



# JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY IN SPECTACULAR PORTUGAL

JUNE 26 - JULY 4, 2023  
WITH RABBI DR. MARC SHAPIRO

- Visit Lisbon, Belmonte, Porto and many other sites off the beaten track
- A central feature of the tour will be Dr. Shapiro's expert discussions of the many places we will visit
- An unforgettable experience with a focus on Jewish history
- LUXURY HOTELS • EXPERT LOCAL GUIDES • DELICIOUS KOSHER MEALS



**MARC B. SHAPIRO** holds the Weinberg Chair in Judaic Studies at the University of Scranton. He received his Ph.D from Harvard University, and is one of the Jewish world's most popular writers and speakers.

Torah in Motion Travel  
3910 Bathurst Street, Suite 307, Toronto, Ontario M3H 5Z3 Canada  
416.633.5770 • [info@torahinmotion.org](mailto:info@torahinmotion.org) • [torahinmotion.org](http://torahinmotion.org)  
TICO REGISTRATION NUMBER: 50022047



# PORTUGAL

WITH DR. MARC SHAPIRO ·  
JUNE 26 - JULY 4, 2023  
ITINERARY *(subject to change)*

---

## MONDAY: LISBON

---

Arrival in Lisbon. Welcome dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa**

---

## TUESDAY: LISBON

---

We begin our tour at 9am with sightseeing in beautiful Lisbon, one of the oldest cities in Europe. We will visit the Belem district to see the Monument to the Discoveries, which commemorates Portugal's role in discovering the New World. We will also visit the sixteenth-century former Hieronymites Monastery. We will see the fifteenth-century Belem Tower, both of which are significant architecturally and have been declared UNESCO World Heritage sites. We will have a walking tour in the Alfama neighbourhood, the oldest district of Lisbon. This area had an important Jewish population in the fifteenth century. We will also see the Marques de Pombal Square and Rossio Square, and visit the Shaare Tikva Synagogue and the memorial for the Jews killed in the Lisbon massacre of 1506.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa**

---

## WEDNESDAY: EVORA, CASTELO DE VIDE, BELMONTE

---

We begin our day in Lisbon and travel to Evora, a medieval walled city that is another UNESCO World Heritage Site. In addition to the Jewish past of this city, we will also see evidence of its Roman, Moorish, and medieval Christian past, and the Historic Evora library. From here we travel to Castelo de Vide on the border with Spain. We will walk through the medieval Jewish quarter and visit the site of Portugal's oldest synagogue, which is now a Jewish museum.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Pousadas Belmonte**

---

## THURSDAY: BELMONTE, VILAR FORMOSO

---

We begin the day in Belmonte, home of a Jewish community that hid their Jewish faith for over 400 years, only returning to open practice of Judaism in the twentieth century. We will visit their synagogue and the new Jewish museum founded in 2015. From here we travel to Vilar Formoso on the Portuguese-Spanish border. There we will visit the new museum which tells the story of Aristides de Sousa Mendes and the refugees of 1940.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Pousadas Belmonte**

---

## FRIDAY: TRANCOSO, PORTO

---

We begin by traveling to the medieval town of Trancoso where the old Jewish quarter remained practically unchanged over the centuries. We will see the medieval walls, castle, and the Casa do Gato Preto decorated with the Lion of Judah, which some think was the house of the rabbi. We will also visit the Isaac Cardoso Jewish Interpretation Centre for Jewish Culture, which preserves the Jewish legacy of this region. We then travel to Porto where we will spend Shabbat and learn about the early twentieth-century revival of Judaism in Portugal. We will visit the Kadooric Mekor Haim Synagogue, the largest Synagogue in Portugal.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hilton Boeira Gardens**

---

## SHABBAT: PORTO

---

Davening with the local community in the Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue, the largest synagogue in Portugal. On Shabbat afternoon there will be a walking tour and Dr. Shapiro will give a class on a Torah subject relevant to Portugal.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hilton Boeira Gardens**

---

## SUNDAY: PORTO

---

We begin with a panoramic walking tour to discover the city of Porto which at one time had a major Jewish community. We will visit the recently discovered old synagogue with its fifteenth-century ark, the Tower of Clérigos, the Lello bookstore, and the port area over the Duero river. We will also see the famous Porto cellars across the river.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hilton Boeira Gardens**

---

## MONDAY: PORTO, COIMBRA, TOMAR, LISBON

---

We leave Porto for Coimbra, where we will see the Jewish quarter and the famous medieval university which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. From there we travel to Tomar, founded by the Knights Templar and regarded as one of the jewels of Portugal. We will visit the fifteenth-century synagogue, which now contains the Abraham Zacuto Museum.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa**

---

## TUESDAY: SINTRA, CASCAIS, ESTORIL, LISBON

---

We begin our day by traveling to the wonderful town of Sintra to visit the Jewish quarter and the summer palace used by kings of Portugal. From there we will go to Cabo de Roca, the most western point of Europe, and also see the Bay of Cascais and the port city of Estoril, both of which are major tourist destinations. We will return in the evening to Lisbon for our farewell dinner

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Tivoli Avenida Liberdade Lisboa**

---

## WEDNESDAY: LISBON

---

Breakfast, departure



## Belmonte

Crypto-Judaism survived for 500 years in Belmonte. Only at the end of the twentieth century did Jews in Belmonte return to practice Judaism openly.

## Coimbra

The University of Coimbra was established in 1290, and is the oldest university in Portugal. Its historical buildings were classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2013. In the sixteenth century, Coimbra was the center of an important Crypto-Jewish group, whose leader was executed by the Inquisition.

## Evora

The University of Evora library has a copy of Abraham Zacuto's rare Almanach Perpetuum, which revolutionized ocean navigation.

## Lisbon

Before and during World War II, around 45,000 refugees from the Nazis – including the Lubavitcher Rebbe – passed through Lisbon on their way to the West. Medieval Lisbon had four separate Jewish quarters.

## Porto

From Porto, Artur Carlo de Barros Basto launched the movement to return Crypto-Jews to normative Judaism. The building of the Mekor Haim Synagogue was funded by the Kadoorie family of Shanghai.

## Sintra

The palace in Sintra was used as a royal residence from the fifteenth-nineteenth centuries.

## Tomar

A tribunal of the Inquisition was established in Tomar in 1540.



## Suggested Reading:

Francois Soyer,  
*Persecution of the Jews and Muslims of Portugal*

Benzion Netanyahu,  
*Don Isaac Abravanel*

Cecil Roth,  
*A History of the Marranos*

Marion Kaplan,  
*Hitler's Jewish Refugees: Hope and Anxiety in Portugal*

Richard Zimler,  
*The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon (novel)*