

8inSpain

# Jewish Spain

- **Hotels.** The offer is based on accommodation at.4\*SUP -5\*
- **Meals.** Breakfast in all hotels
- **Coach.** Air conditioned vehicles as per itinerary.

## ITINERARY:

### Day 1 Madrid

*Meet and greet, Orientation, Royal Palace, Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Tapas*

Upon arrival in Madrid-Barajas Airport we are welcomed to Spain and begin with an afternoon tour of Madrid's impressive Royal Palace, the official residence of the Spanish Royal Family. In the evening walk to Puerta del Sol and Plaza Mayor. Enjoy a traditional tapas dinner in the Old Town of Madrid.

### Day 2 Madrid

*National Archaeological Museum, San Anton Market, La Latina neighbourhood, Royal Theatre, Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum*

Visit the National Archaeological Museum, where we can learn more about the prehistory of Spain, as well as the country's fascinating Visigothic, Muslim and Christian history. We then go to San Anton market or the fashionable La Latina neighbourhood. Afterwards, we go to the Royal Theatre for a guided tour of the opera house. Enjoy exclusive access to the back rooms of the building, and learn about what goes on behind the scenes during their most important shows. Then make your way to the Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, one of the richest art galleries in the world, where you can admire works by numerous famous artists including Caravaggio, Rembrandt, Monet, Degas, and Van Gogh.

### Day 3 Madrid

*El Prado Museum, Queen Sofia Arts Center, Bais Yaakov Synagogue, Plaza de España, Plaza Colon*

Our first destination is the El Prado Museum, one of the finest art galleries in the world. It's amazing collection includes all of the Spanish Masters (such as de Goya, el Greco, and Velázquez) and many other famous artists (including Rubens and Bosch). We continue to the Queen Sofia Arts Center to enjoy their startling collection of Modern Art, including works by Picasso and Dali. Afterwards we continue to the Bais Yaakov Synagogue.

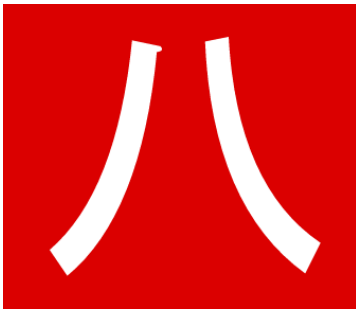
We'll take a walk around the Plaza de España, which features a monument to Cervantes, the 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish poet and playwright famous for his magnificent work *Don Quixote*. Our tour concludes at the majestic Plaza de Colon, which features a remarkable statue of the famous voyager Christopher Columbus as well as the National Library of Spain.

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## Day 4 Madrid – Almagro

*Toledo City Tour, Santa Maria la Blanca and El Transito Synagogues, Museum of El Greco, Plaza Mayor de Almagro, Corral de Comedias de Almagro, Museum Of Lace*

After breakfast we make an excursion to the medieval city of Toledo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located 43 miles (70 km) south of Madrid. This ancient city has over 2,000 years of fascinating history, and our expert tour guide provides a comprehensive discussion of the city's occupation under the Romans, the Visigoths, the Emirate of Cordoba, and the Holy Roman Empire. The presence of so many cultures – as well as Jews, Christians and Muslims – in one place has resulted in the present city's wonderful and unique fusion styles of art and architecture. We'll begin by viewing El Greco's The Burial of the Count of Orgaz at the Santo Tome Church. Passing Toledo's Cathedral on our way to the Juderia (The Jewish Quarter), we'll learn about the "Second Jerusalem", Toledo, which has a longstanding tradition of Jewish scholarship and intellectualism. You will learn about such notable figures as Abraham ibn Ezra (11<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, astrologist, mathematician and grammarian), Yehuda Halevi (one of the greatest Hebrew poets of the 11<sup>th</sup> century), and Rabbi Asher ben Yechiel (13<sup>th</sup> century spiritual leader of the Jews of Toledo). We visit Toledo's two remaining synagogues, the 11<sup>th</sup> century Santa Maria la Blanca and 12<sup>th</sup> century El Transito, which is home to the Sephardic Museum where we receive a tour through the history of the Jewish people in Spain. Our excursion concludes at the Museum of El Greco, which houses numerous works by the celebrated painter as well as other works by 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish artists.

