

**Ayelet** TOURS  
THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

AYELET'S TRAVELING UNIVERSITY  
Jewish Musical Journey in

**SEPHARDIC  
SPAIN**

Led by Professor Yale Strom  
& Elizabeth Schwartz  
November 2024

*Jewish history in Spain is filled with contradictions. There is tragedy here, but there are also traces of former glories during the 1,000 years before the inquisition – these were large scale Jewish communities that prospered for long periods. We will delve into the past, enjoy unforgettable musical presentations created by Prof. Yale Strom and Elizabeth Schwartz, as well as reach out to the nascent Jewish communities of today to hear their struggles, and their successes. Yale and Elizabeth add a musical element that will make this tour totally unique, bringing their personal talents as well as incredible connections to the local Jewish music scene. We also encounter true tales of Crypto Jews on the island of Mallorca, a rarely visited Jewish heritage destination with an amazing story to tell!*

# Ayelet's Traveling University

## Jewish Journey in

# SEPHARDIC SPAIN

Led by Prof. Yale Strom & Elizabeth Schwartz  
*November 4-15, 2024*

### DAY 1

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024  
DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Spain!

### DAY 2

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024  
BIENVENIDOS A MADRID!

- We arrive in **Madrid** and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative. (All arrivals on this day will be transferred to the beginning of the tour).
- We stop by our hotel to pick up pre-arrivals.
- We begin by touring the impressive **Prado Museum**, considered to be one of the greatest art museums in the world.
- Next, we visit the **Beth Yaakov Synagogue**, opened in 1968 after the passage of the “Religious Freedom Law”.
- We continue to the “**Centro**”, which was founded in 2006 as a joint effort of the Spanish Government’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the regional Madrid governing body and the Madrid City Council. Its mission is to “deepen the study of the legacy of Sephardic culture as a living part of Spanish culture, as well as foster greater knowledge of Jewish culture within Spanish society.” It regularly holds art exhibitions and concerts.
- This evening, we check into our hotel and refresh before joining together for a delicious **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

**Overnight in Madrid**





## DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024  
TOLEDO BIRTHPLACE OF  
LADINO MUSIC

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to one of the main highlights of Spain, the **Imperial City of Toledo**, a striking hilltop city, once the center for Jewish Spain with a rich, creative heritage.
- Upon our arrival, we visit the famous 16th century **El Greco house/museum** located in the former Jewish quarter.
- Our next stop is at the **Sinagoga de Santa Maria La Blanca**, later converted to a church.
- We continue to the **Sinagoga del Transito**, originally intended as a private house of worship for Samuel Ha Levi in the 14th century, which is now the **Sephardic Museum**.
- We complete today's tour with a visit to the impressive **Royal Palace**, followed by stops in two of Europe's most impressive squares; **Plaza Mayor**, with arts, crafts and chic boutiques under its arcades, as well as the Spanish version of Times Square, **Puerta del Sol**.
- Dinner on own tonight.

### Overnight in Madrid

## DAY 4

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024  
CORDOBA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we board the high speed **AVE train to Cordoba**, home of the great Rambam, Moses Maimonides and other Jewish scholars and poets. Once the biggest city in all of Europe, Cordoba thrived and expanded with its unique blend of cultures.

- We begin with a visit to the **ancient synagogue** built in 1315, the only medieval synagogue in Spain, which has restored and reopened as a museum.
- Nearby is **Maimonides Square** with its bronze sculpture of the Jewish philosopher of the same name, he is best known as a court doctor, Torah scholar and author of the book *The Guide for the Perplexed*.
- Our next stop is at **Casa de Sefarad House of Memories**, a center for learning the history and culture of medieval Jewish Cordoba. Casa de Sefarad hosts a wide variety of performances in its cultural arts space and is home to a repository of books and materials on the medieval Jewish world. Here, we enjoy a **performance by local musicians**.
- Our final stop today is at "**La Mezquita**", the 8th century church turned mosque that now has a cathedral placed in its center.
- We continue to **Seville** and check into our hotel with time to refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together as well as a **Flamenco performance** at one of Seville's most revered tablaos (musical venues), including **music by Yale and Elizabeth**.

### Overnight in Seville



## DAY 5

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024  
SIGHTSEEING IN SEVILLE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy exploring **Seville**, the capital of the Andalusia region, famous for artistry, Flamenco dancing and its striking architectural landmarks. We head to the **Barrio de Santa Cruz** with its winding narrow streets and small plaza, once a thriving Jewish community, where we enjoy a guided tour with our **local expert Moises**.
- Next, we visit the **Cathedral of Seville**, one of the largest in the world. Here rest all the Spanish kings and queens, as well as the impressive **sepulchre of Christopher Columbus**.
- Tonight, we participate in **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with the local Jewish community.

