



Jewish Heritage of Iberia Tour Itinerary

Though Portugal and Spain are notoriously Catholic nations, their crumbling ancient quarters house thousands of secrets from their Jewish past. Visit the most important remains and sites of Jewish heritage in the Iberian Peninsula, including splendid Jewish quarters in Catalunya, relics in central Spain, and synagogues and workshops all over Portugal. The peninsula's relationship with its Jewish past is a complicated one, but the Jewish Heritage tour helps to connect the dots and lead us to a time of Jewish flourishing throughout the land.

Day 1 Barcelona

After recovering from your journey at the hotel, get to know your surroundings on a short walking tour of the city. The stroll will take you through the Plaza de Catalunya, Paseo de Gracia, Las Ramblas, the Gothic Quarter and the ancient city center to give you a chance to stretch your legs and get oriented.

Day 2 Barcelona

Spend the day visiting Barcelona's important Jewish sites with your local guide. The first stop on your tour will be Montjuic, meaning "Mountain of the Jews," to enjoy stellar views of the city and port, and visit a moving monument that honors the victims of the Holocaust. Next you will head downtown, to the old Jewish quarter where you will revisit its past with your host, stopping at a medieval synagogue and the Jewish Visitors Center.

Day 3 Barcelona, Besalú and Gerona

Head out for a day trip to medieval Besalú, where you will visit the 12th century miqvé, or Jewish ritual baths, and enjoy a traditional Catalan lunch. Next, you're off to Gerona for a guided walking tour of the walled old quarter, Romanesque cathedral, Jewish quarter and the Arab baths, before returning to Barcelona.

Day 4 Barcelona and Madrid

Hop on the high speed train to Madrid to continue your journey through Spain's Jewish past. Check into your gorgeous hotel before heading out for a walking tour of the most historically significant parts of the city, like the Royal Palace, Plaza Mayor and the Mercado de San Miguel, and finishing with a private tour of the Prado Museum's masterpieces.





Day 5 Madrid and Toledo

Today you will enjoy a guided tour of Toledo, or the “city of three cultures,” and learn about the Christian, Jewish and Moorish influences throughout its history. Visit the cathedral, the Santa Maria la Blanca synagogue, the Jewish quarter and the Santo Tome church before sitting down for a traditional manchego lunch.

Day 6 Madrid and Segovia

Revisit Segovia’s Jewish past with a walking tour of the city’s magical old quarter. Although it is full of Roman influences, Segovia was home to one of Spain’s most important Jewish communities and your private guide will reveal all of the secrets that the ancient walls hold.

Day 7 Hervas and Belmonte

Travel back in time to the small town of Hervas, in southwestern Spain. The 13th century Jewish quarter is made up of a series of steep, narrow streets lined with traditional houses and stories of its Jewish past. Tour the village and pick up some local handicrafts before crossing the Portuguese border to the town of Belmonte, home to the only surviving Sephardic Jew community in the Iberian Peninsula.

Day 8 Belmonte, Guarda and Trancoso

This morning, your guide will take you through the town’s Jewish heritage, including stops at the Jewish Museum, 13th century Jewish tombstone, and the Jewish quarter. Next you will learn about the rich Jewish history of the village of Guarda, and end the day with a tour of Trancoso’s walled Jewish quarters, where you will visit the Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center and the Bet Mayim Hayim Synagogue.

Day 9 Coimbra, Tomar and Lisbon

Head to dazzling Coimbra for a tour of the local university, Jewish quarter and Inquisition Square with your private guide. Next, move on to Tomar where you will visit the Templar Castle, Jewish quarter and 15th century synagogue, and have some time to explore the breathtaking sites on your own.

Day 10 Lisbon

Spend the day getting to know the most charming nooks and crannies Lisbon with your private guide. Visit the Castle of Saint George, the extraordinary Belem, Baixa, Alfama and Chiado neighborhoods, and many marvelous monuments from the Age of Exploration. After the tour, feel free to explore on your own, tuck into a hidden spot for lunch, or head back to rest at your hotel.





Day 11 Lisbon

Now that you've toured Lisbon, it's time to get to know the Jewish history hidden in those streets. Your guide will unveil the Jewish heritage in the Baixa Pombalina and Alfama districts before moving on to the site of the 1506 Lisbon Massacre of Jews. End the tour at the Lisbon Synagogue, which was built in 1904, making it the first synagogue to be built in Portugal since the 15th century.

Day 12 Lisbon and Seville

Say "até logo" to Portugal and set off for the southern Spanish gem of Seville. Recover from the journey at your fabulous before heading out for a half day tour of the Andalusian capital's most important sites, including the cathedral, Moorish minaret and Royal Alcazar and gardens.

Day 13 Seville and Cordoba

Take a day trip to Cordoba, arguably the most important city in Spain's Jewish history. Visit the awe-inspiring Jewish quarter with your private guide and enjoy local delicacies, many of which inspired by traditional Jewish recipes from centuries past. Lose yourself in wonder at the stunning cathedral-mosque and the renovated synagogue before heading back to Seville.

Day 14

Departure

