

TOVA GILEAD - TOURS TO ISRAEL

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JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR OF SPAIN

- Day 1 **BARCELONA**
Arrive in the exciting city of Barcelona on the Mediterranean Sea and transfer to the hotel. On your own, stroll along “Las Ramblas,” one of the world’s most famous thoroughfares. See flower stalls, vendors, street performers and the statue of Christopher Columbus.
Overnight in Barcelona
- Day 2 **BARCELONA**
Panoramic tour of Barcelona. See the impressive Paseig de Gracia with its Modernist buildings and Gaudi’s unfinished Church of the Holy Family (Sagrada Familia). Visit Park Guell. Optional: Tour Camp Nou. Afternoon at leisure. At night drive with guide, to Montjuich (Mountain of the Jews) and top the evening at a performance of the Dancing Fountains.
Overnight in Barcelona
- Day 3 **GIRONA AND FIGUERES**
Drive north to Girona, the ancient walled city on the Onyar River, which was a major Jewish center prior to 1492. The historic Jewish Quarter, known as the “Call,” is a well-preserved testament to Jewish life in the Middle Ages. Ascend a flight of 17th century Baroque steps to the city’s major architectural treasure and see the Gothic cathedral. Visit the Jewish Museum, the Arab baths, see the 12th century fortified bridge and the 19th century bridge, designed by Gustave Eiffel. Drive to the village of Figueres, birthplace of the surrealist Salvador Dali and visit the Dali Museum. Return to Barcelona.
Overnight in Barcelona
- Day 4 **BAR / BAT MITZVAH IN BARCELONA**
Transfer to the Gothic Quarter to celebrate your Bar or Bat Mitzvah at an old Synagogue, hidden for centuries under the basement of a 17th century building. After the service, walk through the medieval “El Call” and learn about past and present Jewish life in Barcelona. Tour the Gothic Quarter. Celebration lunch at a local restaurant in the Old Town.
Overnight in Barcelona
- Day 5 **BARCELONA/GRANADA**
Transfer to Barcelona Airport for a flight to the Andalusian city of Granada, located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Arrive in Granada and transfer to the hotel. Tour the Alhambra, the “Palace of Paradise”, built by Moorish rulers. View the decree expelling the Jews from Spain, signed on March 31, 1492, in the Hall of the Ambassadors, the same place that Ferdinand and Isabella signed the agreement permitting Columbus to sail west to America.
Overnight in Granada
- Day 6 **GRANADA/SEVILLE**
Drive to beautiful Seville, the “City of Fiestas.” Time on your own to explore the city.
Overnight in Seville

Day 7

SEVILLE

Walking tour of Seville. Visit the world's largest Gothic cathedral (containing what is believed to be Christopher Columbus' tomb) with its Giralda Tower, the city's most prominent monument. Continue to the Alcazar, one of the oldest royal residences in Europe. It is an astonishing Moorish palace of vaulted halls, ornate archways, glazed tiles and intricate woodwork. Explore the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the preserved Jewish Quarter, and Seville's most picturesque neighborhood, with its wrought iron balconies and flower-filled courtyards. In the evening, on your own, walk to the Arenal Flamenco

Overnight in Seville

Day 8

CORDOBA

Depart Seville and drive through the Guadalquivir Valley to Cordoba, a city steeped in history, with echoes of Roman, Moorish and Jewish influence. In the Middle Ages, Cordoba was home to a galaxy of Hebrew scholars, philosophers, poets, and Jews who served in high positions as ambassadors and advisors. Visit "La Mezquita," the most beautiful mosque ever built by the Moors in Spain, now used as a cathedral. Explore the Juderia, the charming Jewish Quarter dating from the 10th century. See the statue of Maimonedes, honoring one of the greatest Jewish scholars, located near the synagogue on Calle de los Judios.

Overnight in Cordoba

Day 9

TOLEDO/MADRID

Drive through the "La Mancha" country to Toledo, once the royal capital of Spain and heart of Jewish learning and literature. Arrive in Toledo and visit the Grand Toledo Cathedral and two medieval synagogues, Santa Maria La Blanca (formerly the Grand Synagogue) and the Transito Synagogue with its Museum of Sephardic culture. Drive to Madrid. Suggestion: Dinner at Casa Botin the oldest restaurant in Europe and a favorite haunt of Ernest Hemingway.

Overnight in Madrid

Day 10

MADRID

Explore Madrid's "Golden Triangle." Visit the Prado Museum (Museo Del Prado), to view its immense collection of famous paintings by Goya, El Greco, and Velasquez, and the Reina Sofia Museum, which houses Picasso's famous "Guernica." Visit the city's grand monuments and beautiful plazas, including the magnificent 18th century Royal Palace (the children will love the armory!) and the Plaza Mayor.

Overnight in Madrid

Day 11

DEPARTURE

Transfer to Madrid Airport for your flight home.

