Islamic architecture, together with 16th-century and later Christian building and garden interventions. The Alhambra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the inspiration for many songs and stories.

Generalife: The summer palace and country estate of the Nasrid Emirs (Kings) of the Emirate of Granada. The palace and gardens were built during the reign of Muhammad III (1302–1309) and redecorated shortly after by Abu I-Walid Isma'il (1313–1324). Originally the palace was linked to the Alhambra by a covered walkway across the ravine that now divides them. The present-day gardens were started in 1931 and completed by Francisco Prieto Moreno in 1951. The walkways are paved in traditional Granadian style with a mosaic of pebbles: white ones from the River Darro and black ones from the River Genil. The Generalife is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Thursday October 11 TO MADRID

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Granada for Madrid (approx. 4 hours)
- Lunch stop (on own) en route
- Check-in at hotel
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Catalonia Las Cortes, Madrid*

Friday October 12 TOLEDO-THE JEWISH WORLD THAT WAS AND IS NO MORE

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Madrid for Toledo, once the most vital and powerful Jewish community in the world.
- Visit the Santa Maria La Blanca synagogue which was turned into a Church
- Visit a Jewish home dating to the 14th century whose basement contains a mikveh
- Visit the El Transito Synagogue and Sephardic Museum
- On-site learning: "Caught Between Two Worlds: Conversos, the Inquisition and Expulsion"
- Lunch break (on own) and shopping time.
- Return to Madrid to prepare for Shabbat.
- Join the Masorti community of Beit El for Kabbalat Shabbat services.
- Candle lighting

- Kiddush with the Beit El community

Overnight: *Catalonia Las Cortes, Madrid*

The Jewish Quarter in Toledo reached the peak of its development and size in the middle of the 14th century. The community of Toledo was one of the largest in the Iberian peninsula, and at the height of its prosperity the Jews probably formed one third of the city's population, which was then over 40,000.

Toledo is one of the few towns of Spain where remnants of Jewish edifices have been preserved. Toward the close of the 15th century the sources (see Cantera, in bibliography) mention ten synagogues and a further five battei midrash. Repairs have been carried out in the Samuel Halevi Synagogue, and the women's gallery and other parts have been restored. In 1964 it was decided to transform the synagogue into the Sephardi Museum. The museum contains very important Jewish tombstones and various articles of great historical value. The synagogue is decorated with passages from the Psalms and beautiful dedicatory inscriptions to the benefactor and builder of the synagogue and King Pedro, during whose reign it was erected. The house of Samuel Halevi, still standing, was for a while inhabited by the painter El Greco.

Shabbat October 13 PRADO MUSEUM

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Mid- morning study session with Keshet Tour Educator: *The Sephardic Jewish Library*. Explore the rich world of medieval Spanish Jewry's secular and religious literature and scholarship including Zohar, Mishneh Torah, Kuzari, Poetry and Torah commentaries.
- Lunch on your own
- Walking tour and guided visit through the Prado Museum.
- Time at leisure to explore more of the Prado or other sites in Madrid.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Catalonia Las Cortes, Madrid*

Sunday October 14 JEWISH BARCELONA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- *Some participants may choose to return to the US this morning. Air Canada #837 departing Madrid airport at 9:35am. Arrival Toronto at 11:45am. (Airport transfer is included).*
- Depart Madrid for Barcelona by train.
- Lunch stop (en route) in Barcelona.
- Guided tour through the Call (Jewish neighborhood) in the Old City of Barcelona, including the Medieval synagogue.
- Check-in at hotel, located on the Plaza Espana.
- Dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza, Barcelona*

Monday October 15 GIRONA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Travel to Girona, home to Nahmanides.
- Visit the Museum of the History of the Jews, which was the site of a synagogue and mikveh.
- On-site learning on Jewish Mysticism and the Disputation of Nahmanides with Tortosa.
- Enter a private home, once the home of Jews, where the Mezzuzah niches are still visible.
- Lunch stop (on own) in Girona

- Continue to the village of Besalu to visit the incredibly well preserved ancient Mikveh.
- Return to Barcelona for dinner and evening at leisure.

Overnight: *Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza, Barcelona*

Tuesday October 16 GAUDI'S CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Ascend by elevator to the top of the Columbus Monument which is 60 meters tall and allows for a magnificent view of the city and port.
- On-site Learning: Was Columbus Jewish? The Jewish role in astronomy, cartography, and navigation.
- Learn about the architectural and design influences of Antoni Gaudi as you walk through the Casa Battlo with the excellent audio-guide.
- Explore the La Boqueria Food Market.
- Lunch (on own) and time for last minute shopping and exploration.
- We reconvene in the early evening for a summary and conclusion session followed by:
- Farewell dinner at Maccabi Kosher Restaurant.

Overnight: *Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza, Barcelona*

Wednesday October 17 DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Transfer to airport for departing flight.
- Departure on Air Canada 1915 at 11:45am. Arrival YYZ at 2:40pm.

- Listed activities and speakers and hotels are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and local Spanish licensed guides.
- All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



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