

Travel with The Jewish Museum

Venice, Florence & Rome A Luxurious Jewish Museum Tour October 30 – November 10, 2011



Culturally, historically and spiritually, Italian Jewry is unique—considered neither Sephardi nor Ashkenazi. The Jews of Italy have always had their own distinct culture, religious rites and cuisine. Little-known is that Italy is the true birthplace of European Judaism with a community preceding the reign of Julius Caesar. During the Middle Ages, Italy played a critical role as a crossroads for Jews departing Spain and Germany while migrating east, serving as both refuge and ghetto. It is this seldom explored, extremely fascinating history and age-old culture that will inform this exclusive trip.

Among other places, our travels will take us to Venice, Bologna, Florence, Siena and Rome—with accomplished Italian Jewish scholars and guides to illuminate the way. Every element of the trip has been planned with the finest of amenities in mind, from luxury hotels to Italian gourmet food of the highest quality. We have upgraded to deluxe rooms at the Four Seasons in Florence and the Europa & Regina on the Grand Canal in Venice. We will overnight at the spectacular Eden in Rome, near the famed Spanish Steps that climb skyward from one stunning piazza to another. Transportation in Venice is via private water taxis with luxury buses covering the rest of the trip. Guests are limited to 25 to ensure a personalized experience.

This trip is designed with the utmost comfort in mind. Please join us and luxuriate in the finest food, wine, travel and accommodations beautiful Italy, with its ancient Jewish culture, has to offer.

Program Details

*Program Fee Includes:

- Ten nights, deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches & 5 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 \$1400

Land Program Cost: \$6800* (plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for non-member)

Cost is \$6950 after June 30, 2011 (plus membership fee)

For more information, please contact our office at 845-256-0194 or e-mail us jmtravelinfo@aol.com



Venice Grand Canal

Sunday, October 30:

For those wishing to travel on group flight, depart JFK on a Delta non-stop flight to Venice.

Monday, October 31: Check into the 5-star Europa & Regina Hotel located on the Grand Canal of Venice, steps from St. Marks Square. Rest and relax from our journey before orientation and dinner at our hotel (included).

Tuesday, November 1: Morning walking tour guided by Roberta Curiel (native Venetian and co-author of "The Venetian Ghetto") through St. Mark's Square and surroundings, including the Doge's Palace. Following lunch on our own, we will visit the Jewish Ghetto made famous by Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. The Venice Ghetto, a pleasant neighborhood where the city's small Jewish community still lives is also the location of several synagogues (we will visit four) and a fascinating Jewish museum, the Museo Comunità Ebraica, where we will enjoy a tour and lecture on "The Jews of Venice" by a historian at the Museum.

Wednesday, November 2: Morning tour across the Grand Canal to the island of Lido where we will visit the Old Cemetery (founded in 1386, one of the oldest and most important Jewish cemeteries in Europe) and New Cemetery (still in use today). Afternoon guided tour of the Ca' Rezzonico, an 18th century palace noted for its frescos and vast collection of 18th century Venetian art ... OR ...free to explore Venice on our own with your personal "Museum Pass" to one of the many museums of Venice*.



Great Synagogue Florence

Thursday, November 3: Depart Venice for Florence. En-route, visit Ferrara, setting of the novel, “The Garden of the Finzi Contini,” home of some of Italian Jewry’s most outstanding personalities. Hebrew printing flourished here in the 15th and 16th centuries. Continue to Bologna and visit the National Jewish Museum where we will meet with a representative of the local Jewish community before continuing on to Florence. Check in to the luxurious 5-star Four Seasons hotel, rest and relax before dinner at the Four Seasons (included).

