



"711 – 1492 - 2011"

Andalucía before, during and after the Inquisition

Andalucía, Southern Spain, is an eternal wellspring of intense beauty, festive spirit and cultural richness. Nowhere else in the world, other than in our own Jerusalem, does one see the collision of three monumental cultures so clearly and to such dramatic effect. The Muslims, Jews and Christians all contributed to a vital, if ultimately tragic, history.

Andalucía is a land of pretty white villages, fabulous cities and undiscovered National Parks. This area was once the heart of the empire of the Moors, whose influence still pervades Andalusian life at every level, most spectacularly in the old cities, which are amongst the most magical in Europe.

Granada, Cordoba and Seville



Granada - 1492, was the end, not the beginning of the story, and although that is where we start our tour, it is like a modern-day novel; we start at the all-too-familiar end and then flashback through several hundred years of history.

Once known as "Granada of the Jews", the site of Shmuel HaNagid's Talmudic Academy is now famous for the incomparably beautiful Moorish Palace of Alhambra, one of the Wonders of the World. In 1492, the decree expelling the Jews from

Spain was signed here. We will also see the Alhambra's Generalife Gardens.

Seville – capital of Andalusia, immortalized in opera classics such as "The Barber of Seville," "Carmen" and "Don Giovanni." Here, the imposing Cathedral is one of the largest in the world and the resting place of Spanish Kings and Queens, as well as that of Christopher Columbus. No one knows if his remains are there.

Then there is the Alcazar Palace, still used as a residence for the Spanish Royal Family, the grand Plaza Espana, site of the pavilion of the great 1929 exhibition. Last but not least, we'll visit the Barrio de Santa Cruz - the former Jewish Quarter. Today, it is one of Seville's most charming areas.

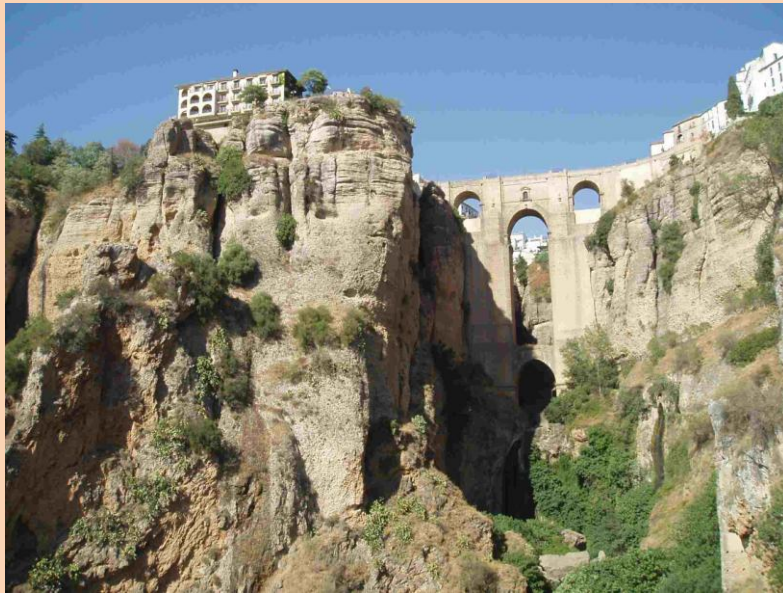


Cordoba – the former home of many Jewish scholars and poets. Once the biggest city in all of Europe, Cordoba thrived and expanded with its unique blend of cultures. These are beautifully expressed with a visit to Mesquita, the most significant Muslim architectural achievement in the Western world. This

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 colorful courtyards and shops. Though not Jewish in its current expression, a few signs hint of the Golden Age of Jewish life. We'll visit the tiny, gem-like Synagogue, as well as the statue of the great court doctor and Torah sage, Maimonides, born in the city. Casa S'farad, an eclectic institution of Jewish culture, is unforgettable.

However there are other, quieter, more rural sides to Andalucía, in the mountains near Ronda, and in the white mountain villages such as Vejer de la Frontera.

Andalucía's famous towns and villages



Ronda – built atop the famous gorge with the river below. Ronda is famed for its beauty, its stunning position and for its bullfighting ring, said to be the oldest in Spain. Less well-known is the Jewish history which we'll hear about.

Vejer de la Frontera - declared a Historic-Artistic Site in 1976, and winner of the First National Embellishment Award in 1978, Vejer de la Frontera's most striking feature is the Arab-Andalucían popular architecture.

The town sits on a hill, a few kilometers away from the coast, and from it the visitor can have a magnificent panoramic view. The walled enclosure and the historic quarter, with its narrow, winding streets and whitewashed houses, are a gorgeous sight. There we will see the medieval castle, from the 11th century, the unexpected Jewish quarter, and the arch of Segur.

Jerez - the home of sherry; in fact the name of the drink is a distortion of the town's name. Our tour to the Tio Pepe winery will conclude with a L'chaim made on the only kosher sherry in the world.

The jet setting Costa del Sol

Marbella and Puerto Banus – we will visit the beautiful old town of Marbella, and also see one of the most authentic Flamenco shows in the area, as well as making a brief visit to the Port to see how this coast has become so popular with the Ferrari set.

Gibraltar – "the Rock", unique and quaintly British, with its tiny but vibrant, extremely powerful, totally observant Jewish community. Entering Gibraltar, you will feel as though you have landed in the British Empire, with quaint sights such as dapper "bobbies" and typically English red "post" boxes. Begin sightseeing this fascinating, independent little plot of land, and gain an in-depth introduction to Gibraltar as seen from a Jewish perspective. The tour will include the Jewish sights and a visit to the Upper Reserve, home of the famous Gibraltar apes.

A day in Morocco

Tangier via Tarifa – a glimpse of North Africa, whose influence spread so powerfully across the straits of Gibraltar into Andalucia.

After driving through the main boulevards and the "Place de France", we pass the fashionable residential districts of "Marché aux Boeufs" and "California"; thence along the new mountain road with its magnificent villas and lovely gardens.



The Jewish Community that remains numbers less than 100 souls, all elderly. We will visit two synagogues, one in the old Mellah, the Jewish quarter, beautiful but unused and the modern synagogue in the new city where prayers are held on Shabbat and Chagim. Most of the Jews left in the last 60 years - to Israel, France and the USA.

After lunch, we take a stroll through the picturesque winding streets and souks of the Medina, to visit the Berber handicraft and spice markets.

Accommodation and Cuisine

Our "home from home", for all but the last night which is in Cordoba, is a luxurious modern 4* boutique hotel, built on the waterfront in the marina of Sotogrande, a small village just 20 minutes from Gibraltar.

As for food, here in Spain you will enjoy an authentic local culinary experience which will include informal participation in preparing some of the dishes you will be eating. Fine Spanish kosher wines will accompany every meal, in unlimited quantities, as always!!

Typical itinerary (always subject to change)



Arrival Day (usually Thursday)

Meeting point options:-

1) Malaga Airport (AGP) 11.00 (direct summer Delta flight from JFK arr. 09.00, flights from London, those coming early to Malaga)

2) Granada airport (GRX) 13.15 (from Madrid, Iberia dep. 11.50; arr. 12.55; from Barcelona, Vueling dep. 12.00; arr. 13.25)

Remember: we highly recommend arriving in Spain a day or two before the tour and staying in Madrid, Barcelona or Malaga, so as to recover from the journey and so as not to be late arriving at the meeting point. We will be pleased to suggest hotels and what to do in those places.

And then we're off.....

Granada - Alhambra Palace – guided tour

We'll have a quick lunch before entering the most impressive Moorish structure in the world, and the room where the final expulsion order was signed by Ferdinand and Isabella. We'll then take a short walk through Granada before setting off to our hotel some 3 hours drive, arriving for a well-deserved welcome dinner!!

Day 2 (usually Friday)

Gibraltar - we will be met by a community elder who will introduce the town, the synagogue and the community; we'll climb the rock (by bus), meet the apes, pass the Oldest Jewish cemetery in the Iberian Peninsula with Tombs of 4 Tzadikim; and we'll eat (of course).... the most typical English Friday lunch in one of the kosher restaurants on Main (almost "only") Street, delicious "fish'n'chips". There'll be a little free time for "duty free" shopping before heading back to prepare for Shabbat.

Day 3 (usually Shabbat)

Shachrit is preceded by coffee and cake and followed by a full breakfast. We'll take a lovely relaxed walk in the neighborhood of the hotel. Late lunch (actually Seuda III), followed by "down-time". Depending on the time of the year, we will have dinner before or after Shabbat is out and if there is time we'll head out to Marbella for some authentic Flamenco (if not we'll see Flamenco during the week).

Day 4 (usually Sunday)

Tangier - a whole day trip by ferry from Tarifa to this fascinating city. Sunday is *always* Morocco day, as Spain is largely closed and Tangier is largely open.

Day 5 (usually Monday)

Ronda – our fantastic guide will walk us through the
Marbella – tour the lovely old town and there will be free time for beach / shopping / wandering through its narrow streets. In summer, we'll stay until late, eating in Marbella and then off to the Flamenco show. Otherwise we'll head back for dinner in the hotel.

Day 6 (usually Tuesday)

Vejer - Walking tour and lunch; our most fascinating, and unexpected, guide will give us an understanding of the history of the modern area and we'll learn specifically about the Spanish Civil War in the last century whose marks still remain in Spain and Spanish society. He'll also explain how he came to be living there from his native.....Israel!!!

Jerez - Tio Pepe Winery tour

Cooking with the chef - in our hotel, followed by dinner

Day 7 (usually Wednesday)

A **VERY** early start – leaving with luggage

Seville – tour of the beautiful city and some free time before lunch

Cordoba – Rambam Synagogue and Beit S'farad

Dinner (and overnight) in 4* Cordoba hotel

Night Walking Tour – "In the steps of the Inquisition"; guided

Day 8 (usually Thursday)

Before leaving town you'll want to see the magnificent **Mesquita**.

Departure options.

We can take you to Malaga airport in time to get the mid-day flights out to Madrid or, in summer, NYC direct.

Many people, however, prefer to take the superfast train from Cordoba to Madrid where they will have time in the city before travelling to Madrid airport for their evening flights to most destinations

For those wishing to extend their stay before or after the tour in Madrid and/or Barcelona, we will be pleased to make all arrangements for flights, hotels, guides and food.

**price: for 8 days and 7 nights
from 2650 Euros pp sharing**
(optional extras - DLX rooms, single occupancy)

Kashrut: a mashgiach tmidi will represent our Rav Machshir, Rav Hassid, the Chief Rabbi of Gibraltar; glatt meat; regular milk, but chalav yisrael observers can be accommodated, if notified in advance

Every day: 3 minyanim, full buffet breakfast, light lunch on the move (except Shabbat), elegant served dinner

not included in the price of your trip

- **flights:** most (but not all) Andalucía tours run from Thursday mid-day to Thursday mid-day.
- **"serious" cycling:** for serious bikers we can arrange professional cycle rentals with or without professional guides.
- **spending money for shopping:** plenty to choose from, although we limit the time allocated. However you can always go off on your own and meet us later!!
- **upgrades:** deluxe rooms (DLX) and single occupancy are available at an additional price (see booking form).
- **insurance:** all clients should be aware that while all efforts are made to avoid any problems before during or after your trip, Naomi carries no insurance for your health or luggage. While using the services only of registered suppliers, we highly recommend that you purchase **fully comprehensive travel insurance as Naomi cannot be held liable for any mishaps during your stay.**
- **tips:** we recommend **100 euro** per person for the week for drivers, chefs, waiters and chambermaids: we will collect and distribute for you.

Andalusia tour dates 2011

March 9 – 16

June 16 – 23

September 8 – 15

November 10 - 17

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