Made for Spain & Portugal

The Ultimate Travel Experience in Spain & Portugal

ITINERARY PROPOSAL
“Spain is one of the most diverse and visually spectacular countries in Europe - overwhelming it’s visitors with fascinating sights, charming towns and incredible landscapes. Although it is a small country, it is rich in contrasts and widely known for its several customs including flamenco, bullfights, festivals, crowded beaches and emerald green mountains.

With an innate flair for style and design, Spain’s architecture shapes the country with a unique mixture of historical and modern buildings. Whether discovering beautiful avant-garde designs from architects such as Gaudí, Rafael Moneo and Santiago Calatrava or traveling back in time with Velázquez, Goya and Picasso in one of the marvelous museums – there is something for everyone in the form of Spanish art.

Be captured by the Spanish lifestyle including its nightlife and flamenco. You can hear the harsh foot stomping, castanet rattling, hand clapping and passionate guitar sound while walking through small streets. Spaniards believe the best times of all are shared with friends and family over a great bottle of wine or pitcher of sangria and delicious regional food that you can taste in one of the many tapas bars, sidewalk cafés or taverns. The food is one of the highest qualities that can be found in Europe. Spain has become a world leader in gastronomy.

Whether its architecture in Barcelona, music in Andalusia, food in the Basque country or art in Madrid – the country is bursting at the seams with a creativity and zest for life that can only be found here. Shape Paths And Ink your own Novel in the country that never sleeps…!”
PORTUGAL

Portugal lies along the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula in south Western Europe. It shares a border with Spain in the east and north, while the Atlantic dominates the coastline in the west and south. Occupying about 16 percent of the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal (including Madeira and Azores) has a population of over 10 million people.

Despite its relatively small size, the country boasts a great diversity of geographical features, from golden plains to mountainous zones. Moreover, its location allows quick access not only to several European countries, but also to the east coast of the American and African continents.

Portuguese is spoken by more than 200 million people in several continents, including Europe, Africa and America. This diversity has contributed to the deepening of historical and cultural ties between Portugal and the world.

The state form is a pluralistic democracy. Under the Constitution, the organs of sovereignty are the President, the Parliament, the Government and the Courts.

As a member of the European Union and NATO, Portugal plays a greater role in both European and world affairs than its size would suggest.

Portugal is part of the group of EU countries, where the Euro is the official currency and common to all.
Iberian Peninsula
Jewish Heritage Highlights

Day 1/ BARCELONA

Arrival in Barcelona Airport/ flight details to be advised (own arrangements)

Founded by the Romans, Barcelona is a beautiful Mediterranean city that offers an impressive number of Gothic, Romanesque, Modernist and contemporary monuments. It is a major economic center and one of Europe's largest Mediterranean ports. Particularly renowned are some architectural works by Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech that have been designated by UNESCO “World Heritage Sites”.

On the other hand, it is delightful to walk through the beautiful and vibrant Barcelona streets enjoying their friendly atmosphere and the excellent Mediterranean weather.

Barcelona’s long-standing mercantile and entrepreneurial tradition continues today, as a center of finance, commerce, media, entertainment, and international trade. With a long tradition in creative arts and craftsmanship, Barcelona is also known for its award-winning design and architecture. A cosmopolitan city with a manageable size of approximately 1.7 million inhabitants, it is easy to walk, ride a bike, and use public transport to move around the city.

Private Transfer from Barcelona Airport to hotel provided by Made for Spain

Check in

The Cotton House Hotel stands imposingly on the site of the former headquarters of the Cotton Textile Foundation “Fundación Textil Algodonera”, an emblematic 19th-century building in the neoclassical style which is a landmark in the city of Barcelona. Very well located close to Plaça de Catalunya and Passeig de Gracia.
The original elements of the building have been conserved, such as the imposing marble staircase, delicate parquet and boiserie embellishing ceilings, floors and walls in some of the rooms. Also the famous spiral staircase built in 1957, the main feature of which is that it is not supported on the floor below, but is suspended from the metal frame of the upper floor, to give a light and airy aspect. At the same time, all the facilities of the building have been completely replaced, resulting in a distinguished setting full of history, yet modern and comfortable at the same time.

The hotel has 83 refined, comfortable rooms, 5 of which are spacious suites. The decoration is inspired on cotton through a chromatic combination of the white, black and sepia of the cotton plant and everything it evokes: softness, comfort, delicacy and naturalness, which are materialized in the fabrics and textures of the very highest quality. The rooms have been designed to offer all possible comfort: the bed linen is made with sheets with 300 thread count mercerized Egyptian cotton and 600-g towels, honeycomb bathrobes and slippers, and cosmetics of the prestigious Ortigia brand, made with 100% natural products from the Mediterranean area.

As a special amenity when booking with Made for Spain you will be able to learn how to prepare a cocktail drink at the Batuar from 6 PM until 11 PM with the assistance of the well-known barman.