Overnight in Seville

## DAY 6

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2024  
GRANADA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We depart Seville for an early morning drive to **Granada**. Upon arrival, we visit to one of the wonders of the world, the Moorish **Alhambra Palace**, where in 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella signed the decree expelling the Jews from Spain.
- Next, we visit the **Realejo**, the Jewish quarter of Granada. Located right in the town center, it was a bustling community at the time of Nasrid rule. The Jewish community was once so important, it was called Garnatha al Yejud, Arabic for Granada of the Jews. While strolling through the Realejo, we will see the beautiful **walled gardens and mansions**.
- Later this afternoon, we check into our hotel, refresh and then set out to enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Granada





## DAY 7

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024  
PALMA DE MALLORCA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our **flight to Mallorca**.
- Upon landing, our local expert, **Dani Rotstein**, founder and owner of Jewish Majorca, leads us on a **panoramic tour** of this modern city with an ancient past; Palma's rich history is yours to explore. Architecture admirers must visit the **Cathedral of Santa Maria of Palma**, an iconic Gothic Roman Catholic cathedral that has stood for nearly 800 years. For nature lovers, don't miss the **Caves of Drach**, where light and shadow dances across the rock formations, creating incomparable visuals you won't see anywhere else.
- Later, we check into our hotel, then join together for **dinner** and an incredible **musical program**.

### Overnight in Mallorca

## DAY 8

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024  
JEWISH MALLORCA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, Dani leads us on a **walking tour** through the **Jewish quarter of Palma**, including a visit to the small **Jewish History Museum** and the sites of the **old main synagogue** and possible **secret synagogue**. We also visit the local **Orthodox Sephardic synagogue**, which is still in use today. We will learn about and pay homage to the **Chuetas**, a group of "Converso Mallorcans" who are direct descendants of the Medieval Jews of the island who had been discriminated against for centuries. In the last decade, some have recently converted back to Judaism.

- Our day concludes with a **meet and greet** with a **leader of the local Jewish community** to learn about the past and present state of Judaism in the Balearic Islands of Spain.
- Dinner on own this evening.

### Overnight in Mallorca



## DAY 9

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2024  
BEAUTIFUL BARCELONA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we transfer to the airport and **fly to Barcelona**, the capital of the Catalanian province, and set out to explore the city's highlights and Jewish history.
- Our first stop is at Antonio Gaudí's architectural masterpiece, **La Sagrada Familia Church**, still in a perpetual state of construction.
- We continue on a **walking tour** through the centuries-old streets and alleys of the **Gothic Quarter** for an introduction to this former Jewish community. While here, we will visit **one of the oldest synagogues in Europe** dating back to the 6th century, located in **El Call**. The synagogue was restored and reopened in 2002 by a private non-profit.
- We stroll down "**La Rambla**", the famed pedestrian boulevard, to the sea, passing gardens, street musicians, mimes, restaurants and other sites along the way.
- After checking into our hotel and a chance to refresh, set out to discover nightlife in the city and enjoy dinner on own.

### Overnight in Barcelona

## DAY 10

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2024  
GERONA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we explore the historic town of **Gerona** in the hills of Catalonia. Gerona stands not only as a charming example of Spain's quaint early-medieval ambience, but also as a reminder of the days when Jewish traditions bloomed. In fact, Gerona was once a link between the first Kabbalists of Provence and the poets and writers of Cordoba and Toledo. Jewish settlers came here at the end of the 9th century, growing and prospering until the Spanish Inquisition in 1492. While here, we will visit the **Archaeological Museum** and the **Jewish Museum** among other sites.
- We return to Barcelona for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

### Overnight in Barcelona





## DAY 11

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
JEWISH LIFE IN BARCELONA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a private **Jewish heritage tour of the Calle**, the Jewish quarter of Barcelona. Our time will include a private tour of **Casa Adret**, the oldest building in the Jewish quarter, formerly owned by medieval Jews and now functioning as the headquarter for **Mozaika**, acting as a Jewish cultural center.
- We continue with a fascinating private tour and access to **archives of the Barcelona Cathedral**, focusing on those related to the Jewish community.
- Next, we stop to view the remains of Barcelona's **Major Synagogue** that reopened in 2002 as a small museum.
- We continue to the site of the **ancient cemetery** from the middle-ages, where there are no visible markers today, but where we will hear about the history of the site and the efforts of Dominique and the local Jewish community to get it designated a landmark. From this point, we can look over the Mediterranean and on to the city of Barcelona.

- Our next stop is at **Monjuich (Jews' Hill)**, with a magnificent view of the city. This hill is Barcelona's central park today.
- This evening, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner** and a **Ladino and Klezmer concert** at Barcelona's vibrant Jewish community Center, **Beth Shalom**, founded in 1997.

### Overnight in Barcelona

## DAY 12

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024  
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, landing later today.

***THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!***

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

