



PORTUGAL

ITINERARY (subject to change) **AUGUST 4-12, 2026**

WITH DR. MARC SHAPIRO

TUESDAY: LISBON

We begin our tour at 12pm 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 see the sixteenth-century former Hieronymites Monastery and 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.

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.

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.

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.

SHABBAT: PORTO

We will have a rejuvenating Shabbat in our Garden Hotel in Boeira. On Shabbat afternoon there will be a walking tour and Dr. Shapiro will give a class on a Torah shiur subject relevant to Portugal.

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.

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.

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

WEDNESDAY: LISBON

Breakfast, departure