“In agreement with the Financial and Fiscal Measures Law passed by the Catalan Parliament on 14th March 2012 (art. 55.2) the payment of the Municipal Tourism Tax on arrival at this establishment will be obligatory as of 1st November 2012. The Tourism Tax will be applied to overnight guests over 16 years of age at a rate of 2.50 Euros per person per day. The maximum amount applicable will be 7 units per stay per person. The Tax will be applied to a maximum of two persons per room”.

Enjoy a half day Orientation Barcelona Walking Tour with your local expert guide...

Meet your guide at the Hotel lobby and start perusing the names and places that best represent the essence of Barcelona: among them, Paseo de Gracia, Plaça de Catalunya and Ramblas.
Begin your walk by the North part of Paseo de Gracia and make your way to the South and even to the sea if time allows…

**Paseo de Gracia**, an elegant and majestic boulevard was a showcase for Barcelona’s bourgeoisie at the turn of the 19th century, and links the Plaça Catalunya with the district of Gràcia, hence its name. The presence of Barcelona’s finest modernista buildings makes this avenue a veritable open-air museum. With a little imagination, you can still hear the horse-drawn carriages, smell the early trams and visualise the elegant ladies walking arm in arm with their husbands, accompanied by their maids who are looking after the children. This is what the Passeig de Gràcia was like in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Barcelona was expanding and a new boulevard was needed to connect the old village of Gràcia with the new city centre.

You will reach then **Plaça de Catalunya**. This lively square is the heart of Barcelona and it’s beating strongly. A favourite meeting point, it’s also the geographical space that separates the districts of Ciutat Vella and the Eixample. Steeped in history, the Plaça de Catalunya is the nerve centre of the Catalan capital. The Plaça Catalunya, with its large shopping centres and department stores, is constantly teeming with people. It is Barcelona’s most central area and a favourite meeting place for locals and visitors. It also connects the Eixample and the old town.

Keep walking downhill and you will arrive to **Las Ramblas**. Barcelona wouldn’t be Barcelona without the Rambla. A wander up and down this famous boulevard is a ritual well worth observing. Just soak up the atmosphere and admire the buildings, from the Canaletes fountain to the Columbus Monument, which connect the old and modern city with places like Liceu and Boqueria. A walk through the life and history of the city. La Rambla is exactly 1.2 kilometres long and nearly everyone who visits Barcelona walks along it. La Rambla was laid out in 1766, following the contours of the medieval city walls that had bounded this part of Barcelona since the 13th century. In Barcelona, a city of narrow, winding streets, the Rambla was the only space where everyone could stroll and spend their leisure time.
Walk along the **Gothic Quarter and Barcelona's ancient city centre.** The beautiful neighbourhood known as the Gothic Quarter is so called because it used to be the Roman village and thus has some remnants of its glorious past. These days because of the constant modernization it is very possible to spot an ancient building right next to one built in the 90s. It is this mix of old and new that brings people from all over the world to stay in the Gothic Quarter. The narrow, winding streets create quite a labyrinth and means that it may take a while to get your bearings. The Gothic quarter has many peaceful squares (plaças) where you can relax and enjoy your surroundings.

This is a perfect short walking tour not only to stretch your legs but also to get a first sense of Barcelona and its geography.

Rest of day at leisure

- Accommodation in Barcelona, Hotel Cotton House
Day 2/ BARCELONA

Breakfast at the Hotel

9:30 AM – 1:30 PM Enjoy a Barcelona Jewish sites Tour with your host, member of the local Jewish Community...

Meet your local host Dominque Tomasov Blinder, an architect and Jewish heritage advocate, at the hotel lobby.

Transfer to Montjuïc (meaning Mountain of Jews). This is a very special landscaped site. Next stop will be at the site of the old cemetery, declared a landmark in 2009.

In 1995, due to the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the cultural and sports association Maccabi, together with the Barcelonan Jewish Community, promoted the construction of a memorial in homage to the victims of the Holocaust and of the Nazi atrocities. It was projected by the architect Leonard Glasser and it is a formation of ten stone blocs that symbolize ten extermination camps. The memorial is located at the southern end of the cemetery.

Your tour will continue downtown where you will walk along the streets of the Old Jewish quarter the origin of which might be traced to the Middle Ages. Although most of the buildings are from later time (17th century and after) your guide will help you revisit its Jewish past.

El Call, known under this name since the 12th Century, was the Jewish quarter in the Medieval Barcelona. After their expulsion in 1492 their trace in the city fades away, as it was only a question of time before the ones that stayed, converses, mixed in with the Catalan society. About the ones that left, some traditions link Jewish families with a Catalan Origin. You will also visit the remains of the Middle Age synagogue, restored in the content of a small Museum run by a Jewish association. Your tour will end up at the Jewish Visitors Center opened by the city government, in 2008, and at the local museum.