We then return to the bus to set off across the plains of La Mancha to the city of Almagro. Drive through a landscape filled with windmills made famous by Cervantes' novel *Don Quixote de La Mancha*. Upon arrival at Almagro we check in to the luxury Parador De Almagro Hotel. We'll wander through the winding streets of the 15<sup>th</sup> century old town. Admire the 16<sup>th</sup> century monasteries and aristocratic mansions around the Plaza Mayor de Almagro, and visit the oldest theatre in Spain, the Corral de Comedias de Almagro. We'll see magnificent works of the world-famous Almagro lace.

## Day 5 Almagro – Granada

*Alhambra, Generalife Gardens, Flamenco Performance*

After breakfast we take you on a breath-taking drive from Almagro to Granada, Andalucía's trendiest city but also one of its most historic, boasting wonderful Moorish architecture and the unique Alhambra. The building we see today has been transformed by succeeding occupants. It was here that King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella signed the 1492 Alhambra Decree exiling Jews from Spain, but also the site where Don Isaac Abrabanel attempted to have it revoked, and where Columbus first received permission to embark upon his adventure to the New World. Delight in the ornate architecture, splendid decorative art and gardens, and magnificent views from the palace walls. We'll proceed to the near-by lovely 14<sup>th</sup> century Generalife Gardens built for the Nasrid Emirs of the Emirate of Granada, where you can savour in the fragrance of many unique plants as you leisurely stroll through the complex. After dinner enjoy a flamenco performance. You will see authentic local talent.

## Day 6 Granada – Seville

*Cordoba City Tour, La Mezquita, The Cathedral, Juderia, Statue of Maimonides, Calle de los Judios Synagogue, Juda Halevi Street*

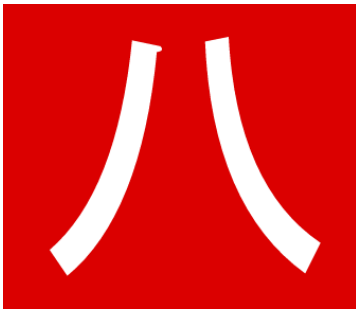
After breakfast we embark on our trip to Cordoba, a sprawling medieval city with a fascinating Muslim, Jewish and Christian history. We bring you on a guided tour of Cordoba's Jewish heritage. Once home to one and a half million Jews, the romance of the old Jewish quarter – the Juderia – is still preserved today. statue of Maimonides, one of the greatest Jewish philosophers and Torah scholars of the Middle Ages. We continue to the 14<sup>th</sup> century synagogue on the Calle de los Judios the only

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synagogue in Andalusia to survive the expulsion and inquisition of the Jews in 1492 and one of only three ancient synagogues left in all of Spain – the other two being in Toledo.

Afterwards we circle around the Plazuela de Maimonides. Continue to Judah Halevi Street, named after the famous 11<sup>th</sup> century Spanish-Jewish physician, poet and philosopher. Visit the stunning 8<sup>th</sup> century Great Cathedral and Mosque, a UNESCO World Heritage Site treasured for its unique architectural style and fascinating history.

In the evening we return to the bus and transfer to Seville, an Andalusian metropolis said to have been founded three thousand years ago by Hercules. Seville is a beautiful and romantic city, with gorgeous buildings.

## **Day 7 Seville**

*Seville City Tour, Plaza de Espana, Giralda Tower, University, Alcazar Palace, Barrio de Santa Cruz, Casa Sefardi, Plaza de America, La Isla de La Cartuja*

First we circle around the awe-inspiring Plaza de España, a building built to showcase Spain's industry and technology during the 1929 Ibero-American Exposition World's Fair. View the Giralda, a bell tower on the Seville Cathedral registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and admire the stunning baroque façade of the University of Seville's main building, which was an old cigar factory during the 18th century. It was here that the seductive gypsy Carmen of Bizet's opera was said to have worked. We continue on to the Alcazar Palace, the oldest royal palace still in use in Europe. Here we can admire the beautiful Moorish architecture and lavish gardens, before walking through the quaint streets of the former Jewish quarter, the Barrio de Santa Cruz.

Visit the Casa Sefardi, an exhibition dedicated to the Jewish-Spanish tradition. Here we can learn about the history of the Jews in Seville, as well as famous residents of Seville. Circle around the Plaza de America located beside the lush María Luisa Park before transferring to La Isla de La Cartuja (Cartuja Island), where the 1992 World Expo took place. The theme for the Expo was "The Age of Discovery" and over 100 countries were represented at a number of stunning pavilions, though many of these were subsequently dismantled. Admire stunning views Calatrava's Alamillo Bridge.

