



Poetry, Music, and Mysticism:

The Jews of Spain

The Jewish Theological Seminary Mission
to Southern Spain

May 18–29, 2008



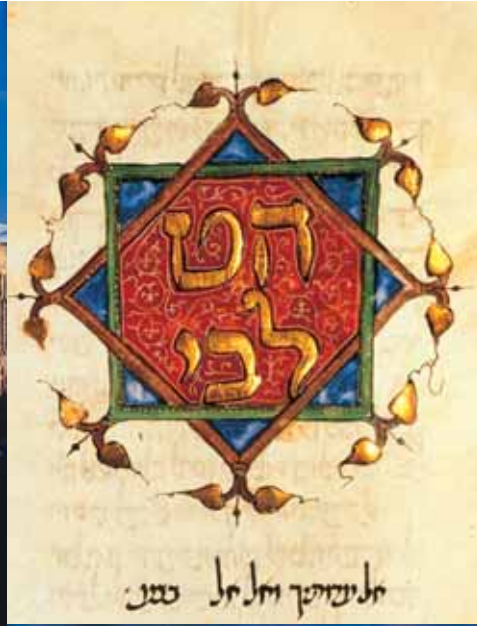
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From Roman times to 1492, the Jewish community in Spain was home to an unusual Jewish culture, combining features of northern European talmudism, Arabic poetry, philosophy and science, and the Kabbalah. These trends resided only uneasily together; the controversy over whether the study of philosophy could be religiously sanctioned was so intense that it led to a serious split within the community, analogous to our own controversy between science and fundamentalism.



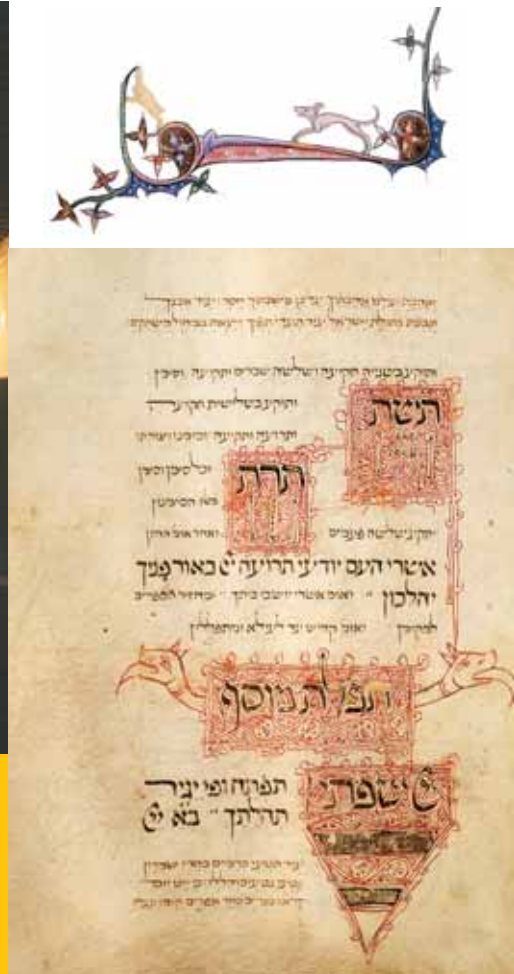


Spain was also the most bountiful producer of Hebrew poetry in the Golden Age of Hebrew literature and a place where Jewish community leaders and rabbis wrote poetry of love, wine drinking, and friendship, as well as poem-prayers to be used in the synagogue. Join us as we visit such places as the historic synagogues of Toledo and the medieval synagogue of Cordoba (a city still associated with Maimonides) and explore the grandeur of Granada, with its magnificent palace yet melancholy echo of the expulsion decree.

Our trip will take us to sites of Jewish creativity under medieval Islam and through paths of tragedy and expulsion. En route we will visit medieval castles, *mikva'ot*, and synagogues as we learn about the Golden Age of Spain, the distinctiveness of Sephardic Jewish history, and the heroic personalities who assured Sephardic creativity and survival.

We are pleased that our accompanying scholar will be Dr. Ray Scheindlin, who, along the way, will be speaking to us on a wide variety of themes associated with Spanish Jewish history and medieval Hebrew poetry and song—including the significance of Toledo for the Jews of Spain; Maimonides; Samuel the Nagid; Yehuda Halevi; and the poetry and mysticism of Jewish medieval Spain. Additionally, on the road, we will listen to music from medieval Spain and Ladino songs and hear guest artist mezzo-soprano Janice Meyerson sing examples of traditional Sephardic Jewish music.





**"POETRY, MUSIC, AND MYSTICISM:
THE JEWS OF SPAIN"**

Itinerary*

SUNDAY, MAY 18

For those traveling with the group, early-evening departure from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, via Iberia Airlines, to Madrid.

MONDAY, MAY 19

Early-morning arrival at Madrid Barajas Airport; proceed to our hotel, the four-star deluxe Miguel Angel. Afternoon: orientation tour of Madrid, including Puertas del Sol, Gran Vía, Plaza Mayor, and Paseo de Castellana y Recoletos—location of the Prado, Reina Sofia, and Thyssen-Bornemisza museums. Evening: orientation and overview of our trip's content, followed by welcome dinner at our hotel (included).

TUESDAY, MAY 20

Visit Plaza del Oriente—including the Royal Palaces, the Opera House, and Royal Theatre, and a guided tour of the Prado, one of the world's greatest museums, where we will admire works by Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Rafael, Rubens, and others. Evening free: dinner on your own.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Full-day outing to Toledo—for centuries this city was the political, spiritual, and intellectual capital of Old Castile and once the center of Spanish Jewry, often referred to as the "second Jerusalem." In Toledo, we will visit El Tránsito Synagogue (also known as Casa El Greco), which houses the Sephardic Museum and Library; as well as other important sites, including the Alcázar, Santa María la Blanca, the Church of Santo Tomé (site of El Greco's masterpiece *The Burial of Conde de Orgaz*), and the Cathedral. Evening free: dinner on your own in Madrid.

**(subject to change)*

THURSDAY, MAY 22

Morning departure for Cordoba, “city of learning,” birthplace of Maimonides, and site of the famed Mezquita (Great Mosque), a masterpiece of Arab decor and architecture. At one time the world’s most populated city, as far back as the

seventh century, Cordoba was under Muslim domination—the first caliphate of Spain. Our walking tour of the city will include the Rambam (Maimonides) Synagogue and the Calle de los Judíos, once the site of the main street of Cordoba’s medieval ghetto and Jewish quarter. Dinner is included.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Morning departure for Seville, considered by many “the soul of Spain,” where we will check into our hotel before a brief orientation tour of the city and have time to relax before our Friday evening, *erev Shabbat* dinner (included).

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin on *parshat hashavua* (Torah reading of the week), based on two medieval Spanish commentators Abraham Ibn Ezra and Nahmanides. Optional (availability and distance permitting): attend services at a local synagogue or minyan. Lunch at our hotel (included) and/or time to relax and explore Seville on your own. Evening free: dinner on your own.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Full-day tour of Seville, capital of Andalusia: Our visit will take us to the Cathedral, the largest religious monument in Spain, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, and the nearby famous Giralda Tower. A walking tour of the Barrio Santa Cruz, once the most important Jewish settlement in Andalusia, will follow. Following lunch, we will visit Plaza de España and Parque María Luisa, remaining pavilions of the 1929 World’s Fair, and (time permitting) Seville’s bullfighting arena (“Plaza Monumental”), the largest in Spain.

Evening: a night

out to enjoy a live performance of flamenco (optional).