Friday, November 4: Begin our tour of Florence with a visit to its beautifully decorated synagogue and Jewish Museum with an introduction to the history of Florence. Walking through the city center, we will discover the unexpected presence of Jewish history from the 15th to the 20th centuries by visiting some of its most famous landmarks, including the Duomo with the famous Baptistery’s Gates of Paradise (10 panels with Old Testament stories), the Piazza della Repubblica (where the ghetto once stood); the Piazza della Signoria and Ponte Vecchio areas, and Via dei Giudei (“Jews Street”). Following a break for lunch on our own, we will visit the Uffizi Gallery, whose highlights include works by Botticelli, Leonardo de Vinci and Michelangelo for a guided tour. Evening: Shabbat dinner (included) at a local restaurant (included).

Saturday, November 5: Morning free to attend services and/or rest. Afternoon: (optional) walking architectural tour of Florence led by Giovanna Bossi Rosenfeld, who holds a degree in the History of Florentine Architecture from the University of Florence. Evening: free to enjoy a cultural event of Florence; dinner on our own.

Sunday, November 6: Depart for Rome. Enroute visit Siena with its well-preserved medieval architecture including the Great Synagogue of Siena, whose marble columns flanking the art are said to have been brought from Jerusalem. In Siena, we will have time to wander about and have lunch on our own before continuing on to Rome, where we will check in to the 5-star Eden Hotel. Rest and relax before dinner (included).



The Roman Forum

Monday, November 7: Enjoy seeing Rome through the eyes of Micaela Pavoncello, whose Roman-Jewish ancestry and knowledge of Jewish Rome make her a unique guide for our group. Visits to the

Arch of Titus, the Great Synagogue (and its Jewish Museum) and the Trastevere quarter on the banks of the Tiber River – once the center of Rome’s important Jewish community. Following lunch (included) we will end the day at the Jewish Catacombs.

Tuesday, November 8: Morning guided tour of the Borghese Gallery, housed in the former Villa Borghese -- Borghese was an early patron of Bernini and an avid collector of works by Titian, Caravaggio, Raphael, Peter Paul Rubens and Federico Barocci. Lunch (on our own) before guided tour (on our own) of The Vatican, with special emphasis on its Jewish connection, including its famed museum, Raphael rooms and Sistine Chapel. Special access to the Lapidario Ebraico, the archive of the first Roman Jews and collection of gravestones and epigraphs from the Jewish catacombs.

Wednesday, November 9: Morning visit to Ostia Antica, where an ancient synagogue was accidentally unearthed during construction of Rome’s airport, followed by lunch at a seaside restaurant (included). Afternoon free for visits to sites of personal interest and/or last minute shopping... OR (optional) tour of ancient Rome, including the Colosseum and Roman Forum. Evening: Discussion and festive closing dinner.

Thursday, November 10: Depart Rome for U.S.

Our Scholars & Guides in Residence:



Venice: Roberta Curiel, is a licensed, professional guide and native Venetian who specializes in Jewish tours of Venice. Roberta has a degree in foreign literatures (English and Spanish) and is also co-author of “The Venetian Ghetto,” a book on Venice's Jewish history and synagogues.



Florence: Giovanna Bossi Rosenfeld, a native historian of Florence and licensed tour guide, specializes in tours of Florence from a Jewish perspective. Giovanna also has a degree from the University of Florence in the history of Florentine architecture.



Rome: Micaela Pavoncello, whose ancestry is Roman-Jewish, is an Art Historian and has been featured in articles by the Jerusalem Post, Hadassah Magazine and Newsweek. As a licensed tour guide, she specializes in Jewish tours of Rome and runs the Jewish Roma Cultural Association.

*The Venice MUSEUM PASS grants entrance to and is valid for one admission to each Museum Including:

- Doge's Palace*
- St. Mark's basilica
- Ca' Rezzonico - Museum of 18th-C. Art*
- Museum of Palazzo Mocenigo
- Carlo Goldoni's House
- Ca' Pesaro, Gallery of Modern Art & Oriental Art Museum
- Glass Museum - Murano
- Lace Museum – Burano
- Museum of Natural History
- Museo Correr and current exhibition
- Museo Archeologico Nazionale

*Included in our group's itinerary



Program Details:



