

The Jewish Museum Travel Program

DON'T MISS this perfect opportunity to gain new knowledge in a beautiful Old World. Immerse yourself in a fascinating tour of art and Jewish history with extended stays in Amsterdam and Bruges and delightful day-long trips to Ghent, Antwerp and Brussels.

The Netherlands and Belgium

May 25 - June 5, 2011

Program includes five nights in Amsterdam and Bruges plus day trips to Ghent, Antwerp and Brussels.



The Jewish Bride, Rembrandt 1667

“Secret Jews” fleeing the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions in Iberia began to arrive in Antwerp and Amsterdam in the 16th century. They hoped to live openly as Jews in Holland and to pursue commerce with members of their faith in the New World, Far East and Ottoman Empire. Granted the right to settle in Amsterdam, they quickly developed into the largest Jewish community in Europe.

In Holland, a leading power of the 17th century, Jews soon excelled in such fields as printing, finance, trade and philosophy. These Sephardic Jews were then joined by tens of thousands of Ashkenazim fleeing tragic events in

Eastern Europe. Side by side, they established themselves in this new, free society and sowed the seeds of modern Jewish life.



Ghent

Join us as we explore the heritage, history and culture of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews who returned to Judaism in the 16th and 17th centuries. Along the way, we will stay at deluxe hotels, visit Amsterdam's magnificent museums and markets, see the charming houses and tangled streets of Bruges and enjoy the spectacular countryside.

Wednesday, May 25:

Depart U.S. for Amsterdam

Thursday, May 26:

Arrive Amsterdam, check into the 5-star Sofitel Amsterdam The Grand. Set in a historic building from 1578, the Sofitel is located within walking distance of most major landmarks including the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, Royal Palace and the House of Anne Frank.

Evening: Introduction and Overview by Dr. Jane Gerber; orientation and opening dinner (included).

Friday, May 27:

Full day tour beginning in Dam Square— one of Amsterdam's oldest public plazas, dating to 1270 and once the bustling center of the city. Then visit the Anne Frank House and Museum. After lunch on our own tour Rembrandt House Museum (where the artist worked and lived) before returning to the hotel for a festive Shabbat dinner (included).

Saturday, May 28:

Morning (optional): Attend services at the historic Portuguese Synagogue or rest and relax. An afternoon city walking tour will include visits to the famous Rijksmuseum and the Jewish Historical Museum.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Gerber on *The Sephardic Dispersion and the Return of the Jews to Western Europe: the Challenges of Building a Community and Retrieving a Jewish Past*. Dinner on our own.

Sunday, May 29:

Depart hotel for the Kröller-Müller Art Museum, with its world-renowned collection of 19th and 20th century art, including a large collection of works by Vincent van Gogh. En-route, stop at Ouderkerk Sephardic Cemetery, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Amsterdam. Dating to 1612, its remarkable carved marble tombstones contain inscriptions in many languages (including Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch and Hebrew) and have been a subject for prominent Dutch artists. Then, visit the Dutch Tile Museum in Otterlo, which boasts the largest collection of Dutch wall tiles. Return to Amsterdam.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Gerber, *Amsterdam: The Dutch Jerusalem of the 17th Century*. Dinner on our own.



Ghent Center

Monday, May 30:

Tour the renowned Van Gogh Museum, followed by **lunchtime on your own then a visit** to Museum van Loon - a house museum dating to 1672 (the first resident was painter Ferdinand Bol, a pupil of Rembrandt).

Evening: Dinner cruise on one of Amsterdam's picturesque canals (included).

Tuesday, May 31:

Early morning departure for Bruges. En-route, walking tour of Ghent - considered Belgium's most beautiful city and known worldwide for its flower trade – followed by a visit to the Holocaust Memorial and

Cathedral of Ghent, where we view the “Polyptich of the Mystic Lamb” one of Belgium's masterpieces by the van Eyck brothers (c.1432). Break for lunch on our own before continuing to Bruges, a UNESCO World Heritage city and base for the next five nights.

Check into the luxury, boutique Hotel de Tuilerieëne in time for dinner (included).

