

KREPLACH & BACALHAU
JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR TO PORTUGAL
LED BY ROBYN HELZNER
October 22 - November 1, 2023

Sunday, October 22, 2023

DEPARTURE

- Depart the USA.

Overnight: Flight

Monday, October 23, 2023

THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY

- Arrival at Porto International Airport.
- Meet your tour educator who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- Begin with a panoramic tour of **Porto**, recognized as one of Europe's best destinations. Also known as Oporto, it is the capital of port wine and a fascinating mix of Baroque and modern art and architecture.
- *Romanesque to Romanticism*: View the main sites of the city, including: **Avenida dos Aliados**, **Clerigos Tower**, which is known as the symbol of the city, **Sao Bento train station**, decorated with 20,000 tiles depicting the history of Portugal, the **Stock Exchange Palace** (Palacia da Bolsa), known for its uniquely designed rooms and located in the Infante D. Henrique Square in the historical center of Porto, and the **Ribeira** neighborhood near the river front, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Check into the hotel.
- *Portugal - Small Country, Great Nation: Welcome dinner* and orientation with your tour educator at a restaurant. **Overview** of the group journey; including reviewing the itinerary, the group themes, the different narratives. Share group and personal goals.

Meals: Dinner

Overnight: Porto

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

PORTO - PLANTED GARDENS AND JEWISH ROOTS

- Visit the **Crystal Palace Gardens** for fantastic views overlooking the Douro River.
- Stroll through the trendy **art gallery district** around Rua De Miguel Bombarda for a refreshing and lively insight into Porto's contemporary art scene.
- Visit the **Kadoorie Synagogue Mekor Haim**. Inaugurated in 1938, it stands as the largest synagogue in the Iberian Peninsula. Walk through the museum housed within to learn more about the Jewish community of Porto.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Visit one of the **port cellars** in Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river, where famous Port wines are stored and aged, including **port wine tasting**.
- Remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore on your own.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Porto

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

DISCOVERING JEWISH IDENTITY

- Check out of the hotel and depart Porto.
- Drive through the **Douro Valley**, famous as the only authentic producer of port wine.
- Visit **Vila Real**, including the **Mateus Palace** built in Baroque-style, and which serves as a vineyard, producing the famous Portuguese wine Mattheus.
- Drive south and visit the old city of **Peso da Regua**, situated on the banks of the Douro River.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- *A History Tunnel into the Jewish Communities of Portugal - from Inquisition to Rediscovery* with your tour educator.
- *First Mezuzah in 500 years*: Stop in **Trancoso** and visit the **Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center of Jewish Culture**, commemorating the Jewish community that existed in this small town.
- *Behind the Veil*: Continue to **Belmonte**, where a small Jewish community survived in secrecy for hundreds of years by hiding all the external signs of their faith.
- Check into the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Belmonte

Thursday, October 26, 2023

HISTORIC CROSSROADS AND THE JEWS

- Check out of the hotel.
- *People of the Book*: Visit the **Jewish Museum**, which reflects the history of the Belmonte Jewish community from the time of the Middle Ages.
- Visit the **Synagogue** in Belmonte and meet with a representative of the local Jewish community for a conversation on the *Anussim* of Portugal.
- Depart Belmonte and drive to **Coimbra**, home to one of the world's first universities.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city upon arrival.
- *Building of the Book(s)*: Visit the **University of Coimbra**, including its impressive **library**, built in the early 18th century with rooms rich in gilt and exotic wood, and lined with 300,000 books.
- Check into the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Coimbra

Friday, October 27, 2023

MEDIEVAL MONOTHEISTS AND THEIR HOUSES OF WORSHIP

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Drive to the historic **Tomar**, including a visit to the famous, ancient **Jewish synagogue** which dates back to the 15th century.
- Visit the **Convent of the Order of Christ**, originally a Templar stronghold built in the 12th century and one of Portugal's most important historical and artistic monuments. The Convent is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- *Time permitting: Fortified Antiquity*: Visit the well preserved whitewashed village **Obidos**.
- Continue to **Lisbon**.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- **Shabbat dinner** at a restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Lisbon

Saturday, October 28, 2023

SHABBAT IN LISBON - DOMES AND ROMANS, MARKETS AND MOORS | walking tour

- Walking tour in the **Alfama Quarter**, which still shows signs of the Moorish presence in the city. Explore the neighborhood's steep winding alleys, hidden landmark churches, and breath-taking views of the Tagus River.
- *Portugal in the 21st Century - the Tension between Tradition and Modernity* with your tour educator.
- Free time afternoon to explore the city on your own.
- Return to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Lisbon

Sunday, October 29, 2023

EXPLORING LISBON

- Begin the day exploring the **Belem** district of Lisbon, located on the River Tagus and where many of the great Portuguese explorers embarked on their momentous voyages.
- Stop at the **Monument to the Discoveries** to pay tribute to the Portuguese Age of Discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- Continue to the **Belem Tower**, which was constructed in 1514 as part of the city's defensive system, for beautiful views on the river.
- Visit the impressive **Jerónimos Monastery**. Built in the 16th century (and taking almost 100 years to build), the monastery's impressive architecture and decoration reflect the prosperity of the Portuguese empire at the time.
- Enjoy a tour of the center of Lisbon, including **Rossio Square**, **Baixa** (the downtown area) and **Praça do Comércio**, an impressive plaza facing the Tagus River.
- Return to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Lisbon

Monday, October 30, 2023

THE MAGIC OF SINTRA

- Excursion to the city of **Sintra**, the resort town of Portugal kings, perched high in the mountains. The town's picturesque romantic monuments and mountainous vistas, serve as the backdrop for unparalleled architectural and natural beauty. These have coupled to allow it to become a compelling and enduring centerpiece recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Visit the **Pena Palace** and the surrounding **Pena Park**. Pena Palace is a unique architectural structure built in the mid-19th century on the site of a former monastery by the Portuguese King-Consort Dom Fernando II as a summer palace for the royal family.
- Visit the **Regaleira Palace and Gardens**, which consist of a Romantic palace and chapel, and a luxurious park that features lakes, grottoes, wells, benches, fountains, and a vast array of exquisite constructions.
- *Where the Sidewalk Ends*: Depart Sintra and stop at **Cabo da Roca**. Overlooking the deep blue of the Atlantic Ocean, stand at the western-most extent of mainland Portugal and continental Europe.
- Stop at **Jewish Center**
- Return to Lisbon.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Lisbon

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

EXCURSION TO EVORA

- Depart Lisbon for a day trip to **Évora**, one of Portugal's most beautifully preserved medieval towns. The city was originally founded by the Romans and was an important Roman trading town.
- Stop at **Cork Factory**, a fascinating look at one of Portugal's main industries
- View the remains of the **Diana Temple**, one of the best-preserved Roman structures on the Iberian peninsula.
- Stop in **Praça do Giraldo**, the city's main central plaza and the heart of the city. The square is lined by excellent examples of 16th century Gothic architecture.
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- Visit the **Capela dos Ossos** (Bone Chapel), whose walls are lined with bones of approximately 5,000 long-deceased people. The bones were exhumed from the city's graves in the 17th century to allow further burials as the city expanded.
- Walk through **Jewish Quarter**
- *The Role of Fado Music in Portuguese Culture* with your tour educator.
- Return to the hotel.
- **Farewell dinner** with **Fado music**, the traditional Portuguese music.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Lisbon

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Lisbon Airport for your return flight to the USA.

Meals: Breakfast

****Subject to Change****