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***Journey Through Sepharad: A Jewish Roots Trip to Spain***

***Led by Kayla Ship***

*February 27-March 10, 2025*

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| **Thursday, February 27** | ***bienvenidos a espana-welcome to spain*** |

* Rendezvous at hotel in Madrid in afternoon. (Airport transfers are NOT included in the package price. There is a Taxi stand outside the arrivals hall of the airport.)
* Introductions and Orientation with Keshet Tour Educator, Kayla Ship
* Welcome Dinner at Gaudium Chamberi, a chef restaurant featuring traditional Sephardi cuisine. (All included meals will either be fish or vegetarian)

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Las Catalonias, Madrid*

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| **Friday, February 28** | ***toledo-the 2nd jerusalem*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Depart hotel for Toledo, once the most vital and powerful Jewish community in the world.
* Visit the Damasquinados Suarez factory which forges swords using ancient techniques and makes authentic Damescene inlaid jewelry. Watch a live demonstration by the blacksmith.
* Visit the Ibn Shushan (Santa Maria La Blanca) synagogue which was turned into a Church.
* *On-site learning: Caught Between Two Worlds: Conversos, the Inquisition and Expulsion*
* Visit the Shmuel HaLevy-El Transito Synagogue and Sephardic Museum.
* Lunch at local restaurant
* Return to Madrid to prepare for Shabbat.
* Join the Reform Community of Madrid for Kabbalat Shabbat services.
* Candle lighting
* Pot luck dinner with the community

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Las Catalonias, Madrid*

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| **Shabbat March 1** | ***prado museum*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel.
* Late morning walking tour of Madrid, highlighting Jewish sites including the Plaza del Sol and Plaza Mayor.
* Lunch on your own
* Late afternoon walking tour and guided visit through the Prado Museum.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Las Catalonias, Madrid*

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| **Sunday, March 2** | ***to andalucia*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Check-out and depart hotel for Andalucia.
* Stop in Consuegra to visit the Windmills of Don Quixote.
* *On site learning: Cervantes and Converso Literature*
* Lunch stop (on own) on the way.
* *On the Bus Learning: Would the Rambam or Hasdai have eaten that? Traditional Sephardi Jewish cuisine before the expulsion.*
* Arrival in Cordoba.
* Check-in at hotel.
* Dinner at the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Eurostars Palace, Cordoba*

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| **Monday March 3** | ***cordoba: the golden age of jewish spain*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Explore the rich interplay between Muslim, Jewish and Christian cultures and the impact of this cross fertilization on Jewish scholarship and tradition as we walk through the Old City.
* Visit Casa de Sefarad – the House of Sepharad Museum and Cultural Center for a guided tour and short concert of Ladino music.
* *On-site learning: Rambam, the Golden Mean & Holistic Medicine*
* Tour of Jewish sites in Cordoba's Juderia neighborhood, including Yehudah HaLevi Square, and the statue of Maimonides.
* *On site learning: Inside the Courtyard of Hasdai ibn Shaprut: The Beginning of the Golden Age*
* *On site learning: The Hebrew Poetry Revolution*
* Lunch (kosher) at Casa Mazal which specializes in Sephardi Jewish cuisine
* Visit the beautiful “La Mezquita” Cathedral Mosque.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:*** *Hotel Eurostars Palace, Cordoba*

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| **Tuesday March 4** | ***to Granada*** |

* After breakfast at the hotel, meet with Rabino Haim Casas, the first Spanish born Rabbi since the Expulsion of 1492.
* Visit the medieval synagogue.
* Depart Cordoba to travel to Granada
* En route, visit an olive oil plantation with tasting
* Group Lunch en route
* *On the Bus Learning: “Haberes Buenos” and other Ladino Expressions.*
* Enjoy the spectacular view of the Alhambra from the outlook of the Mirador de San Cristobal.
* *On-site learning: Shmuel Ibn Nagrela Hanagid-Poet, Warrior, Vizier*
* Visit the modern Mosque of Granada and meet with a member of the community.
* Check-in at hotel.
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