## **Day 8 Seville – Malaga**

*Ronda City Tour, Gibraltar City Tour, Upper Galleries, Moorish Castle, Caves of St. Michael, Barbary Apes Visit*

In the morning we drive to the unique town of Ronda, bisected by a cavernous 90m (300ft) deep gorge. With a fascinating history epitomized by its awe-inspiring architecture, the city was favoured by American artists such as Ernest Hemingway and Orson Welles. Ronda is most famous as the birthplace of the popular, though controversial, sport of bullfighting, which occurs once a year in the city's original bullfighting ring, the Feria Goyesca. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, taking in the stunning views from El Tajo and the Puente Nuevo Bridge, visiting the Plaza de Toros.

We then transfer to Gibraltar, a tiny but extremely British colony located between Spain and Morocco on the Costa del Sol. Take a tour of the great siege tunnels on the Rock of Gibraltar, and the amazing Caves of St. Michael. We make a trip to a colony of cheeky Barbary Apes. Visit the commanding Moorish Castle, the atmospheric Jews' Gate Cemetery and the synagogue.

Then return to the bus for a sunny drive along the Costa del Sol to Puerto Banus, a popular marina visited by Europe's rich and famous, where you can view magnificent millionaire yachts and gorgeous beachside villas.

Return to the bus for the coastal drive to Malaga.

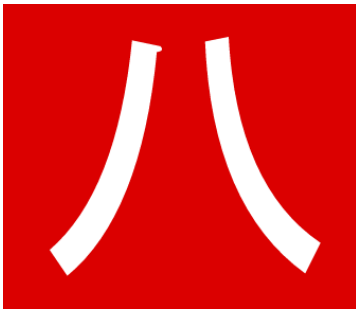
The birthplace of the legendary artist Pablo Picasso, Malaga is a vibrant, unconventional and colourful city filled with cultural attractions, museums, beaches and bistros.

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## **Day 9 Malaga – Barcelona**

*Alcazaba, Malaga Cathedral, Picasso Foundation Museum, Puerto Banus, Marbella*

Morning tour of Malaga. We begin at the Alcazaba, Spain's best-preserved Moorish fortress dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Enjoy awesome views from the citadel's walls, and learn more about the history of the Moors in Spain from our expert tour guide. Then make your way to Malaga Cathedral, where you can admire the beautiful statuary, decorative carvings, and unique architectural features. Our tour finishes at the Picasso Foundation Museum, where you can learn more about this iconic artist.

Finally, we return to the bus for our transfer to the airport for our flights to Barcelona, the capital city of the autonomous community of Catalonia.

## **Day 10 Barcelona**

*Parc de Montjuic, Arco Del Triunfo, Parc Guell, Tour of Jewish Barcelona, Casa Batllo, La Pedrera*

The urban hub of Barcelona is alive with the unique blend of Spanish modernity, Catalanian pride, and medieval grandeur. Tour at the Parc de Montjuic, where you can view the Font Magica and admire panoramic views of the city.

Then pass the iconic Plaza Tetuan on our way to the magnificent Arco Del Triunfo, a unique Neo-Mudéjar style construction built as the main access gate for the 1888 Barcelona World Fair. We then make our way to the Plaza de Catalunya, the heart of the city.

Entering the Gothic Quarter, walk down the Ramblas and visit the colourful La Boqueria Market. We'll take a comprehensive tour of Barcelona's "Jewish quarter", where we can learn more about the Jewish diaspora in Spain. Wandering through the narrow streets of the "Call", we visit the Medieval synagogue. Finally, we walk along the Passeig de Gracia (the "shopping mile" of Barcelona) and admire the Casa Batllo and La Pedrera, two of Gaudi's most unique buildings in the city.

## **Day 11 Barcelona – Girona – Barcelona**

*Tour of Jewish Girona, Besalu mikveh, Figueres Dalí Theatre-Museum*

Make an excursion into the heartland of Catalonia. We take the Costa Brava highway north from Barcelona to the city of Girona, a major centre of Jewish culture during the 12<sup>th</sup> century with one of the most important Kabbalistic schools in Europe. Enjoy a guided tour of the Jewish Quarter and visit the Museum of Jewish History. Then return to the bus to continue to the hamlet of Besalu, which contains an extremely rare 11<sup>th</sup> century *mikveh* bath, as well as the remains of a medieval synagogue. Admire the famous Viejo Bridge before lunch in the village, and then continue our journey towards the town of Figueres on the northeast tip of Spain. This was the birthplace of the artist Salvador Dalí, and we visit the Dalí Theatre-Museum to learn more about this enigmatic man. Return to the bus for our journey back to Barcelona.