• Accommodation in Barcelona, Hotel Cotton House
Day 3/ BARCELONA – BESALU – GERONA - BARCELONA

Breakfast at the Hotel

9 AM – 5 PM Enjoy a Full-day excursion to Besalú and Gerona focusing on learning about Jewish Heritage in Spain...

9 AM Meet your guide at the lobby of the hotel

Private Transfer with English speaking driver to Besalú
(Approximate driving time: 1 hour and 30 minutes)

10:30 AM Arrival to Besalú

In Besalú you will enjoy the medieval atmosphere as seen from its streets and squares as you cross the 12th century Romanesque bridge. In Besalú, the Miqvé, or House of ritual baths, was built during the 12th century and is the only purifying Jewish bath in the Iberian Peninsula.

1 PM Leisure time to have lunch on your own at a local restaurant (Cost of food not included)

2 PM Transfer to Gerona

2:30 PM Arrival to Gerona

In the old center of Gerona, the city has preserved the remains of its long history. Additionally, the beautiful Gothic cathedral contains a textile jewel – the medieval Creation Tapestry. There are Arab and Jewish works of art in the city a result of these cultures living harmoniously with Christians for centuries. The Call is nowadays one of the best-preserved Jewish quarters in Spain. Calle Força, the heart of this district, has a synagogue and centers of cabbalistic studies

2:30 PM – 4 PM Enjoy a guided walking tour in Gerona…
The old center of Gerona was founded by the Romans in the 1st century B.C. Set in this walled enclosure (La Força Vella), stands the Cathedral. Its Romanesque origin is shown in its fortress-like appearance and strategic location, although the most outstanding aspect is an immense Gothic nave, the widest in Medieval European architecture.

Next to the entrance staircase to the cathedral, is the Pia Alomoina, an old charity institution housed in a Gothic style building. The old quarter shows many small streets making up El Call, the Jewish quarter of the city. Visit also the Arab Baths, a Capuchin, where we should point out a pavilion built on eight fine columns and crowned by an octagonal cupola.

4 PM Transfer back to Barcelona

5 PM Arrival to the hotel

* Accommodation in Barcelona, Hotel Cotton House*
**Day 4/ BARCELONA - MADRID**

Breakfast at the Hotel

Check out of Hotel and settle all incidental charges

**Private Transfer from Hotel to Barcelona Train Station provided by Made for Spain**

**Take a high speed train from Barcelona to Madrid/ Business tickets included**

Arrival to Madrid

450 years ago, King Philip II of Spain converted **Madrid**, then a very small town, into the capital of his kingdom “where the sun never set”. Today Madrid has become, after Paris and London, the third most populated European city. Its outstanding architecture, fabulous museums and high-end shops and restaurants have made of Madrid one of the world major cultural and commercial centres.

The good climate it enjoys and the friendliness of its people attract every year millions of visitors, ready always to enjoy the thrilling nightlife of this unforgettable city.

Street life is one of the trademarks of 21st century Madrid; a place where tradition and modernity live harmoniously together in the cobbled streets of the old city as well as in the sleek, new fashionable districts. Madrid is, definitively, the place to visit!

**Private Transfer from Madrid Train Station to Hotel provided by Made for Spain**

Check in at Hotel

Located in the centre of the city, but away from the well-trodden tourist areas, **Hotel Urso** with 78 Rooms and Suites is the first 5-star boutique hotel of its kind in Madrid. Set in a palatial 20th century building, Urso retains its neo-classical elegance, whilst bringing a fresh and stylish perspective in its interiors - as befits a modern capital. The hotel’s gloriously imperial architecture blends beautifully into its chic surroundings.
Set between the bourgeois neighborhood of Chamberí, the up-and-coming Tribunal area and the trendy Chueca district, the hotel is surrounded by grand embassy buildings, wealthy residential areas and local, independent boutiques and shops.

A thoughtful restoration by architect and designer Antonio Obrador has turned this 20th century building into an elegant, sophisticated hotel; the architectural features of this have been preserved to create a deeply comfortable, discreet yet welcoming ambiance. Bright, fresh and well-balanced interiors let guests feel at home. Beautiful rugs scattered over marble floors, oak paneling and fine fabrics covering the walls and spacious, uncluttered rooms all give Urso the feeling of a patrician private house.

All categories of rooms offer king size or twin bed accommodation. Rooms are elegant, bright, spacious and comfortable cultivating Urso’s idea of beauty.

Hotel Urso features among other facilities, private parking, indoor plunge pool, Technogym equipped Fitness and Spa by Natura Bissé, voted best Luxury Spa Brand in 2012 & 2013

Made for Spain exclusive amenities: Upgrade upon check in upon availability, Late checkout upon availability and VIP gourmandises treat at the room upon arrival

4 PM – 8 PM Enjoy a Historical and Artistic Madrid Walking Tour...

Meet your Art Expert at the Hotel lobby. This tour will suppose for you a walk through the history of old Madrid. At the same time, it will allow you to see the places that best represent the essence of this city such as the Neptune Fountain, the Spanish Parliament or the Santa Ana Square, in the heart of “Las Letras” quarter, where new souvenirs will take you back to the times when writers like Cervantes, Quevedo or García Lorca used to live or walk around these streets. The tour goes round the heart of the old city through the Puerta del Sol, the Plaza Mayor, Mercado de San Miguel, the former City Hall, the Royal Palace and the Royal Opera House.
The tour also includes a visit to the **Prado Museum** with a Made for Spain expert guide who is an art historian.

