



La Alhambra, Granada

“Jewish Statesmen & Scholars of Andalucia”
The Jewish Museum’s Heritage Tour of Southern Spain
October 23-November 3, 2010

Culturally, artistically and linguistically the Jews of Spain have carried with them some of the richest traditions in Jewish history. Spain was the most magnificent producer of Hebrew poetry in the Golden Age of Hebrew literature - a place where even rabbis wrote poetry of love, wine drinking and friendship.

We invite you to join the Jewish Museum’s 2010 journey to Southern Spain, when we will visit such places as the historic synagogues of Toledo, the medieval synagogue of Cordoba (a city still associated with Maimonides), and explore the grandeur of Granada with its magnificent Alhambra palace, yet- for Spanish Jewry- carrying with it the melancholy echo of the expulsion decree.

During the course of our trip, beginning in Madrid and ending in Seville, we will visit medieval castles and synagogues and learn about the Golden Age of Spain, the distinctiveness of Sephardic Jewish history, and the heroic personalities who assured Sephardic creativity and survival.

Our accompanying scholar will be Professor Ray Scheindlin, who will address a wide variety of themes, including the significance of Toledo for Spanish Jewry; Maimonides; Samuel the Nagid; Yehuda Halevi and the poetry and mysticism of Jewish medieval Spain. Additionally, along the way, we will enjoy music from medieval Spain and hear guest artist mezzo-soprano Janice Meyerson sing examples of traditional Sephardic Jewish music, including soulful songs in Ladino.

Itinerary in brief:

Saturday, October 23: For those traveling with the group: depart JFK on late evening flight to Madrid

Sunday, October 24:

Morning arrival in Madrid; board deluxe coach and proceed to our five star luxury hotel, the Gran Melia Fenix - located a short distance from the Prado, Reina Sofia and Thyssen museums. Rest and relax from our journey. Afternoon: (optional) overview tour of Madrid.

Evening: Orientation, Opening Discussion and Overview Dr. Ray Scheindlin followed by Welcoming Dinner (included).

Monday, October 25:

Day trip to nearby World Heritage city of Toledo where, in its once historic Jewish quarter, we will visit the Synagogue of El Transito – built for Shmuel Halevi in 1356 and today forming part of an impressive Sephardic Museum exploring the Jewish culture of Medieval Toledo. From the El Transito, we will walk to the Ibn Shushan Synagogue (now known as “Santa Maria la Blanca”) - erected in 1180 and currently serving as a museum for the city of Toledo. Additionally, in Toledo (which was also home to El Greco) we will view El Greco’s famous painting “the burial of the Count of Orgaz” (painted for his own parish church, Santo Tomé) and visit the Cathedral of Toledo - whose library contains the “Scroll of Ahimaaz” (“Scroll of Genealogies” - a wonderful account of a family of rabbis and mystics from southern Italy in the 9th-11th centuries).

6:30-7:30 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin, “The Hebrew Poet and the Christian King: Todros Abulafia and Alfonso X” followed by dinner on our own.

Tuesday, October 26:

We will spend today touring Madrid- taking in such sites as the Plaza Mayor, the Royal Palace; the world famous Prado, and a guided tour of the Monasterio de las Descalzas Reales (16th century convent turned museum housing paintings by Rubens & Titian). Late afternoon free for exploring sites of personal interest in Madrid, relaxing, and/or shopping....

6:30-7:30 p.m.: Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin, “The Caliph and his Jewish Courtier, Hasdai Ibn Shaprut,” followed by dinner on our own ... or... (optional) dinner and Flamenco dance performance.

Wednesday, October 27:

Early morning departure (via speed train) for Cordoba, “city of learning,” birthplace of Maimonides and site of the famed Mezquita (Great Mosque of Cordoba). Walking tour of Cordoba will include Rambam (Maimonides) Synagogue; Calle de los Judios (once the main street of Cordoba’s Jewish Quarter) and the world renowned Mezquita. Following lunch on our own, continue to Granada, checking in to the “luxurious and stylish” Fontecruz Granada before dinner (included) at our hotel.

Thursday, October 28:

Following a leisurely breakfast, city tour of Granada, including the Albaicin (ancient Moorish neighborhood); and the legendary Alhambra- 14th century Moorish palace and fortress –and site of the expulsion decree. We will also visit the cathedral containing the tombs of Ferdinand and Isabella Lunch (included) and afternoon free to visit sites of personal interest in Granada or wander about the city on our own.

Evening free: dinner on our own.

Friday, October 29:

Depart Granada for Marbella – picturesque Andalusian town situated on the Mediterranean, where we will spend our weekend by the sea. En-route to Marbella, stop in Malaga (birthplace of Pablo Picasso), whose archaeological monuments date back to the Phoenician and Roman periods. Malaga’s historic center is an "Open Museum" displaying its rich history of more than 3,000 years. We will also visit the Alcazaba, an Arab fortress built in the 11th c. Afternoon: arrive Marbella and check in to the “palatial” 5 star,

luxurious Gran Melia Don Pepe hotel situated on the sea in the heart of Andalucia.
Evening: festive, Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).

