

Moisés Hassán-Amsélem

Virgen de Consolación 23, bajo ♦ **41011 Sevilla**, SPAIN

Ph: (+34) 610 245 856 e-mail: jewishspain@gmail.com

www.jewishspain.net

## ITINERARY

### **Nov 11th (Monday): USA – SPAIN.**

Departure from the US. Overnight on board.

### **Nov 12th (Tuesday): SEGOVIA**

Arrival in Madrid. After collecting baggage and clear customs, meet your driver and escort and proceed to your hotel in Madrid to check in. Right after, we are ready for the ride to Segovia, famous for its impressive aqueduct, dating back to the time of Emperor Trajan and also for being the city where Isabella was proclaimed queen in the soaring *Alcázar*, the Castle that

so typifies Spain. We will sure visit the *Corpus Christi* church -once the main synagogue in Segovia-, the Didactic Center of the Jewish quarter -located in Abraham Se-  
neor's former house-, *San Andrés* Gate -from where the Jewish cemetery can be seen-, and both the *Calle de la Juderia Vieja*,



and *Calle de la Juderia Nueva*. Finish your day with a visit to the *Alcázar de Segovia* which was an inspiration to Walt Disney' castles. At the end of the day we will return back to Madrid and have dinner on your own. Overnight in Madrid.

## Nov 13th (Wednesday): TOLEDO

Departure to Toledo, the Imperial City and once known as “Jerusalem of the West”, one of the main centers of Sephardic Jewry in the Middle Ages. After entering into the city through one of the medieval gates, we



are ready to stroll the winding narrow streets which have created a stunning historic labyrinth that opens up to hidden *plazas*. *Mudéjar* architects constructed the Synagogue of *Santa Maria la Blanca* in the 11th century. The complex is mesmerizing in its splendor, completed with elegant horseshoe arches. The synagogue has maintained its original majesty

throughout the turbulent times in Toledo and all Spain. You can also visit El Greco’s house, that used to be the home of Don Shmuel Halevi Abulafia, the wealthy treasurer to king Pedro I of Castile, AKA *el Cruel* (but for others he was known as *el Justiciero*, the Just). After your day in Toledo you will be returning back to Madrid in the afternoon and have some free time before going for dinner on your own. Overnight in Madrid.

## Nov. 14th (Thursday): CORDOBA

Morning train to Córdoba (قرطبة), the birthplace of Lucio Seneca, *Maimónides* (Moshe ben Maimon) and *Averroes* (Ibn Rushd). Upon arrival, we will immediately head to the medieval old *Juderia* to visit its beautiful medieval Synagogue built

in 1315, which is the only one that has survived in this city over the years. Next, we will tour the magnificent 8th century *Mezquita* (Mosque), famous for its pillars of granite, marble, and jasper, finishing our tour on *Calleja de las Flores* (the alley of the flowers), a nice and picturesque little street decorated with lots of flowers.



After spending the day in what it was once considered the most important and biggest city of the western world and the capital of Al Andalus - where the Ummayyads ruled for over three centuries- we will continue our journey to Sevilla. Dinner and overnight in Sevilla.

## Nov 15th (Friday): SEVILLA

After breakfast, we are ready to discover Sevilla, the passionate capital of Andalusia, which lies mostly along the right bank of the Guadalquivir river (from the arabic *al wadi al-kvir* –the big river-). The city was islamic from 711 until 1248, when King Ferdinand III of Castile conquered it back from the Almohads. Sevilla is also where the destruction of spanish jewry began in June of 1391. The bloodshed of Sevilla was the



first of many and within two months, they extended like wildfire all throughout Castile and Aragon. These massacres led to mass conversions and, eventually, to the expulsion in 1492. After checking in your hotel, you are ready to visit the *Reales Alcázares* and its impressive Gardens, built by king Pedro I of Castile in the 14th century -

inspired by Granada's Alhambra- and also the 15th century gothic Cathedral, the third largest church in the world. Kabalat Shabbat and dinner with the local Jewish Community Beit Rambam and overnight in Sevilla.

## Nov 16th (Saturday): SEVILLA/GRANADA (SHABBAT FRIENDLY)

For those that want to experience Shabat, they will have the opportunity to attend morning Services at the local Synagogue or to spend a relaxing morning. Alternatively, you will have a full morning to keep visiting this beautiful city (*Plaza de España and Maria Luisa Gardens, Las Setas, Triana district...*) or just to dedicate some time for shopping around the pedestrian area that locals call *el Centro*, where you will find hundreds of local shops where you can buy all sort of things. Later on, you will sure be hungry so we will be able to enjoy a Shabbat lunch with some discussion after (or even a *siesta* should you prefer) before riding our bus again (once Shabbat is over) that will take us to Granada,



once a powerful Kingdom, where Samuel Ibn Nagrella ruled as its Vizir in the 11th century. Dinner and overnight in Granada.

## Nov 17th (Sunday): GRANADA

Once known as “Garnata al-Yahud” (*Granada* of the Jews), Granada was also the last Moorish stronghold in Spain; it was conquered by the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand II of Aragon & Isabella I of Castile, in



1492. After having breakfast in the hotel, you are ready to visit Granada’s main attraction: the *Alhambra* (أَلْحَمْرَاء – the Red), the mighty yet graceful Citadel and Palace planned by the 13th and 14th centuries Moorish Rulers of Granada. Walking across the Court of the Myrtles you will stop at the “Hall of the Ambassadors” in Comares Tower, where the terrible Edict of Expulsion was issued on March 31st, 1492. Also amble

through the magnificent terraced *Generalife* Gardens, with its shadowy cypresses, oleander, pavilions and cool fountains... heading to the airport to catch an evening flight to Barcelona, probably the most modern and European city in all Spain, and the capital of the region of *Cataluña* (Catalonia). Overnight in Barcelona.