The 18th century building, currently occupied by the Museum, was built under instructions of King Carlos III who wished to embellish the nearby area. The Museum as such opened in 1819 and was intended to provide Madrid with an outstanding painting gallery, large enough to match those opening at the time in Europe. Very recently, the prestigious Spanish architect, Rafael Moneo, has enlarged the old building by adding a new wing with additional rooms and a fantastic XVth century cloister not to be missed. The Prado collection, with around 9,000 paintings, is one of the world most important and boasts names such as Bosch, Titian, El Greco, Rubens, Velázquez, Goya and Madrazo.

This tour is a great introduction to Madrid’s history, culture and traditions.

- Accommodation in Madrid, Hotel Urso
Day 5/ MADRID – TOLEDO – MADRID

Breakfast at the Hotel

9 AM – 5 PM Enjoy a Full-day excursion to Toledo...

Meet your driver outside the main entrance of the hotel

9 AM Private Transfer with English Speaking Driver to Toledo
(Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour)

10 AM Arrival to Toledo

Toledo is one of the most beautiful and interesting cities of Spain. The wealth of its artistic and cultural legacy is at the origin of Toledo being a unique city in Europe. This legacy is kept within its walls in the form of churches, museums, palaces, fortresses, mosques, and synagogues. The great diversity of artistic styles has made of its old quarter a true museum and explains why Toledo has been declared “World Heritage Site” by the UNESCO.

10 AM Upon arrival to Toledo meet your guide and enjoy a guided walking tour…
Listening to your guide you will understand why Toledo is also known as the “city of the three cultures”, as Christians, Arabs and Jews lived here together for centuries in great harmony. The city preserves two famous Synagogues, a Mosque and a unique Cathedral, ranked among the greatest Gothic buildings in Europe. Some of the many other churches treasure first rate paintings such as “The Burial of the Count of Orgaz”, by el Greco. Visit the Cathedral, the Jewish Quarter, Santa Maria la Blanca Synagogue and Santo Tome Church.

1:30 PM Lunch at leisure in one of Toledo Restaurants – see Made for Spain Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas. (Cost of food not included)

After lunch enjoy some time at leisure to explore Toledo on your own
4 PM Meet your driver and transfer back to Madrid

5 PM Arrival to your hotel

- Accommodation in Madrid, Hotel Urso
Day 6/ MADRID - SEGOVIA - MADRID

Breakfast at the Hotel

9 AM – 5 PM Enjoy a Full-day excursion to Segovia...

Meet your driver outside the main entrance of the hotel

9 AM Private Transfer with English Speaking Driver to Segovia
(Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes)

10:15 AM Arrival to Segovia

Upon arrival to Segovia meet your guide and enjoy a guided walking tour where your guide will help you revisit its Jewish past …

The old quarter of Segovia and its Roman aqueduct have been declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO. The aqueduct was probably built between the late 1st and early 2nd centuries, when Vespasiano and Trajano were emperors.

1:30 PM Time at leisure to enjoy lunch

Lunch at leisure in one of Segovia Restaurants – see Made for Spain Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas. (Cost of food not included)

After lunch explore Segovia on your own

3:45 PM Meet your driver and transfer to Madrid

5 PM Arrival to your hotel

• Accommodation in Madrid, Hotel Urso
Day 7/ MADRID - HERVAS – BELMONTE

Breakfast at the Hotel

Check out of Hotel and settle all incidental charges

9 AM Private Transfer to Hervas provided by Made for Spain

11:15 AM Arrival to Hervas

11:15 AM – 1:15 PM Enjoy a guided tour to discover the important Jewish patrimony in this wonderful village

The influence of the Jewish people who lived in this town five hundred years ago can still be felt in its streets, fiestas and gastronomy. Included in the Network of Jewish Quarters in Spain, this architectural site dates back to the 13th Century and has been declared a site of historic interest.

The Jewish Quarter in Hervás is made up of a series of steep, narrow streets lined with houses that have large overhangs and are made from local materials, leading down from the Plaza to the Ambroz river and the medieval stone bridge known as Puente de la Fuente Chiquita. A stroll through the narrow streets of the Jewish Quarter is like stepping back in time, while you can also sample some of the excellent local wine and browse the local handicrafts made from wood, leather, wrought-iron and glass.