Wednesday, June 1:

Begin day with a tour of Bruges, affectionately known as the “Venice of the North.” Walk through its Main Square with Town and Market Halls, stopping at the Church of our Lady to view Michelangelo's statue, *Madonna and Child*, then the Church of the Holy Blood (12th c.) with its lower chapel virtually unchanged and the Béguinage, founded in the 13th century (time permitting, visit the Groeninge or Memling Museum). Evening: Presentation by Dr. Gerber, *Chapters in the Life of the Jews of Belgium: From the Underground Railroad in 16th Century Antwerp to the Hidden Jewish Children during World War II*.

Thursday, June 2: Day trip to Brussels, including the Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the Gothic Guild Halls in the old center. Following an overview drive past the Royal Palace, Parliament, antique district and Jubilee Gate, visit to the Cathedral, with its stained glass windows that tell stories of persecution in the Middle Ages, and on to the Central Synagogue and Memorial of the Jewish Martyrs. Following lunch on our own, visit the van Buuren Museum - former residence of a Jewish couple (who transformed their residence into a unique collection of art and furniture) and the Horta Museum (architect Victor Horta was the initiator and leading exponent of Art Nouveau in Belgium).



City Hall of Antwerp

Friday, June 3:

Depart hotel for Antwerp, the city of diamonds. The walking tour will include the medieval town center, Guldehuizen, former headquarters of the city's guild masters of the 16th and 17th centuries, and Vleeshuis, an excellent example of 16th c. guild houses and currently a museum of archaeology, ceramics, arms, religious art, sculpture, musical instruments, coins and medieval furnishings. During the day, we also visit the Jewish quarter and the Diamond district before returning to Bruges for an evening Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).

Saturday, June 4:

Morning free to rest and relax or to explore Bruges's sites and museums on our own. Afternoon: (optional) tour of the Gruuthuse House and Museum - a mansion, constructed in 1465 and belonging to one of the richest families of the medieval city. Gruuthuse is now an archaeological museum and houses a large collection of diverse works of art including tapestries, paintings and furniture.

Evening: Closing meeting and dinner (included).

Sunday, June 5:

Depart Bruges for Brussels and return home.



Rabbi Menasseh Ben Israel (1604-1657)

Accompanying Scholar:

The scholar-in-residence is **Professor Jane Gerber**. Dr. Gerber is a leading authority on Sephardic Jewish History and the author of numerous books including *The Jews of Spain*, and the forthcoming *Cities of Splendor in the Shaping of Sephardic History* and *The Jewish Diaspora of the Caribbean*. Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Center for Jewish Studies and the Institute for Sephardic Studies at the City University of New York Graduate Center and the winner of numerous honors and awards including the National Jewish Book Award, she is a Finalist for the Excellence in Teaching Award at CUNY.



Bruges

Our Guide:

Lucy Rapoport was born and schooled in England before moving to Italy. Fluent in Italian, German, French and Spanish, She has been a European tour manager for over twenty years. Ms. Rapoport's attention to detail, knowledge of history, and considerable expertise will add immeasurably to your enjoyment on this trip.



Floral carpet in Brussels

Limited to 30 participants: This trip is open to current members of The Jewish Museum. *Designed for people of all ages, the travel program entails walking moderate distances which may include uneven terrain.* Please feel free to call the Museum Travel Program office if you have any questions, and we will be happy to speak with you personally.

Program Details:

Land Program Cost: \$ 5,760 (plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

***Program Fee Includes:**

- Ten nights in deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily; four lunches and five dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, museum and site entrance fees
- All ground transportation for group travel

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1,350. For those preferring to share a room who need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply.

Gratuities (\$125) additional. Refund policy upon request and with registration. *Balance due: February 25, 2011*

Registration: Amsterdam and Bruges

Please complete and include deposit of \$750 per person. Mail or fax to:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (day) _____ (eve) _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

YES! I am registering now and my non-refundable deposit is enclosed.

I prefer a double room. I need a roommate.

I'll be traveling with _____

I would prefer a single room (single room supplement \$1350)

I will make my own air arrangements I would like help with my air arrangements

I am a member of The Jewish Museum.

I am not yet a member of The Jewish Museum.

(Basic Membership fee of \$75 will be added to final invoice. Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership, will be forwarded with registration acknowledgment.)

Credit Card Registration Accepted by Telephone or Fax:

Telephone: (845) 256-0194, Fax (845) 256-0196, or mail.

Visa Master Card American Express

Card holder's name: _____

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature: _____

Disclaimer of Responsibility:

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Museum and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Museum and its respective employees assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will The Jewish Museum be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty.