

## 8 day Portugal tour - following the Marranos - day Trips

**Dates:** June 19, 2019  
June 26, 2019

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Portugal, the westernmost country on the European continent has been abandoned and repeatedly disappeared from the public-view for many years. A land that was once regarded as the "princess of the seas" and shared with Spain the new world, is becoming a new tourist destination.

Challenging and engaging where old meets new, tradition and progress side by side. For us, as part of the Jewish heritage, the "discovery" of Portugal uncovers an additional fascinating layer from our past which is the "practicing-Judaism-in-secret" the Marranos of Portugal who for more than five hundred years have preserved the Jewish spark in secrecy recently have begun the return to Judaism. We will meet the fascinating past, visit hundreds of year's old palaces and fortresses and stroll around contemporary and equally fascinating modern sites.



## Itinerary

### Day 1

#### Tel Aviv → Lisbon

Sun d'Or flight to Lisbon. Depending on the time of the flight we may have time for a panoramic tour of the city of Lisbon.

Arrival in Lisbon, Accommodation at Penela, the heart of Portugal for a day trips.



## Day 2

### **Marvila - castelo de vide > Belmonte > Guarda**

We will begin to understand the Jews of Portugal via the decrees of the kings of Portugal.

In the morning we will travel to the Bridge of Malvolo, the bridge through which the Jews moved from Spain to Portugal in the great exodus. We will continue on a tour of the picturesque town of Castelo de Vide, where the "new Christians", descendants of the Marranos, live to this day. We will tour the Jewish Quarter, the splendidly preserved "Juderia", in the medieval synagogue that was discovered in excavations that took place about 15 years ago, and was especially famous following the ceremony and a speech of forgiveness from the Jewish people of then-President of Portugal Mr. Mario Suarez.

We will travel to Belmonte, a picturesque town that was famous about a hundred years ago, when the families of Marranos, who practiced Jewish customs secretly for five hundred years, were discovered at random. We will visit the Beit Eliyahu Synagogue, which was built in the place of the synagogue that was destroyed during the Inquisition and visit the impressive Jewish Museum.

We will continue on to Guarda, see the old houses of the town and be impressed by the fortresses that stand out against the background of agricultural land rich in vineyards. We will walk among the houses of the former Jewish quarter and notice the crosses engraved on the door frames that tell of the great Jewish presence in the past. Lodging and dinner.

## Day 3

### **Porto > The Valley of Duoro**

Today we will tour the second largest city in Portugal. The city is built on granite cliffs towering over the Duero River that flows into the Atlantic Ocean. From here famous sailors set sail and here ships laden with goods arrived. During the tour we will visit the Palace of the Stock Exchange, at the unique train station "Sao Bento", we will see the city center which is composed of winding alleys is included in the list of UNESCO World Assets. In the Jewish part of the tour we will visit the synagogue named after the famous philanthropist Kadouri. Here a small community of Jews operate alongside many Marranos who have begun to return to Judaism in recent years. In the afternoon we will take a tour of the Duoro Valley, Portugal's most famous nature parks and vineyards. Lodging and dinner.

## Day 4

### **Aviro> Busco Forest> Coimbra**

We will take a tour of the city of Aveiro, also known as Venice of Portugal. We will be impressed by the beauty of the city, its low bridges, its canals and the narrow boats that have a high pointy nose decorated with colorful paintings. We will continue to the fantasy forest of Bosco. The forest is rich in vegetation and waterfalls and has a beautiful palace. From there we will travel southwards to the city of Coimbra, which for some time served as the capital of Portugal. We will tour the city and visit the old university. Lodging and dinner.



## **Day 5**

### **Tomar > Óbidos**

Today we will head south to the city of Tomar to visit the Templar fortress that dominates the city, from there we will descend to the Jewish quarter and the touching story of the oldest synagogue in Portugal. We will continue to Óbidos, a charming picturesque town that preserves the atmosphere of the Middle Ages. We will walk down the main street and peer into the beautiful alleys whose houses are painted white. In the afternoon we return to the hotel. Preparations for Shabbat, Kabbalat Shabbat and a Shabbat meal.

## **Day 6, Shabbat**

Tour the surrounding area around the hotel. Shabbat prayers and meals in song and brotherhood.

## **Day 7**

### **Lisbon**

In the morning we will tour the capital city of Portugal, according to the locals it's the first capital in Europe. We continue our tour to the district of Alfa, the oldest quarter of Lisbon. Here Jews lived until the expulsion of Portugal in the 16th century. We will see the fortress of San Joao, which dominates the Old City and the estuary area. We'll see the Monastery of Geronimo, see the Explorers Memorial. We will unite with the tragic destiny of those whom were sent to the gallows in the cruel Otto de-Fe ceremonies of the kings of the Inquisition in the Square of Tolerance. From there we will continue to tour the picturesque streets of the beautiful city of Lisbon.

## **Day 8**

### **Sintra > Cascais > Kabu Dharuka**

We will begin with a stroll around the fascinating beaches of Lisbon, decorated with picturesque towns and charming views of the Atlantic coast. We will visit the westernmost point of Europe - Cabo de Rocca and the picturesque town of Sintra, the resort town of the kings of Portugal, with its landscapes and palaces. We will continue on our tour to the picturesque town of Cascais.

**Lisbon → Tel Aviv** Our trip has come to an end. We will travel to Lisbon Airport and from there we will depart back to Israel.

(\* ) Note:

There may be changes in the order of the visits



**Price of Package:**

**Price for traveler in a double room: 1680€**

**Addition for Single room: 420€**

**The price includes**

- The hotel is a spa hotel with indoor and outdoor pool
- Delicious meals orchestrated by an Israeli chef.
- Direct flights from Tel Aviv to Lisbon and back. Sun d'Or flights (a subsidiary of El Al)
- Port taxes and fuel charges (Correct to date of offer, the price of the package is subject to change based on fuel charges or tax changes)
- 7 nights in hotels at a good tourism level. Hotel Ducitania at the level 4 dlx - in the town of Panella. All are Day trips.
- Weekdays - Half board; Shabbat Full board - Sandwiches for lunch. Kosher Mehadrin.
- Fado show – Boat tour in the city of Porto
- Air-conditioned tour bus
- Entrances to sites as detailed in the itinerary
- An experienced tour guide from Megalim-Olam and local guides as required

E&OE - Errors and omissions excepted

**The price does not include**

- Health and baggage insurance
- Extra meals not included in the price
- Drinks for group prepaid meals
- Service TIP; 3 € per day per person.

**Regards, Etzion – Megalim Olam**

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