Transfer to Belmonte

Arrival to Belmonte

Belmonte is located in the district of Castelo Branco at the gates of the Serra da Estrela Natural Park, between the cities of Guarda and Covilha. The town is well known for hosting the only direct surviving Jewish community of Sephardic Jews expelled in the Middle Ages by the Catholic Monarchs, and furthermore also as the birthplace of Pedro Alvares Cabral discoverer of Brazil.
Check In at Hotel

The **Pousada Convento de Belmonte** originates from the recovery of the old Convent of Nossa Senhora da Esperança, Our Lady of Hope.

Located on a hillside of the Serra da Esperança, the Pousada totally preserves the historical heritage of the convent, classified in 1986 as a property of public interest, including the amphitheatre architecture, among the pine forests of Serra da Esperança, and a breathtaking view of the Cova da Beira and Serra da Estrela. It has a spacious terraced pool and a Jacuzzi. The guests can take advantage of horse treks fishing or walks around the area. All of the Belmonte’s rooms have balconies some with a view of the Serra da Estrela Natural Reserve. Its 24 rooms are decorated in relaxing tones with antique furniture, iron wrought beds and stone finishes of the region.

The famous restaurant of the Pousada is inspired by its typical regional cuisine obtaining the secrets hidden within the mountains to be able to offer an array of dishes full of flavor and magic.

Rest of day at leisure

- Accommodation in Belmonte, Pousada de Belmonte
Day 8/ BELMONTE – GUARDA – TRANCOSO - BELMONTE

Breakfast at the Hotel

9:30 AM - 5:45 PM Enjoy a guided visit to Belmonte, Guarda y Trancoso with a member of the Jewish Community

9:30 AM Meet your local expert guide

9:30 AM – 10:45 AM Enjoy a guided Tour of Belmonte discovering its Jewish Heritage

Visit Jewish Museum and Hebrew tombstone from 1297, Bet Eliahu, and Jewish Quarter.

There have been Jews in Portugal since the Middle Ages, but the community suffered a major blow in 1497, when the king ordered Jews either to convert to Christianity or leave the country. The establishment of the Portuguese Inquisition in 1536 meant a permanent danger of persecution and an effective destruction of Portuguese Jewish culture. Today, your expert guide will introduce you to the history of the only surviving peninsular community of descendants of Sephardic Jews.

10:45 AM Transfer to Guarda

11:15 AM – 1:15 PM Enjoy a private visit of Guarda Old and discover its Jewish Heritage

There is evidence that it dates back to the 13th Century, when King D. Dinis gave the Royal charter (“foro”) to the Jewish communities of S. Vicente parish. One of those families was housed in the synagogue. The Jewish quarter started near Porta d’El Rei, covering the churchyard of S. Vicente Church, in the border with the city wall and Rua Direita, which led to that entry. In 1465 this access was closed due to protests by Christians.
The families had names like Ergas, Castro, Falího, Baruch, Mocatel, Marcos, Querido, Alva, Cáceres, Castelão, among others and offered a whole range of services to the population: tailors, shoemakers, tanners, blacksmiths, weavers, groomers, physicists, surgeons, goldsmiths and carpenters. The historical center of the city of Guarda retains even today traces of the old Jewish Quarter.

1:15 PM – 3 PM Enjoy some time at leisure to have an informal lunch with your local expert guide (cost of food not included)

Transfer to Trancoso

3:30 PM - 5 PM Enjoy a private visit of Trancoso Old Quarters and the Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center of Jewish Culture and Bet Mayim Hayim Synagogue (1 hour and 30 minutes tour)

The mountains of the center of Portugal are rich in Jewish heritage and the walled town of Trancoso is no exception. The Jewish presence in Trancoso dates back to the 14th Century. The town of Trancoso has one of the best inner walled Jewish Quarter in Portugal. Learn about names in the houses, more than 400 encrypted signs and traditions of the Cristinaos Novos, Jewish converted to Christianism; the only surviving peninsular community of descendants of Sephardic Jews.

In 2012, the new Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center and the Bet Mayim Hayim Synagogue opened, located in the Jewish quarter of Trancoso, near the “Poço do Mestre”, literally meaning “the master's well”, which supposedly belonged to the rabbi of the village. The Center is named after Fernando Isaac Cardoso was a 16th Century physician and philosopher, who worked in the court of D. Filipe IV and played a crucial role in the preservation of the Jewish past. He was born in Trancoso in a family of "New Christians" and spent his youth in Valladolid, Spain.

5 PM Transfer back to Belmonte

5:45 PM Arrival to Belmonte

- Accommodation in Belmonte, Pousada de Belmonte
Day 9/ BELMONTE – COIMBRA – TOMAR – LISBON

Breakfast at the Hotel

Check out of Hotel and settle all incidental charges

Meet your driver outside of Hotel

9:15 AM Private Transfer to Coimbra provided by Made for Spain

10:15 AM Arrival to Coimbra and meet your local expert guide

10:15 AM – 1:15 PM Enjoy a private guided visit of Coimbra unveiling its Jewish Heritage

There have been Jews in Portugal since the Middle Ages, but the community suffered a major blow in 1497, when the king ordered Jews either to convert to Christianity or leave the country. The establishment of the Portuguese Inquisition in 1536 meant a permanent danger of persecution and an effective destruction of Portuguese Jewish culture.