Trip Escort: Lucy Rapoport was born and schooled in England before moving to Italy. Fluent in Italian, German, French and Spanish, Lucy has been a tour manager for over 20 years and has accompanied previous Jewish Museum groups to Croatia, Northern Italy, Southern Italy, Spain and Sicily. With Lucy's attention to detail, knowledge of Italy, and considerable expertise in guiding groups, participants will be well-served on this trip

Participation: Limited to 25 participants, this program is open to members at the Individual level and above of The Jewish Museum. Non-members are welcome to join the Museum at the [Individual](#) level to participate. [Designed for people of all ages, Museum travel programs entail walking moderate distances which may include uneven or slightly hilly terrain.](#)

Land Program Cost: \$6,800 / \$6950 after June 30, 2011
(plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

***Program Fee Includes:**

- Ten nights accommodations at 5 star deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily; two lunches & five dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, Museum and site entrance fees (including Venice Museum pass)
- All ground transportation for group travel

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1450. For those preferring to share a room and need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Gratuities (\$145) additional. Balance in full due: June 30, 2011

Non-stop round trip air: New York-Venice/Rome-New York on Delta available at \$670 (plus airport tax and fuel charge at time of ticketing). For those interested, please call Jo Fisher at 845-256-0194

Changes:

All rights are reserved by The Jewish Museum to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

Insurance:

For losses necessitated by you having to cancel your participation. For your convenience, trip cancellation insurance forms will be sent upon registration or consult your own insurance agent.

Cancellations and Refunds:

All cancellations must be received by the Jewish Museum Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 120 days prior to departure: full refund less \$750 deposit per person; 119-90 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. Refunds 89-75 days: 25% after nonrefundable deposit per person. No refunds after this date.

Our Luxury Accommodations: The hotels reserved were selected for their locations, comfort and discreet personalized service. For those interested in arriving earlier in Venice, additional nights at the Westin Europa & Regina available at \$175 per person (double occupancy) and \$300 (single occupancy). In Venice, a limited number of partial Grand Canal view rooms are available at 65 Euros per room per night additional; full view rooms available at 110 Euros per room per night additional.



Europa & Regina Venice: Located on the Grand Canal with its newly renovated rooms (reserved especially with our group in mind), it faces the beautiful Baroque church of Santa Maria della Salute in a peaceful corner of Venice, giving guests access to all this historical city has to offer. The famous monuments of Piazza San Marco are just steps away.



The Four Seasons Firenze: An enchanted sanctuary in the midst of Florence where an art-filled Renaissance palazzo and conventino frame a centuries-old private park. Designed to feel welcoming and comfortably residential, the accommodations are bright and airy, inspired by a mélange of warm Tuscan yellows and greens. Picturesque views encompass the neighboring streets, the surrounding palazzos and gardens, and the Hotel's own central Giardino della Gherardesca.



Hotel Eden Rome: Set in the heart of the eternal city of Rome, the Via Veneto, the Spanish Steps, and Via Condotti are just a short walk from the hotel's doorstep. The hotel overlooks the seven historic hills of Rome and its turn-of-the-century origins are evident in subdued colors, discreet patterns, rich fabrics, and classic paintings and prints. Complete with marble bathrooms and classic Italian furnishings, the soul of Hotel Eden lies in its charming cultural décor. The rooftop La Terrazza dell' Eden offers one of the most picturesque panoramas in Rome.

Registration

Please complete, include a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person, and mail or fax to: The Jewish Museum Travel Program, 27 North Chestnut Street, New Paltz, NY 12561
Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196

Destination and Date of Trip: _____

Name

Address

City State Zip Phone (day)
Phone (evening) Phone (cell) E-mail

Single room Double room I'm travelling with _____

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

METHOD OF DEPOSIT *Credit card registration accepted by telephone or fax

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card MasterCard Visa American Express

Name as it appears on card Signature of cardholder

Billing address (if different from above)

City State Zip

Account number Expiration date Security code

Deposit amount (If you are not a member of the Museum, a membership fee of \$75 per person will be added to the final invoice). Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership will be forwarded with registration acknowledgement.

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.