## **Day 12 Barcelona**

*The Synagogue, Park Guell, Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, La Rambla Avenue, La Boqueria, Gothic quarter,*

*Picasso Museum*

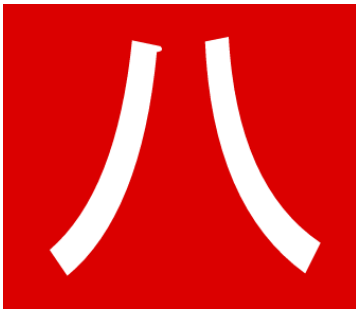
After breakfast visit the Synagogue on Avenir Street, Spain's first since the Expulsion. We make our way to Park Guell where we can view Antoni Gaudi's first major building built in the city – the Palau Guell. Enjoy the colourful and bizarre architectural style of the building, and excellent views of the surrounding landscape. We then go to the Basilica of the Sagrada Familia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site designed by Gaudi, where you can be amazed by the tree-like pillars and stained glass windows.

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After lunch we make our way to the "Gothic quarter", where we can lose ourselves in innumerable tiny shops, alleyways, art galleries and monuments. Circle around the elegant Plaza Real before visiting the Picasso Museum, where you can delve in to some of the lesser-known works by the genius painter, before returning to the hotel to prepare for our farewell dinner.

## Day 13

After breakfast travel to Barcelona–El Prat Airport for the return flights home.

## PACKAGE PRICE:

Price includes:

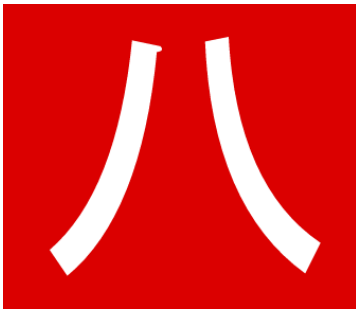
- 3 nights in 5\* hotel in Madrid on BB
- 1 nights in Parador in Almagro on BB
- 1 nights in 5\* hotel in Granada on BB
- 2 nights in 4\* Sup hotel in Sevilla on BB
- 1 nights in 4\* Sup hotel in Malaga on BB
- 4 nights in 4\* Sup hotel in Barcelona on BB
  
- Ground transportation servies as per program
  
- 1 lunch in Besalu
- 1 tapas dinner in Madrid
- 1 Flamenco show + 1 drink in Granada
  
- Official guides
  - 1 HD & 2 FD guide services in Madrid
  - 1 HD guide service in Toledo
  - 1 HD guide service in Almagro
  - 1 guide service for Alhambra de Granada (2.50 hrs.)
  - 1 HD guide service in Cordoba
  - 1 FD guide service in Sevilla
  - 1 HD guide service in Ronda
  - 1 HD guide service in Malaga
  - 2 FD guide services in Barcelona
  - 1 FD guide service in Grona-Figueres excurtion
  - Excurtion in Gibraltar
  
- Entrance tickets:
  - Royal Palace, Thyssen museum, Prado museum, Archeologic national museum and Royal theater in Madrid
  - Greco museum, ST Tome, Sinagogue Sta Maria la Blanca, Transito and Cathedral in Toledo
  - Corral de las comedias in Almagro
  - Alhambra in Granada
  - Sinagogue and Mezquita in Cordoba
  - Sefadi House, Alcazar and Cathedral in Sevilla
  - Bullfight ring and Don Bosco house in Ronda
  - Tunnels and Cave St Michael in Gibraltar

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- Cathedral, Alcazaba and Picasso museum in Malaga
- Dali Museum in Figueres
- Sda Familia, Parc Guell and Picasso museum in Barcelona

Price doesn't include:

- Nothing not mentioned as included
- Flight Malaga - BCN
- Touristic tax in Barcelona
- Tips

Minimum 2 pax (for group price, please ask):

From 3690€/pax in DBL room (November-March)  
From 3990€/pax in DBL room (April-October)