Today, you will visit with your local expert guide the University of Coimbra, Jewish quarter and the old inquisition square.

1:15 PM Say farewell to your guide

1:15 PM - 3 PM Enjoy some time at leisure to have lunch (cost of food not included)

3 PM Transfer to Tomar

4 PM – 6 PM Meet your local expert guide and enjoy a guided tour to Tomar

Venture out of Lisbon to visit magical Tomar, one of Portugal’s most historic cities. Its Templar Castle and Christ Convent became the national headquarters of the Templar Knights in the middle ages, and later was at the forefront of the Order of Christ. The city was home to Henry the Navigator and provided the resources for his New World Explorations of the 15th Century. Tomar is the jewel in the crown of Central Portugal.
According to early documentation, Tomar had a Jewish settlement as far back as the beginning of the 14th Century. The synagogue was originally built in the 15th Century, sometime between 1430 and 1460 when the local Jewish community came to prominence. It was situated in the heart of what was then the Judearia or Jewish Quarter, Tomar Synagogue, in the area that is now located between the present day streets of Rua Direita dos Açougues and Rua dos Moinhos.

6 PM Transfer to Lisbon

7:30 PM Arrival to Lisbon

Nestled between river and sea, curving from hill to hill, Lisbon is the sensual queen of Portugal. Her streets are filled with the song of her people; the chatter of vibrant life, the passion of fado, and the breeze that once carried her men to faraway lands. Unlike most bustling capitals, Lisbon doesn’t just creep into your heart through small charms, she overtakes your senses and steals it.

As the birthplace of Portugal, Lisbon has seen days of immense splendor, visible in the spectacular castles, churches and plazas, followed by deep sorrow as it fell into ruin during 20th century political clashes. Thanks to its extraordinarily creative residents, Portugal’s crown jewel is today reborn and exploding with excitement. Utmost importance is placed on honoring the past, all while reinventing tradition in the most fabulous of ways as they fill Lisbon with indie shops, quirky galleries and inventive restaurants. Through interactions with shopkeepers, waiters and locals that are happy to chat, you will learn about the rich history that is laced in their modern interpretations, always with a personal touch.
Lisboetas build their lives around being in the streets. To ensure a full sensory experience, do as the locals do and wander the Jewish quarter and by foot, take your drinks and petiscos into the fresh air, and enjoy the gorgeous climate and views that Lisbon is blessed with.

Check In at Hotel

Inhabiting one of the Palatial Pombaline buildings in Lisbon’s Praça do Comercio, the Pousada de Lisboa is a place with a matchless historical personality and charm. Lisbon was born in the Castelo de Sao Jorge, but it was from this square, Praça do Comercio, that the city expanded. After the 1755 earthquake, the Marques of Pombal designed and rebuilt the entire city introducing new structures and new architectural forms.

This classic style Hotel of the 18th Century has 90 comfortable rooms and suit which have retained their lofty ceilings and relief plasterwork, some view directly across to the river while others look down to the hustle and bustle of Lisbon’s streets.

The Hotel features an indoor swimming pool, sauna, massage room and gym among its numerous facilities. In a town square marked by its history as a port of auspicious departures and arrivals, this new Pousada redefines the former Ministry of Internal Affairs, a witness to great decisions. Past memories are recovered with heritage and enriched with a new dimension. Terreiro do Paço is a key starting point to know and visit Lisbon, where you can enjoy the Tagus river landscape and explore the city or seven hills.
“In agreement with the Financial and Fiscal Measures Law passed by the Lisbon City Hall on December 19th, 2015 nº 569-A/2014, the payment of the Municipal Tourism Tax on arrival at this establishment will be obligatory as of January 1st, 2016. The Tourism Tax will be applied to overnight guests over 13 years of age at a rate of 1 Euros per person per day. The maximum amount applicable will be 7 units per stay per person. The Tax will be applied to a maximum of two persons per room”.

Rest of the day at leisure

- Accommodation in Lisbon, Pousada de Lisboa
Day 10/ LISBON

Breakfast at the Hotel

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM Enjoy a Lisbon Highlights Tour

Meet your guide at the Hotel lobby. Enjoy a panoramic view of the city and learn about its history as well as its urban and architectural evolution.

This half-day tour allows you to discover Lisbon, capital of Portugal, colonized by many civilizations along the centuries: Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Moors and finally the Portuguese after 1147. We will visit Castle of Saint Jorge, including its surrounding quarter and Alfama, Lisbon's oldest quarter.

