



# Park Avenue Synagogue

## Women's Trip to Portugal

Led by Rabbi Lori Koffman and Cantor Mira Davis  
with Scholar Henrique Cymerman

April 15–April 21, 2023

## The **J<sup>2</sup>** way

J<sup>2</sup> crafts experiential Jewish journeys to Israel and around the world that are both emotional and educational. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept. No two journeys are the same. Each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by exemplary service. Travel is not just about the places you visit but the discoveries you make along the way.



# Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

## **PRE-TRIP PRESENTATION: DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED**

- ◇ **A Personal Look at Jewish Portugal:** Our journey's scholar, Henrique Cymerman, will share his personal story growing up in Portugal which overlaps with the story of Portuguese Jewry. Zoom presentation.

## **DAY 1: DEPARTURE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 15 | FLIGHT

- ◇ Depart the USA.



## DAY 2: LISBON

SUNDAY, APRIL 16 | **THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY**

- ◇ Arrive at Lisbon International Airport. Our representative will be on hand to assist with all formalities and ensure your journey has the smoothest of starts.
- ◇ Early check-in at the hotel (subject to availability).
- ◇ 11:00 a.m. Brief orientation with your tour educator who will accompany you on this journey.
- ◇ Experience Lisbon's breathtaking scenery and beauty with a panoramic tour while hearing all about the history and culture of this stunning city.
- ◇ Explore the **Belem** district of Lisbon, located on the River Tagus, from 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 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- ◇ Enjoy coffee and pastel de nata, the classic Portuguese custard, at the **Palacio de Pasteis de Nata** next to the presidential palace. Includes behind-the-scenes visit to the kitchen and explanation of the baking process (only women can enter).
- ◇ Visit the impressive **Jerónimos Monastery**. Built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (and taking almost 100 years to build), this UNESCO World Heritage Site's magnificent architecture and decoration reflect the prosperity of the Portuguese empire at the time.
- ◇ Take a walking tour with your tour educator 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 breathtaking views of the Tagus River – all while hearing about the tension between tradition and modernity.
- ◇ Return to the hotel and prepare for dinner.
- ◇ **Portugal – Small Country, Great Nation:** Join the Jewish community for a welcome cocktail reception with Dr. Jose Carp – President of the Jewish Community of Lisbon (CIL).
- ◇ **Dinner and Conversation** with cultural philanthropist and diplomat Hon. Amb., Randi Charno Levine, the United States Ambassador to Portugal.



### Day 3: LISBON

MONDAY, APRIL 17 | THE MAGIC OF SINTRA

- ◇ Starte day with a bounteous buffet breakfast at the hotel and enjoy a presentation by Henrique Cymerman: How did Portugal end up being considered the “cool country”?
- ◇ Meet the biggest stars in the Portuguese fashion world at the **Storytailors atelier**, including designers Anabela Baldaque and Nuno Abelho, and view the latest creations worn by celebrities. Guided by expert journalist in culture and fashion Maria Joao Martins.
- ◇ Visit the **Pharmacy and Health Museum** and encounter 5000 years of health. Museum’s director **Joao Neto** will present a view of what Portuguese pharmacies looked like 200 years ago as well as a Japanese pharmacy from over 1000 years ago.
- ◇ Lunch on own.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Visit the **Pena Palace** and its surrounding **Pena Park**. Pena Palace is a unique architectural structure built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century on the site of a former monastery by the Portuguese King-Consort Dom Fernando II as a summer palace for the royal family.
- ◇ **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.
- ◇ **Dinner** at a local restaurant in the port of Cascais on the sea.



## DAY 4: PORTO

TUESDAY, APRIL 18 | **A TASTE OF BELMONTE AND PORTO**

- ◇ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◇ Check out of the hotel, depart Lisbon, and drive to the historic city of **Tomar**, where you will visit the famous, ancient **Jewish synagogue** dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- ◇ Visit the **Convent of the Order of Christ**, originally a Templar stronghold built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and one of Portugal's most important historical and artistic monuments. The Convent is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◇ Depart Tomar and drive to **Belmonte**. (*duration 2.5 hours*)
- ◇ Lunch in Belmonte.
- ◇ Meet the **Jewish community of Belmonte** and hear testimonies about those who resisted expulsion.
- ◇ Hear from **José Levy Domingues**, who reconverted to Judaism and will narrate one of the most exciting stories in Jewish history: how Jews managed to keep their faith for 500 years despite persecution.
- ◇ Explore the **Jewish Museum**, which showcases the history of the Belmonte Jewish community since the Middle Ages.
- ◇ Discover the **synagogue** in Belmonte and meet with a representative of the local Jewish community for a conversation on the Anussim of Portugal.
- ◇ Depart to **Porto**. (*duration 3 hours*)
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ Visit one of the **port cellars** in Vila Nova de Gaia, across the river, where famous port wines are stored and aged. Enjoy **port wine tasting** and **dinner** at **Vinum Restaurant at Graham's Lodges** OR **visit Taylor Winery of VINO PORT**, owners of the Yeatman hotel.



