

# Tour of the Iberian Peninsula, August 15<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>

Depart: USA Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, Israel Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - via Madrid to Porto, Portugal

**Monday Aug 15<sup>th</sup>** arrive Porto, Portugal 11.45am

From the airport, we'll go straight to lunch at the **Taylor winery** and follow this with a tour of the city of Porto, including the synagogue, to hear the story of Carlos de Barros Basto before heading south to our gorgeous hotel in Coimbra.

**Hotel Quinta das Lagrimas** <http://www.quintadaslagrimas.pt/>

This **Relais & Chateaux** 4 star DLX hotel is one of Portugal's finest and a wonderful base for our sightseeing tours. The hotel has a huge outdoor pool and a spa with indoor pool. As always we try to stay as long as possible in one hotel (4 nights here) so that we minimize the checking in, checking out and the packing. Also, if you wish to take a day "off" from touring to enjoy the hotel, we'll "see you later for dinner!!"



**Tuesday Aug 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Coimbra** is one of the most ancient university cities in Europe with a richly decorated baroque library that people travel from far and wide to see.

The walls are covered by two storied shelves, in gilded or painted exotic woods; the painted ceilings blend harmoniously with the rest of the decoration. The library contains about 250,000 volumes: works of medicine, geography, history, humanistic studies, science, civil and canonical law, philosophy and theology.

Visit to the **Judiaria**, the ancient Jewish quarter

After lunch back at the hotel, we'll visit **Conimbriga**, just 10 miles away. [This was an important Roman city that still preserves many not-to-be-missed mosaics.](#) These valuable treasures are displayed in the museum next to the ruins.

**Wednesday Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

Climbing up from Coimbra we reach the Serra da Estrela Natural Park, in many of whose villages Jews were settled. After visiting Portugal's highest town, **Guarda**, we will reach the centre of the "lost tribe" of **Belmonte**. The history of this community which survived the inquisition and remained in hiding until discovered in the 1920's is incredible. For only the past 20 years or so, the Jews of Belmonte have been exposed to Judaism as we live it throughout the world and the community in Belmonte, under Rabbinic guidance through Shavei Yisrael, has become the most active community in Portugal.



We will visit the town and have an extended lunch with members of the community, followed by Mincha in their shul, built in 1996. Later in the afternoon we will return to our hotel and have time to enjoy its facilities.

Following a sumptuous dinner, we will take in an evening of "fado", a traditional musical genre of voice accompanied by guitar. Coimbra has its own version and we will be introduced to it this evening.

## Thursday Aug 18<sup>th</sup>

**Tomar** is home to Portugal's oldest synagogues and the Abraham Zacuto **Portuguese Jewish Museum**, a national monument

The Sinagoga de Tomar was built in the mid-15th century. Its short history as a Jewish place of worship came to an end in 1496, when the community was expelled by the Catholic authorities in 1496. The synagogue was subsequently put to such uses as a Christian church, a prison, the city hall, a warehouse, and a hayloft.

Samuel Schwartz, a Jewish mining engineer from Poland, bought the building in 1923. After lovingly restoring it, he donated it to the Portuguese state in 1939. In return, Schwartz and his wife received Portuguese citizenship and protection during World War II.



For contrast, en route back to Coimbra, we'll visit Fatima, site of Catholic pilgrimage after a vision by three young girls in 1917 – it attracts 4 million visitors per year!!

## Friday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>

It's time to say goodbye to Coimbra and travel towards Lisbon.

We will visit **Obidos**, a medieval walled and beautiful village and **Sintra**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on account of its 19th century Romantic architecture and magnificent palaces



We will arrive in **Lisbon** and check into our hotel with time to prepare for Shabbat, 20.09. After Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat in the city's beautiful synagogue we will welcome Rabbi di Martino and his family as our guests for dinner in the hotel, who will tell us about the life and history of the community in fluent English!! And perhaps a Dvar Torah too!!

**Shabbat Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** – Lisbon, with shul, meals and expertly guided walking tours. There is a lot to see in Lisbon and we will see as much as can be organized without any infringement of Shabbat; some institutions will let us pre- or post-pay, so that we can visit inside many of the city's most fascinating sights.  
End of Shabbat: 21.08 – then evening out in Lisbon town.

**Sunday Aug 21st** – Morning flight Lisbon - Malaga and straight to.....



**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!!

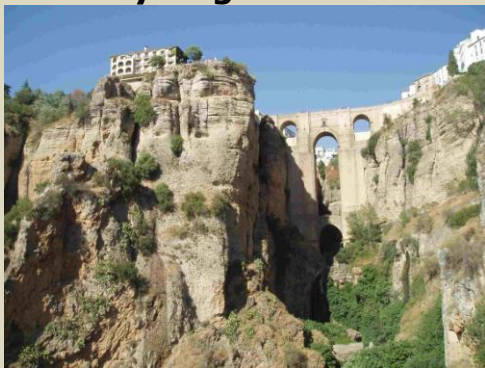
**Monday Aug 22nd**



**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 up to the mountain white village of **Vejer** where our unique guide will fill us in on some history – from the inquisition to the Spanish civil war of the 1930's.

**Tuesday Aug 23rd**



**Ronda** – our guide is Pepe, a proud Spaniard if ever there was one. He will walk us through this most "gorge-ous" city, visiting the historic bullring, crossing the gorge and explain life in the city for the Jews as they transformed into "New Christians".

**Marbella** – tour the lovely old town of this jet-set resort and enjoy a little free time to meander through its narrow streets, or take a nap on the beach. We'll have dinner with the community and then, just when you thought it was time for bed, take in some authentic Flamenco.

**Wednesday Aug 24th**

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 by our friend Haime

**Thursday Aug 25th**

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

**09.29** train to Madrid, arr 11.15 - half-day tour in Madrid (or Toledo)

Evening flight Madrid – NYC / TLV



## prices:

### **Portugal and Spain: for 11 days and 10 nights from 4695 Euros pp sharing**

(optional extras - DLX rooms, single occupancy)

**This includes the transfers from Lisbon to Malaga and from Cordoba to Madrid**

### **Portugal only: for 7 days and 6 nights from 2500 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*

- **International flights:** the transfer from Portugal to Spain is included
- **"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 **150 euro** per guest for drivers, chefs, waiters and chambermaids: we will collect and distribute for you.

## Contact details:

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