



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER CHARLOTTE



## PORTUGAL 2020

November 4 - 10

### ITINERARY

Medieval castles, cobblestone villages, captivating cities and golden beaches: the Portugal experience can be many things. History, great food and idyllic scenery are just the beginning...

Join us as we unlock the keys to Jewish Sephardic history through first-hand stories. From the Golden Age of Discovery to the Inquisition, Portuguese Jewry went from the heights of wealth and success to the depths of anguish and despair. Hear the stories behind these fascinating people and events, and meet hidden Jews whose families have maintained their faith in secret for 500 years.



#### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

Fly to Porto.



#### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Arrive in Porto, recognized as one of Europe's best destinations. Also known as Oporto, it is the capital of port wine and a fascinating mix of Baroque and modern art and architecture. After checking in to our hotel, we will begin our trip with a panoramic tour of Porto and view the main sites of the city.

Stop at Guarani historic café for a coffee break and a taste of the local pastry, and walk through the historical center of Porto, and the Ribeira neighbourhood near the riverfront, which has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Enjoy an authentic port wine tasting experience followed by dinner.

#### OVERNIGHT: PORTOBAY FLORES, PORTO



#### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Breakfast and hotel check out.

Visit the *Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue*. Inaugurated in 1938, it stands as the largest synagogue in the Iberian Peninsula. Walk through the museum housed within to learn more about the Jewish community of

*Subject to Change*

Porto. Meet with some members of the Porto community and learn the story of Captain Barros Basto, who became well known in the Jewish world for trying to rescue the descendants of the Jews who were forced to convert in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and who continued to practice, in secret, certain precepts of the Jewish religion

Depart to Trancoso, driving through the Douro Valley, famous as the only authentic producer of port wine.

*First Mezuzah in 500 years:* Stop in Trancoso and visit the **Isaac Cardoso Interpretation Center of Jewish Culture**, commemorating the Jewish community that existed in this small town.

Group lunch at a local restaurant.

*Behind the Veil:* Continue to Belmonte, where a small Jewish community survived in secrecy for hundreds of years by hiding all the external signs of their faith.

Check into the hotel.

Depart for Shabbat Services at **Beit Eliahu** synagogue followed by dinner with members of the Jewish community.

#### **OVERNIGHT: POUSADA DE BELMONTE, BELMONTE**



### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020**

Breakfast at the hotel and check out.

*People of the Book:* Belmonte is considered the legitimate heir of the ancient historical presence of the Sephardic Jews. Throughout the time of the Inquisition, it managed to preserve many of the rites, prayers and social relations. In 1989 the Community was officially recognized and in 1996, they inaugurated the synagogue "*Beit Eliahu*". In 2001, they opened a Jewish Cemetery and in 2005, the Jewish Museum (the only one in Portugal). The museum portrays the history of the Sephardic presence in Portugal, their customs and traditions and includes a memorial of the Inquisition.

Early group lunch at a local restaurant.

Depart Belmonte and drive to the historic Tomar, including a visit to the famous, ancient Jewish synagogue, which dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Continue to Lisbon.

Check into the hotel followed by group dinner.

Enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure to explore Lisbon on your own.

#### **OVERNIGHT: BAIRRO ALTO, LISBON**



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Breakfast at the hotel.

Walking tour of the city's diverse architecture, exploring its neighbourhoods' steep winding alleys and hidden landmarks. Begin at **Castelo São Jorge** with its breath-taking views of the city and overlapping historical contours.

Explore the **Alfama** quarter, one of the city's oldest areas, and the birthplace of a large Jewish community who flourished here in the hereabouts of the **Rua da Judiaria**. End the morning at **Rossio Square**, the bustling historic hub of downtown Lisbon and site of a remarkable Jewish memorial.

Enjoy a cooking class at *Time Out Market* and learn how to make some of Portugal's authentic dishes. Tour the market and enjoy some free time for souvenir shopping.

Continue our walking tour of Lisbon with two of the most emblematic neighbourhoods of the city: Príncipe Real, and Chiado. **Príncipe Real** is a romantic garden, known for its antique and interior design Shops. Continue to **Chiado** which is an elegant, sophisticated district of theatres, bookshops, old-style cafes, art nouveau jewellery shops, and a mix of luxurious international brands and traditional shops.

After the sun goes down, enjoy dinner and a Fado show, the traditional Portuguese music.

### OVERNIGHT: BAIRRO ALTO, LISBON



## MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Breakfast at the hotel.

Excursion to the city of **Sintra**, the resort town of Portugal kings, perched high in the mountains. The town's picturesque romantic monuments and mountainous vistas, serve as the backdrop for unparalleled architectural and natural beauty. These have coupled to allow it to become a compelling and enduring centrepiece recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Visit the **National Palace**, the former royal palace of Sintra, which has its origins in the Moorish period. After the Reconquista, it became the summer residence of the Portuguese royal family, who extended and embellished the building. The current palace still looks very much like it must have looked in the 16th century.

Choose between embarking on a bike tour, taking in Sintra's mountainous and stunning landscapes, enjoying a coffee and pastry break in the beautiful Guincho Beach, and ending at the fishing village in Cascais; or choose to walk through picturesque Sintra with its many boutique.

Enjoy lunch on your own.

Return via the Atlantic Coastal, nestled between the mountains and the Ocean coast and stop at the **Belém** monumental district. During the 16th century this area was a long beach and one of the spots from where the Portuguese navigators set out for their discovery voyages all over the World. View the **Discovery Memorial** and

the pavement mosaic representing a compass with the map of the world charting the routes taken by the Portuguese explorers.

Return to Lisbon.

*Speaking for the Silenced:* Meet with Richard Zimler, bestselling author of the “*The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon*”, a novel about different branches and generations of a Portuguese Jewish family. Zimler has dedicated over twenty years, researching and writing from the perspective of the people who have been systematically persecuted, brutalized and forgotten, fighting for the right side of history.

Farewell dinner and reflection on the mission at a lively restaurant by the river.

#### **OVERNIGHT: BAIRO ALTO, LISBON**



#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020**

Breakfast and the hotel check out. Transfer to Lisbon Airport.  
Departure flight to the U.S.A, arriving the same day.