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***Hebrew College MEAH Sepharad Discovery***

***Jewish Journey to Spain***

***Led by Rabbi Dr. Leonard Gordon and Terri Swartz Russell***

*May 5-14, 2024*

(rev 10.7.23)

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| **Sunday, May 5** | ***departure from boston*** |

* Departure from Boston on Iberia Flight 6166 at 5:OOpm.

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| **Monday, May 6** | ***bienvenidos a espana-welcome to spain*** |

* Arrival at Barajas airport in Madrid at 6:00am.
* Meet your Keshet Jewish educator and Spanish Tour Leader at the airport
* Bus tour highlighting some of Madrid’s landmarks
* Early check-in at hotel, breakfast, and time to rest.
* Lunch on own.
* Introductions and Orientation with Keshet Tour Educator, Kayla Ship
* Guided tour of the Prado Museum’s highlights.
* Welcome Dinner at Gaudium Chamberi, a chef restaurant featuring traditional Sephardi cuisine with members of the local Reform community of Madrid. (All included meals will either be fish or vegetarian)

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Catalonia Las Cortes, Madrid*

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| **Tuesday, May 7** | ***toledo-the 2nd jerusalem*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Depart Madrid for Toledo, once the most vital and powerful Jewish community in the world.
* Visit the Ibn Shushan synagogue (Santa Maria La Blanca) which was turned into a Church.
* *On-site learning: “The Toledo School of Translators-the intellectural powerhouse of the 12th and 13th centuries”*
* Visit a Jewish home dating to the 14th century whose basement contains a mikveh
* Visit the Shmuel HaLevy (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.
* Depart for Andalucia.
* Stop in Consuegra to visit the Windmills of Don Quixote.
* *On site learning: Cervantes and Converso Literature*
* *On the Bus Learning: “Haberes Buenos and other Ladino Expressions.”*
* Arrival in Cordoba. Check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up.
* Dinner at Casa Mazal which specializes in Sephardi Jewish cuisine

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Eurostars Palace, Cordoba*

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| **Wednesday, May 8** | ***cordoba: the golden age of jewish spain*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Meeting with Rabbi Haim Casas, the first Spanish born Rabbi since the Expulsion of 1492.
* 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.
* Enjoy a guided tour and short concert of Ladino music at Casa de Sefarad – the House of Sepharad Museum and Cultural Center.
* Visit the synagogue and the statue of Maimonides. *On site learning: “Rambam, the Golden Mean & Holistic Medicine”.*
* Visit a typical Andalucian patio. On site learning: *"Inside the Courtyard of Hasdai ibn Shaprut: The Beginning of the Golden Age" and "The Hebrew Poetry Revolution”.*
* Lunch at local restaurant
* Guided tour of the beautiful “La Mezquita” Cathedral Mosque.
* Dinner and evening free.

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Eurostars Palace, Cordoba*

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| **Thursday, May 9** | ***lucena & the alhambra*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* *On the Bus Learning: “Would the Rambam or Hasdai have eaten that? Traditional Sephardi Jewish cuisine before the expulsion.”*
* Learn about Lucena’s rich Jewish history and why it was called the *Pearl of Sepharad*. Visit the Castillo del Moral museum, ancient Jewish cemetery, and Plaza Mayor, where the Great Synagogue once stood.
* Enjoy Lunch in Lucena
* Meeting with local members of Beit Alfasi Cultural Center.
* Continue to Granada (approx 1.5 hours)
* 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.
* *On-site learning: "Shmuel Ibn Nagrela Hanagid-Poet, Warrior, Vizier"*
* Check-in at hotel.
* Dinner at the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Central Hotel, Granada*

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| **Friday, May 10** | ***to barcelona*** |

* Early breakfast at the hotel
* Early morning flight from Granada to Barcelona.
* 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 Colombus Jewish?* *Discovering the New World: The Jewish Role in the Age of Exploration”.*
* Lunch in Barcelona.
* Check-in at hotel and time to prepare for shabbat.
* Shabbat dinner at hotel.
* Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the local Reform Jewish community. Followed by Kiddush and Hamotzei with the community.
* Candle lighting: 8:42pm.
* Bus back to the hotel (or walk with Kayla-about 40 minutes)

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya****,*** *Barcelona*

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| **Shabbat, May 11** | ***shabbat in barcelona*** |

* 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. (and kiddush).
* Shabbat Lunch
* Time at leisure. (*Ideas for free time: Casa Battlo, Picasso Museum, Casa Mila, Park Guell. It is recommended to order tickets in advance.*)
* We rendezvous in the late afternoon for Reflection.
* Evening: Light dinner with wine & desserts at Casa Adret, a Jewish cultural center in what was a Jewish home dating back to the 12th century. Group Havdalah (9:48pm) on the roof overlooking the Gothic Quarter.

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya****,*** *Barcelona*

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| **Sunday, May 12** | ***girona & besalu*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Travel by bus 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: *“Ramban-the great synthesizer: A Sephardi Ashkenazi and A Rational Mystic” and “The role of the Call in Jewish communal life”.*
* See a private home, once the home of Jews, where the Mezzuzah niches are still visible.
* Group Lunch
* Travel to the village of Besalu to visit the incredibly well preserved ancient Mikveh.
* Visit the Dali Museum in Figueres (with audio-guide).
* Return to Barcelona.
* Dinner and evening at leisure

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya****,*** *Barcelona*

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| **Monday, May 13** | ***jewish barcelona*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Guided tour through the Call (Jewish neighborhood) in the Old City of Barcelona, including the Medeival synagogue
* View documents relating to the Medeival Jewish community in the Cathedral Archives.
* On-site learning: *“Who won the Disputation of 1263?”*
* Explore the La Boqueria Food Market.
* Lunch stop (on own). Falafel de Shani located in the market is kosher.
* Ascend Montjuic (which means Mountain of the Jews) for a scenic outlook over the city and to visit the Fundacion Joan Miro Art Museum.
* Evening: Tapas and Flamenco Show.

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya****,*** *Barcelona*

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| **Tuesday, May 14** | ***Gaudi*** |

* Breakfast at hotel
* Guided tour of the Hospital Sant Pau, a UNESCO world heritage site, whose Catalan Art Nouveau design incorporates Modernism and Moorish influences.
* Guided visit of La Sagrada Familia, the cathedral designed by Gaudi and not yet completed.
* Lunch break (on own) and time for last minute shopping and exploration.
* Summary and conclusion session
* Farewell dinner at the Maccabi Kosher restaurant.

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya****,*** *Barcelona*

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| **Wednesday, May 15** | ***arrival in Boston*** |

* Early Breakfast at the hotel
* Transfer to airport for departing flight on Iberia #3015 at 10:20am to Madrid.
* Connect to Iberia #6165 departing at 1:20pm.
* Arrival in Boston at 3:25pm.
* 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

*Activity Level-Please note that we will be spending most days exploring on our feet, often through medieval alleyways and cobble stone streets. Stairs are often unavoidable.*

*Note for single travelers: This program offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere for those travelling with friends or on their own. The atmosphere you'll find is of learning and experiencing in the company of a small group of individual friends. There is a good chance that you will not be the only person without a travel partner. You may wish to have your own room, in which case the single supplement is noted on the pricing. However, if you prefer to save this fee we'll match you up with another solo traveler. Just let us know that you'd like a roommate when registering.*



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