



SPAIN ITINERARY

(subject to change)

WITH DR. MARC SHAPIRO
JULY 2-10, 2024

TUESDAY: MADRID

The tour begins at 1:00 pm with a tour of the famous Prado Museum. The Prado collection, with around 9,000 paintings, is one of the world's most important and boasts names such as Titian, El Greco, Rubens, Velázquez, and Goya.

Following this, we will have a walking tour around the heart of the old city through the Puerta del Sol, the Plaza Mayor, Mercado de San Miguel, the former City Hall, and the Royal Opera House. We will also learn about the Jewish past of the city of Madrid.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel Intercontinental

WEDNESDAY: MADRID, TOLEDO, CORDOBA

In the morning, we will travel to Toledo which, in medieval times, was the most important city in Spain, as well as the home of great rabbis such as R. Asher ben Jehiel. Two important synagogues survive in the old Jewish quarter. We will also visit the shops that sell swords, sabres, and daggers, a craft that Toledo was famous for in medieval times.

After the tour, we drive to Cordoba, at times travelling on sections of what is known as the Don Quixote route. On the way, we will visit the Windmills in Consuegra, made famous by Cervantes.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Eurostars Hotel, Cordoba

THURSDAY: CORDOBA, SEVILLE, GIBRALTAR

We start in the morning with a walking tour in Cordoba. This city was the capital of the Al Andalus kingdom, when Spain was ruled by the Muslims. Cordoba is famous as the birthplace of Maimonides (commemorated here by a statue), and was also one of the places R. Abraham Ibn Ezra lived. We will visit the old Jewish quarter and synagogue, as well the museum that has recently been established, where we will have the chance to hear a Ladino music show. We will also visit the beautiful mosque. After lunch, we will continue our journey to Seville, a beautiful city with an old history - Judah Halevi lived here - and a tiny Jewish community. We will tour the Santa Cruz quarter, which is part of the old Jewish city, and visit the Alcazar, the royal palace. It was in Seville that the infamous Inquisition first began its operations in 1481. After our tour, we will travel to Gibraltar

ACCOMMODATIONS: Sunborn Yacht Hotel

FRIDAY: GIBRALTAR

Today we will have a wonderful tour of Gibraltar, a British enclave in Spain, which has had a strong Jewish community for hundreds of years. We will visit the rock of Gibraltar, see the famous monkeys, and then move on to the Great Siege Tunnels, St. Michael's Cave, the Pillars of Hercules, and other fascinating sites. After some time to relax, we head to the synagogue to welcome Shabbat.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Sunborn Yacht Hotel

SATURDAY: GIBRALTAR

Shabbat in Gibraltar is something to remember. With around 30,000 people, the Jewish community of 700 plays an important part in the life of this British outpost. After tefillah, there will be time to rest, followed by a class by Dr. Shapiro on a Torah subject relevant to Spain. We will also have a walking tour in the center of Gibraltar.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Sunborn Yacht Hotel

SUNDAY: GIBRALTAR, MALAGA, GRANADA

In the morning, we will travel to Granada. On the way, we will make a quick stop in Malaga. Malaga is the birthplace of Ibn Gabirol the poet and Picasso the painter. After a panoramic tour of the city, we will visit the Picasso Museum. Afterwards, we will head to Granada.

Granada was an important Jewish city in medieval times, home to many outstanding figures, including R. Samuel ha-Nagid. We will visit the magnificent Alhambra, a series of palaces and gardens built by the Muslim rulers in the fourteenth century. It was also the site where Ferdinand and Isabella signed the Expulsion decree in 1492.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Hotel Palacio Patos, Granada

MONDAY: BARCELONA

After breakfast, we take a short flight to Barcelona, one of the two major centers of Jewish life in Spain. Today is devoted to touring the beautiful city of Barcelona, both its general and Jewish sites (including a medieval synagogue). We will start our tour visiting Gaudi's La Pedrera. After lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour that includes a walk through the Gothic Quarter and the Jewish Quarter.

Barcelona was a center of Jewish life. The city is famous in Jewish history as the location of the disputation between Nahmanides and Pablo Christiani, among other things; and as part of our walking tour of the old city center, we shall see where this took place.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Renaissance Barcelona

TUESDAY: BARCELONA, GERONA, BESALU

Today our first stop is Gerona, famous in Jewish history as the city of Nahmanides and the center of medieval Jewish mysticism. This beautiful city has one of the best preserved Jewish quarters in Spain and a museum devoted to Jewish life in Gerona. In the afternoon we will travel to Besalu, not far from the French border. There we will see the twelfth-century mikveh only discovered in the twentieth century.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Renaissance Barcelona

WEDNESDAY: BARCELONA

Breakfast, departures for home