## DAY 5: PORTO

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19 | PLANTED GARDENS AND JEWISH ROOTS

- ◇ Private breakfast at the hotel followed by a presentation by Henrique Cymerman at the **Porto synagogue**, one of the most beautiful in Europe: Hear “My story: how I discovered my identity, through learning about the Marranos who wanted to return to Judaism. The tragedy of Captain Barros Basto.”
- ◇ Encounter the **Jewish community of Porto**, including the local community and **Holocaust museums**.
- ◇ Visit the **Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue**, the largest synagogue in the Iberian Peninsula. Walk through the synagogue’s museum to learn more about the Jewish community of Porto.
- ◇ Lunch at the Enoteca 17•56.
- ◇ **Romanesque to Romanticism:** View the main sites of the city, including: **Avenida dos Aliados**, **Clérigos Tower**, which is known as the symbol of the city, **São Bento railway 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 riverfront, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Discover the majestic **Palace of the Count of Calheiros** in the town of Paço de Calheiros. Intimate dinner with friends and local nobility at the Castle.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.



## DAY 6: COIMBRA

THURSDAY, APRIL 20 | PORTUGAL'S MEDIEVAL CAPITAL

- ◇ Breakfast at the hotel.
- ◇ Make your way to **Coimbra**, home to one of the world's first universities.
- ◇ Visit the **University of Coimbra**, including its impressive **library**, built in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with rooms rich in gilt and exotic wood, and lined with 300,000 books.
- ◇ **Reception** in the Main Hall with the **Rector, Professor Amilcar Falcao. Professor Renata Gomes**, renowned Portuguese scientist, will give a lecture about female empowerment in Portugal.
- ◇ For the grande finale, 50 medical students aged between 18 and 24 years old from the **TUNA Academica**, a university musical group, will serenade the participants.
- ◇ **Lunch** at the Arcadas restaurant in Coimbra in the historic part of the city.
- ◇ Return to Porto and free afternoon. (*duration 2 hours*)
- ◇ **A Festive Farewell:** Reflecting on our experiences with Rabbi Koffman over a private **dinner**.

## DAY 7: FLIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 | UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

- ◇ Private breakfast at the hotel with our scholar Henrique Cymerman.
- ◇ **In High Heels and a Suitcase:** Conversation and update with Dr. Nirit Ofir – “from Portugal to the Persian Gulf and North Africa”.
- ◇ Check out of the hotel.
- ◇ Transfer to Porto Airport and check in for your return flight to the USA.



# Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Apr. 16-18	2	Four Seasons	ROH	Lisbon
Apr. 18-21	3	The Yeatman	ROH	Porto

  

# OF PARTICIPANTS	70+	Single Supplement	
			\$7,655 +\$1,550

## What to Expect

### Included:

- ◇ 5 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ 5 days of touring with a tour educator and local guides, 5 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ Field representative throughout.
- ◇ Individual arrival/departure transfer.
- ◇ Daily breakfast, 3 lunches, & 5 dinners.
- ◇ Water and snacks on the bus.
- ◇ Gratuities: tour educators, local guides, bus drivers & field representative.
- ◇ Porterage at the airport & hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees (inclusive of all honorariums) as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal and materials to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal project manager who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure an exceptional and seamless journey.



## Excluded:

- ◇ Flights to & from Portugal.
- ◇ COVID-related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs, or meals etc. are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.

## Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

**Rates:** Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 70/80 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.

**Currency:** Tour prices are per person in US dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

**Payment policy:** The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J<sup>2</sup> Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancelation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.



- An initial refundable deposit of \$1000 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 120 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

**Cancellation policy:** All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J<sup>2</sup> travel program.
- If your J<sup>2</sup> travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

**Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:**

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.

**Travel insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.