## Nov 18th (Monday): BARCELONA

After having breakfast in our hotel, we are ready to meet our guide Dominique Tomasov-Blinder and head to Montjuïc (literally Mount of the Jews), where the ancient Jewish cemetery was located until the end of the 14th Century. It was declared a landmark site in 2009 at the petition of local Jewish congregations as well as the civil society. We will continue with a visit to the *Fossar de la Pedrera*, a monument for the victims of Nazism. After lunch, you can dedicate the afternoon to Gaudi (*Sagrada Família*, *Passeig de Gracia* – *La Pedrera* and *Casa Batlló*–). Alternatively, you can follow the footsteps of Pi-



casso: the modernist restaurant *Els Quatre Gats*, the meeting place for the intellectuals and artists of the day; the friezes on the façade of the *Col·legi d’Arquitectes*, the only open-air piece of artwork by Picasso; the *Llotja de Mar*, the art school where he studied... and the museum which is home to the most important collection of works from his early life when he was studying art. Overnight in Barcelona.

## Nov 19th (Tuesday): GIRONA/BESALÚ

Departure in the morning heading north to first visit the city of Besalú, which houses a *miqwe*, unexpectedly discovered in 1964. It is the first and only building of this type found in Spain. After, we will travel to Gi-



rona, considered the cradle of the Jewish Kabbalah. Girona's medieval quarter is surrounded by ramparts that rise from the original Roman walls. At its heart is the old Jewish section, known as the "Call", which was restored in 1980. From its main street, once an old Roman road, steep and narrow cobbled alleys wind under archways and between stone buildings that sunlight rarely reaches. We will visit the home of RaMBaN, Rabbi Moshe Ben Nahman (1194-1270) -known in spanish as *Nahmánides* or *Bonastruc Ça Porta-*, the great Kabbalist, which houses today the Jewish Museum. Return to Barcelona and overnight.

## Nov 20th (Wednesday): BARCELONA

Transfer to airport to fly back home.

# JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR OF SPAIN

November 11th-20th, 2019

EUR 2.080 (USD 2325) per person (based on double occupancy)

EUR 400 (USD 450) Single Supplement

## PRICE INCLUDES:

- Train ride from Madrid to Córdoba (coach)
- Transfer to Granada airport and domestic flight from Granada to Barcelona (coach).
- Hotel Accommodation for 8 nights in 4\* Hotels (breakfast is included) in double occupancy.
- Shabbat dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday in Sevilla.
- Flamenco performance in Sevilla.
- Comfortable air-conditioned touring coach.
- Entrance fees are included as specified in the itinerary.
- Experienced, professional english speaking tour guides.
- Moisés Hassán-Amsélem will accompany the group since arrival in Madrid until departure from Barcelona.

## PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Airfare from and back to US.
- Transfer to hotel upon arrival in Madrid (for early arrivals).
- Travel & Health Insurance: All participants should be aware that while all efforts are made to avoid any problems before, during or after the trip, Mr Moisés Hassán-Amsélem, representing JewishSpain.net, DOES NOT carry any insurance for health or luggage of the participants. While using the services only of registered suppliers, it's strongly recommended that participants purchase fully comprehensive travel insurance, to include cancellation, as Mr Moisés Hassán-Amsélem cannot be held liable for any mishaps during your stay..
- Personal expenses and evening entertainment that is not indicated as included in the itinerary
- Tips for local service providers (suggested): EUR 6/person/day to be collected in cash at the beginning of the trip (EUR 48/USD 55 per person).
- Miscellaneous expenses such as departure fees, visas, security surcharges, etc. where applicable.

## **DEPOSIT, CANCELLATION FEES & POLICY:**

- A deposit of EUR 200/USD 225 per person (non-refundable) must be received at the time of booking in order to confirm your reservation.
- A second payment of EUR 940/USD 1050 per person (non-refundable) will be done by August 7th 2019.
- Payment in full (EUR 940/USD 1050 USD per person) is due by Wednesday, October 7th, 2019.
- A minimum number of 18 paying participants is required to operate the tour at the above prices.
- Credit card information of the participants will be required on the registration form in case of hotel incidentals or damage
- Extending Your Stay – Accommodations can often be made for those wishing to arrive earlier or depart later than the program dates; please ask at the time of your booking.
- Responsibility - Initial registration indicates agreement with all terms and conditions as stated in this document. Mr. Moisés Hassán-Amsélem reserves the right to make any itinerary changes whenever, in its sole judgement, as conditions warrant. Mr. Moisés Hassán-Amsélem shall not be liable, directly or indirectly, for any injury, death or damage for any reason whatsoever, including but not limited to war, acts of God, weather, strike, detention, delay, airline or other travel-related circumstances. Mr. Moisés Hassán-Amsélem also reserves the right to accept or refuse any person as a course participant. No refund is applicable if a participant is asked to leave. Mr. Moisés Hassán-Amsélem is not responsible for any belongings damaged, lost or left behind by participants.