This city is linked with the heroic deeds of the Portuguese maritime exploration, in the 15th and 16th centuries. This was the Age of Discoveries and the Golden Era of Portugal, transforming Lisbon into the opulent center of a vast empire. Part of the wealth from these expeditions was used to build magnificent monuments in a unique Portuguese style: the extravagant Manueline architectural style. Some of these monuments can still be seen, especially in the area of Belem.

But Lisbon has more than just monuments! You will visit also the traditional commerce zones of the city, with their 18th century buildings: the Baixa and the Chiado neighborhoods. In short, our tour includes all the best that Lisbon has to show!

There are senses that can only be felt in Lisbon. No one remains indifferent to its temperate climate and its characteristic sunlight.

Rest of day at leisure

• Accommodation in Lisbon, Pousada de Lisboa
Day 11/ LISBON

Breakfast at the Hotel

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Enjoy a Half day Lisbon Jewish Heritage Walking Tour (subjected to availability)

Meet your local expert guide at the lobby of the Hotel and revisit the past learning about the contribution of Portuguese Jews to the arts, philosophy, commerce and sciences helped create the rich cultural heritage of this nation today.

Start your visit walking along the streets of the **Baixa Pombalina and Alfama district** downtown of Lisbon where your guide will help you discover its Jewish past. There have been Jews in Lisbon at least since the Middle Ages, but the community suffered a major blow in 1497, when an edict by King Manuel I ordered Jews either to convert to Christianity or to leave the country. All synagogues of Lisbon were confiscated by the King and given to Christian religious orders. For the Jews that converted to Catholicism, called New Christians, kristãos novos, the establishment of the Portuguese Inquisition in 1536 meant a permanent danger of being persecuted.

You will make your way to the **Sao Domingos Church**, the site of the Lisbon Massacre of 1506 in which hundreds of people accused of being Jews were tortured, killed, and burnt at the stake by Catholics. Here, you will learn about the persecution of Jews and the tense relationship between differing religions that lasted centuries. Finally, end your visit at the Lisbon Synagogue, an architectural wonder that mixes Neo-Byzantine and Neo-Romanesque styles, making for a beautiful end to a tour through an often dark history.

End your visit at the **Lisbon Synagogue**, called Shaaré Tikvah (Gates of Hope). Inaugurated in 1904, the Lisbon Synagogue was the first synagogue to be built in Portugal since the late 15th century. Ventura Terra conceived a temple in a style mixing Neo-Byzantine and Neo-Romanesque, consistent with the Oriental fashion of Synagogues’ architecture.

*Please kindly note that the availability for visiting the Lisbon Synagogue is subjected to availability and copy of the visitors’ passports is needed.*
• Accommodation in Lisbon, Pousada de Lisboa
Day 12/ LISBON - SEVILLE

Breakfast at the Hotel

Check Out of Hotel and settle all incidental charges

Meet your driver outside of Hotel

Private Transfer from Lisbon to Seville provide by Made for Spain

Check In at Hotel

Enjoy some time at leisure

4 AM – 7:30 PM Enjoy a Special Jewish Heritage Walking Tour with your host...

The purpose of this "Jewish Heritage walking tour" is not just to visit key sites related with the Jewish past of the city, but also to focus on all aspects of Judaism in Cordoba. During the tour, your host will take you along an emotional journey where you will be able to understand and enjoy the uniqueness of Jewish past and present day life in Cordoba.

Meet your host, Moises Hassan-Amselem, at the Hotel lobby.

Cordoba’s historic area is home to an extensive Jewish quarter and was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1994. The Jewish quarter, also known as La Juderia, is a typical example of Islamic town structure, with two main streets crossing each other, and a labyrinth of small lanes running from them. It was once populated by more than 25,000 Jews.

In the tenth century, Hasday Ibn Shaprut, established an academy for Talmud study in Cordoba. Under the guidance of Moshe Ben Janoj, the Cordoba academy flourished. Cordoba then became the seat of Jewish learning, scholarship and culture, gradually eclipsing the Babylonian academies of Sura and Pumbedita.

Cordoba is also the birthplace of Moses Ben Maimon, known as RaMBaM or Maimonides. He was a doctor, philosopher and a codifier of Jewish law. Many believe he was the most illustrious Jew since Moses - according to a Hebrew saying “From Moses to Moses, there was no one like Moses”. However, and due to the Almohad intolerance, he was forced to leave Cordoba at the age of 13, heading his footsteps to Morocco and later to Egypt where he settled down until his death in 1204.
In Córdoba, we have the only remaining medieaval synagogue in Andalusia and is the purest of the three medieaval synagogues that have survived in Spain (both the others are in Toledo), as its architectural structure has hardly been affected by adaptations. The walls are covered of inscriptions from the Bible.

Stroll through the narrow lanes of the charming Juderia. While walking, you will try to understand how they lived here until they were expelled from some cities of Andalusia (Córdoba among them) in 1483 and definitely forced to exile from Spain in 1492.