Saturday, October 30:

Morning Free to attend services, rest, relax, enjoy the hotel's amenities...and explore Marbella on our own, and, for those interested, afternoon guided walking tour of "Old Town" in Marbella.
6:00-7:30 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin, "The Melancholy Philosopher: Solomon Ibn Gabirol" and Performance by Janice Meyerson, followed by dinner on our own.

Sunday, October 31:

Depart Marbella for Seville, considered by many "the soul of Spain," stopping en-route in Ronda- one of the loveliest and most historical towns in Andalucia- for a walking tour and lunch (included) before continuing on to Seville where we will arrive by late afternoon. Check in to Alfonso XIII, one of Spain's finest hotels (a luxurious landmark symbolizing the city's Moorish influences and situated in the heart of Seville) in time for dinner (included) at the Alfonso XIII.

Monday, November 1:

Full day tour of Seville, capital of Andalucia, including Alcazar (Palace/gorgeous gardens), Seville's magnificent Cathedral (largest religious monument in Spain, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture) and the nearby famous Giralda Tower; the Barrio Santa Cruz, once the most important Jewish settlements in Andalucia, free time for lunch on our own and a visit to the Plaza de Espana and Parque Maria Luisa-remaining pavilions of the 1929 World's Fair. Time permitting, we will also visit Seville's famous bullfighting arena – most impressive in Spain.
6:30-7:30 p.m. Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin: "Three Jewish Poets in Granada: Samuel the Nagid, Moses Ibn Ezra & Judah Halevi."

Tuesday, November 2:

Morning: half day trip to Palos de Frontera, where we will visit the Monasterio de la Rabida (Franciscan Monastery founded in the 15th century containing impressive frescoes depicting the life of Columbus) and board replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria [Columbus' ships] before returning to Seville by mid afternoon. Remainder of afternoon free for last minute shopping and/or exploring Seville sites of personal interest.
Evening: Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin, "The Zohar, a Jewish Mystical Classic from Spain", closing discussion and musical performance by Janice Meyerson, followed by festive, closing dinner at our hotel (included).

Wednesday, November 3:

Depart Seville for U.S.

Accompanying Scholar:

Raymond P. Scheindlin, Ph.D., is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has served as the Seminary's Provost. Author of numerous articles and books, Dr. Scheindlin's publications include [A Short History of the Jewish People](#), as well as companion volumes on Hebrew Literature in the Middle Ages, entitled [Wine, Women and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life](#), and [The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel and the Soul](#). A past Guggenheim fellow, Dr. Scheindlin is a member of the editorial boards of several scholarly journals. His latest book is [The Song of the Distant Dove: Pilgrimage Poems by Judah Halevi](#).



Sinagoga Santa Maria La Blanca

Accompanying Artist:

Janice Meyerson, M.M. has a master's degree in music from the New England Conservatory. She has sung as a soloist with the New York City Opera, the Boston Symphony, Deutsche Oper, Berlin and the Spoleto Festival among numerous others.

A gifted mezzo-soprano and interpreter of song, Ms. Meyerson will perform Ladino and Hebrew examples of Sephardic music which will be informative as well as entertaining.



Image of a Jewish cantor reading the Passover story in *al-Andalus*, from a 14th century Spanish Haggadah

Program Details:

Land Program Cost: \$ 5900

(plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

*Program Fee Includes:

- Ten nights accommodations at 5 star deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily; three lunches & five dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, Museum and site entrance fees
- All ground transportation for group travel, including speed train from Madrid to Cordoba

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1750. 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 (\$125) additional. Balance in full due: June 24, 2010

Participation: Limited to 30 participants:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program is open to all members of The Jewish Museum; non-members are welcome to join the Museum to participate. [Designed for people of all ages, Museum travel programs entail walking moderate distances which may include uneven or slightly hilly terrain.](#)

We recommend arriving in Madrid earlier to acclimate yourself to the time difference. For those interested, additional nights at the Gran Melia Fenix in Madrid are \$ 195 per person (double occupancy) and \$325 (single occupancy). 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.



Our guide:

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 twenty years. Specializing in Europe, Lucy has accompanied previous Jewish Museum groups to Croatia, Northern and Southern Italy, as well as Sicily. With Lucy's attention to detail, knowledge of Spain, and considerable expertise in guiding groups, participants will be well served on this trip.



Alhambra interior, Granada

To Register:

Include non-refundable deposit of \$750, payable to The Jewish Museum. Please complete the attached registration form and return to:
The Jewish Museum Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

(OR) Registration accepted by telephone or fax with credit card
Tel. (845) 256-0194 Fax (845) 256-0196

Changes:

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

Insurance:

We strongly recommend travel insurance in the event you may have to cancel your participation. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration ... or consult your own agent.

Cancellations and Refunds:

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

For More Information: contact The Jewish Museum Travel Program at:

Tel. 845-256-0194 Fax: 845-256-0196 or e-mail < TheJMtravelinfo@aol.com >



Registration: Southern Spain:

Please complete, include deposit of \$750 per person, and 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 \$1750)

I will make my own air arrangements I would like help with making air arrangements
and will call the Jewish Museum Travel Program at 845 256 0194

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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Master Card <input type="checkbox"/> American Express Card holder's name: _____ Card number: _____ Code: _____ 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.