**Overnight:** *Melia Hotel, Granada*

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| **Wednesday March 5** | ***Alhambra*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Tour the impressive Alhambra, a palace and citadel dating to the 14th century, whose design may have been inspired by the home of Shmuel ibn Nagrela Hanagid.
* *On-site learning: Patron and Poet" –poetry by Judah Halevi, Shmuel ibn Nagrela, Abraham ibn Ezra, and Shlomo ibn Gvirol*
* Visit & meet local Taracean artisans working in traditional regional wood crafts.
* Stroll through the beautiful Generalife Gardens.
* Lunch break (on your own)
* Afternoon at leisure
* Tapas Dinner followed by live Flamenco performance

***Overnight:***  *Melia Hotel, Granada*

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| **Thursday, March 6** | ***To Barcelona*** |

* Early breakfast at the hotel
* Early morning flight from Granada to Barcelona.
* Ascend by elevator to the top of the Columbus Monument which is 60 meters tall and allows for a magnificent view of the city and port.
* On-site Learning: *Was Colombus Jewish?* *The Jewish Role in the Age of Exploration.*
* Group Lunch
* Guided tour of the Hospital Sant Pau, a UNESCO world heritage site, whose Catalan Art Nouveau design incorporates Modernism and Moorish influences.
* Check-in at hotel
* Dinner and evening at leisure.

***Overnight:***  *Barcelona*

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| **Friday, March 7** | ***girona & besalu*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel.
* Travel to the village of Besalu to visit the incredibly well preserved ancient Mikveh.
* *On-site learning: The Jewish Physician in Sepharad*
* Continue to Girona, home to Nahmanides.
* Lunch at local restaurant in the Call (Jewish neighborhood)
* Visit the Museum of the History of the Jews, which was the site of a synagogue and mikveh.
* On-site learning: *The role of the Call in Jewish communal life.*
* Return to Barcelona to freshen up
* Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the local Reform Jewish community.
* Shabbat dinner at the hotel

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya, Barcelona*

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| **Shabbat, March 8** | ***day at leisure in barcelona*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Enjoy a day at leisure to explore the many museums, markets, beach and other sites of Barcelona.
* (*Ideas for free time: Casa Battlo, Picasso Museum, Miro Museum, Casa Mila, Park Guell. It is recommended to order tickets in advance.*)
* Evening: Light dinner with wine & desserts at Casa Adret, a Jewish cultural center in what was a Jewish home dating back to the 12th century. We’ll have time for Reflection before making Havdalah on the roof overlooking the Gothic Quarter.

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya, Barcelona*

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| **Sunday, March 9** | ***medieval jewish barcelona*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Guided tour through the Call in the Gothic Old City of Barcelona, including the Medeival synagogue.
* On-site learning: *Who won the Disputation of 1263?.*
* Behind the Scenes visit to the Cathedral Archives to view documents relating to the Medeival Jewish community.
* Free time for last minute shopping and exploration
* Summary and Conclusion session
* Farewell dinner at Maccabi Kosher Restaurant.

***Overnight:*** *Catalonia Plaza Catalunya, Barcelona*

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| **Monday, March 10** | ***departure*** |

* Breakfast at the hotel
* Farewell!
* Airport transfers are NOT included in the package price. The Aerobus departs frequently from nearby Plaza Catalunya or the front desk can order you a taxi.
* Listed activities and speakers and hotels are subject to confirmation.
* Program will be staffed by a Keshet Israel Tour Educator and local Spanish licensed guides.
* All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
* This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet

*Activity Level-Please note that we will be spending most days exploring on our feet, often through medieval alleyways and cobble stone streets. Stairs are often unavoidable.*

*Note for single travelers: This program offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere for those travelling with friends or on their own. The atmosphere you'll find is of learning and experiencing in the company of a small group of individual friends. There is a good chance that you will not be the only person without a travel partner. You may wish to have your own room, in which case the single supplement is noted on the pricing. However, if you prefer to save this fee we'll try to match you up with another solo traveler. Just let us know that you'd like a roommate when registering.*



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