**Please note the Synagogue is closed on Monday**

Rest of day at leisure

- Accommodation in Seville, Hotel Meliá Colón
Day 13/ SEVILLE – CORDOBA - SEVILLE

Breakfast at the Hotel

9 AM – 5 PM Enjoy a Full-day excursion to Cordoba...

Meet your driver outside the main entrance of the hotel

9 AM Private Transfer with English Speaking Driver to Cordoba
(Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes)

10:30 AM Arrival to Cordoba

Cordoba was founded by the Romans and due to its strategic importance as the highest navigable point of the Guadalquivir River, it became a port city of great importance, used for shipping Spanish olive oil, wine and wheat back to Ancient Rome. The Romans built the mighty bridge crossing the river, now called "El Puente Romano". But Cordoba's hour of greatest glory was when it became the capital of the Moorish kingdom of El-Andalus, and this was when work began on the Great Mosque, or "Mezquita", which – after several centuries of additions and enlargements – became one of the largest in all of Islam.

The UNESCO declared the historic quarter of Cordoba a World Heritage Site. In the 10th century, during the rule of Abd-al-Rahman III, the medina of Cordoba had a thousand mosques, eight hundred public baths, and a very advanced system of street lighting. Its urban layout competed with the monuments of Constantinople, Damascus and Baghdad.

Cordoba's medieval quarter, once the home of the Jewish community, is called "La Judería" (The Jewry), a labyrinth of winding, narrow streets, shady flower-filled courtyards and picturesque squares such as La Plaza del Potro. In early May, homeowners proudly festoon their patios with flowers to compete for the city's "most beautiful courtyard" contest.
10:30 AM Upon arrival to Cordoba meet your guide and enjoy a guided walking tour...

The historic quarter of Cordoba still preserves traces of the ancient splendor of the Caliphate of Cordoba during the 10th century, which made this city one of the most cultured and refined of medieval Europe. The Synagogue is located in the old Jewish quarter that is now a complex network of little streets with Andalucian flavor. The cathedral-mosque is one of the most beautiful examples of Muslim art in Europe and the Reales Alcazares of the Christian Kings were the home of the Catholic Kings while in Cordoba.

The Cathedral-Mosque of Cordoba is the universal symbol of Moorish heritage in Spain, and one of history's most extraordinary works of art. Inside the building more than five hundred columns can be seen. Their supporting rows of arches make up a forest of strange red and black perspectives, light and form - an unprecedented, fascinating labyrinth. Inside, at the centre of its forest of columns, a great Christian cathedral suddenly rises up. Its construction began in the 16th century within the Great Mosque, and it is an architectural wonder in its own right, with a range of different styles that go from the Gothic to the Baroque. (Tour duration with guide: 3 hours)

Just outside the Great Mosque itself you will find the peace and tranquillity of the Patio de los Naranjos (Orange Tree Courtyard), a bright, stunning garden, perfect to rest and to take a stroll in the shady cool of its fountains and trees, surrounded by the scent of orange blossom.

Cordoba is also home to a splendid synagogue carved with Andalusian-style decoration and Hebrew texts. Cordoba was also a major seat of Jewish learning in the middle Ages, and although few Jews have returned to the city since their forced exile from Spain in 1492, the historic Jewish Quarter of Cordoba remains well preserved. Cordoba's synagogue was built in 1350. It is the only synagogue in Andalusia to survive the expulsion and inquisition of the Jews in 1492 and one of only three ancient synagogues left in all of Spain (the other two are in Toledo).
After the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492, the synagogue of Cordoba was turned into a hospital. It became a Catholic chapel in 1588. Today it is a museum.

Visit also the Alcazar. With its thick defensive walls, it served both as a fortress and a palace, and is a perfect illustration of the development of Cordoban architecture through the ages. Roman and Visigoth ruins lie side by side with Arabic remains in this magnificent building, which was once the favorite residence of the different rulers of the city. However, when Cordoba was taken by Fernando III «the Saint» in 1236, the former Caliphal Palace was in a pitiful, ruinous state. Alfonso X «the Wise» began the restoration work, which was finished off during the reign of Alfonso XI. It has fulfilled many different functions over the years, such as Headquarters of the Inquisition, or a prison (first half of the 20th century).

1:30 PM Lunch at leisure in one of Cordoba Restaurants – see Made for Spain Recommended Restaurants Collection for ideas. (Cost of food not included)

After lunch enjoy some time at leisure to explore Cordoba on your own

3:30 PM Meet your driver and transfer back to Sevilla

5 PM Arrival to your hotel

Please note that on Mondays the Synagogue and the Alcazar are closed

Rest of day at leisure

- Accommodation in Seville, Hotel Meliá Colón
Day 14/ SEVILLE - DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the Hotel

Check Out of Hotel and settle all incidental charges

Meet your driver outside of Hotel

Private Transfer from Hotel to Seville Airport provided by Made for Spain

Take a flight back home/ flight details to be advised (own arrangements)