

# LIVE & LEARN 2019: SPAIN & ISRAEL

October 28 - November 12, 2019

*With Hebrew University Scholar in Residence  
Professor Shalom Sabar*

## SPAIN JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR

*"Espana" is an exquisite symphony of experience, with a vital connection to world history and enduring Spain Jewish heritage. This timeless land of explorers vibrates with the colourful passions of swirling flamenco and guitars; you will find its deep beauty unforgettable. From this exotic land emerged great sages and Cabbalistic mystics of the "Golden Age," as well as the origins of Sephardic Judaism, with its fascinating "Eastern" flavour. Enjoy a blend of Moorish, European and Jewish influences as we travel in luxury through the legendary land of Cortez and Ponce de Leon. A delight for the senses and for the soul!*

**Day 01 | Seville**

**Monday, October 28th**

Welcome to Spain!

Arrival in Seville airport and transfer to Hotel Casas De Las Juderias



Tonight experience the passionate Latin feel of **"Flamenco with dinner"** in a town that has celebrated this art for centuries

Accommodation: **HOTEL CASAS DE LAS JUDERIAS**

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**Day 02 | Visit Cordoba**

**Tuesday, October 29th**

Breakfast. This morning, before departing to Cordoba start a **panoramic visit of Seville**, immortalized in opera classics such as "The Barber of Seville," "Carmen" and "Don Giovanni." Seville is capital of 'Andalucía', the most southern region of the Spanish peninsula. There is a true energy exuded by this city that affects all who visit her, with her charming, tiny cobbled streets and her beautiful, colourfully tiled patios of the private homes in the old Barrio de Santa Cruz quarter, which can be seen through the intricate wrought iron lacework of the entrance portals

Departure to the former home of many Jewish scholars and poets: Cordoba. Once the biggest city in all of Europe, **Cordoba** thrived and expanded with its unique blend of cultures. These are beautifully expressed with a visit to Mosque, the most significant Muslim architectural achievement in the Western world. This 8th century structure was first a church, then a mosque, and today has a cathedral oddly placed in its center. Walk the street leading up to the Juderia, with its whitewashed houses and colourful courtyards and shops.



Though not Jewish in its current expression, a few signs hint of the Golden Age of Jewish life. Note, for example, the tiny, gem-like Synagogue, as well as the statue of the great court doctor and Torah sage, Maimonides (Rabbi Moshe Ben Maimon).

Later in the afternoon, return to Seville for accommodation

Accommodation: **HOTEL CASAS DE LAS JUDERIAS – STANDARD ROOM**

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**Day 03 | Seville to Granada**

**Wednesday, October 30th**

Breakfast. Today we enjoy a tour of Granada and a spectacular drive through the Mountains of Andalusia, with vistas of olive groves waiting around every corner, and charming villages greet you with a sweet bouquet of colors.

Continue via the mountains to Granada in the famed Andalusian province. Upon arrival, visit one of the Wonders of the World, the **Moorish Palace of Alhambra**. Located on a hilltop with the Sierra Nevada as background, Alhambra's exquisite design and layout have few rivals. Be filled with a sense of mystique as you are guided past graceful courtyards, splashing fountains and lavish rooms.



After the tour, check in at the hotel for accommodation

Accommodation: **HOTEL BARCELO CARMEN – STANDARD ROOM**

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**Day 04| Granada to Madrid**

**Thursday, October 31st**

Breakfast. Transfer to train station for trip to Madrid

Upon arrival to Madrid airport, you are welcomed to Spain and its gorgeous capital, Madrid. Here, the history of a people blends with the world of power, glamour and enterprise, making Madrid uniquely textured.

During your tour, visit the impressive Royal Palace before being introduced to two of Europe's grandest squares: Plaza Mayor, with arts, crafts and chic boutiques under its arcades, and the Spanish version of Times Square - Puerta del Sol.



Check into your hotel in the heart of Madrid's most popular area. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

Accommodation: **HOTEL SARDINERO 4\* – STANDARD ROOM**

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**Day 05 | Madrid**

**Friday, November 01st**

Breakfast. This morning is devoted to Toledo, perched high on a hill by the Tagus River. With its naturally fortified location, Toledo was once the true center of Spain, and is widely considered a "pearl" in terms of its subtle beauty.



This city was also the center for Jewish Spain, with a rich, creative heritage. You will feel this atmosphere as you walk the narrow alleys in its historic section. Your tour will include El Greco's house, formerly the palace of the prominent (and Jewish) Samuel Halevy (treasurer of King Pedro I, and architect of the El Transito Synagogue). Continue to Synagogue de Santa Maria La Blanca, later converted to a church, and to the Synagogue del Transito, which today houses The Sephardic Museum. This strand of Judaism can now be found vibrantly alive all over the world.

Return to Madrid and rest of the afternoon at leisure  
Shabbat dinner at local restaurant walking distance

Accommodation: **HOTEL SARDINERO 4\* – STANDARD ROOM**

**Day 06 | Madrid**

**Saturday, November 02nd**

Breakfast. Day at leisure

Accommodation: **HOTEL SARDINERO 4\* – STANDARD ROOM**

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**Day 07 | Madrid**

**Sunday, November 03rd**

Breakfast. Departure to **Avila** which has been declared a World Heritage City. The city walls are the symbolical emblem of the city. They Avila contribute to the defining image of the warring and monastic centre that Avila was and has been able to maintain throughout the years. It constitutes a unique symbol that encloses within its walls mysticism and history, art and heroic chivalry. The impressive Cathedral provide Avila's character and identity, in which the spirit of Santa Theresa of Jesus and of Saint John of the Cross still vibrate



Continue to **Segovia**, (55km - 45min drive) declared World Heritage City. Impressive, of an splendid stand, the monumental size of the Segovia Roman aqueduct has become the icon of this millennial city. Segovia is its walls, its great plaza, its Cathedral, its Romanesque churches, its convents, its narrow streets, and its splendid mansions. It has been and is the meeting point of cultures down through the millennia: Roman, Arabic, Jewish and Christian. Return to the hotel.

Accommodation: **HOTEL SARDINERO 4\* – STANDARD ROOM**

**Day 08 | Madrid**

**Monday, November 04th**

Breakfast. Departure to the airport for flight to Israel.