MONDAY, MAY 26

Travel west for a day’s outing in Andalusia, where we will visit, among other places, Palos de la Frontera and the nearby monastery of la Rabida, which played important roles in the story of Columbus. Time permitting, visit the picturesque towns of Ronda (one of the oldest in Spain) and/or Jerez de la Frontera (famous worldwide for its sherry). Evening free: dinner on your own in Seville.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

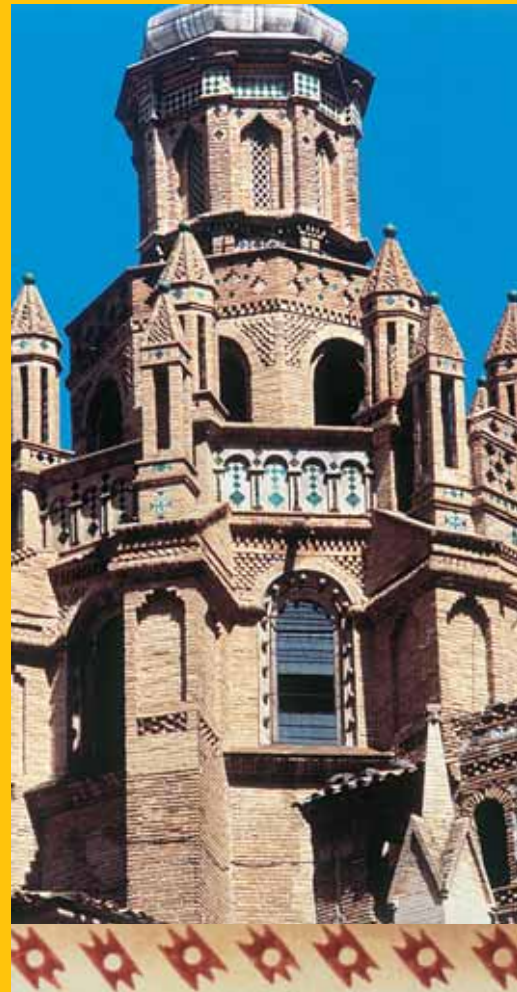
Depart Seville for Granada, home of the Alhambra, masterpiece of world architecture and art and the most visited monument in all of Europe. Following our visit to the palace, we will tour the Albaicín quarter, a classic example of the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian influences in Spain. Check in to our hotel: rest of afternoon and evening free.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Leaving Granada in the morning, we will head to Málaga, stopping along the way in Mijas, a picturesque “whitewashed village” in the Costa del Sol. There, we will enjoy superb views of the Mediterranean Sea and a walking tour on its winding, cobblestone streets. Late-afternoon arrival in Málaga: We will visit the town and learn of its Jewish legacy. Afternoon and evening free before enjoying a festive farewell dinner (included) at our hotel.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Departure from Málaga International Airport for the return flight to JFK International Airport in New York.



Please Note: during the course of our trip, some of Dr. Scheindlin’s presentations will include the following themes:

- “The Inquisition”
- “The Significance of Toledo in Spanish-Jewish History”
- “Maimonides”
- “The Last Century of Spanish Jewry (1391–1492)”
- “Samuel the Nagid of Granada”

Faculty

ACCOMPANYING SCHOLAR:

Dr. Raymond P. Scheindlin is professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at The Jewish Theological Seminary and has served as JTS's provost. Author of numerous articles and books, Dr. Scheindlin's publications include *A Short History of the Jewish People*, as well as companion volumes on Hebrew literature in medieval Spain: *Wine, Women and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life* and *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel, and the Soul*. A past Guggenheim Fellow, Dr. Scheindlin is a member of the editorial boards of several scholarly journals. His latest book is *The Song of the Distant Dove: Pilgrimage Poems by Judah Halevi*, which was published in November 2007.

GUEST ARTIST:

Janice Meyerson, mezzo-soprano, holds a master's degree from the New England Conservatory. She has sung as a soloist with numerous organizations, including the New York City Opera, the Boston Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. A gifted interpreter of song, Ms. Meyerson will perform and give examples of traditional Sephardic Jewish music that will be informative as well as entertaining.

Program Details

PROGRAM FEE OF \$6,050 INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from JFK to Madrid, via Iberia Airlines.
- Four-star, first-class hotels throughout, double occupancy.
- Full buffet breakfast daily; three lunches and four dinners.
- Presentations and programs with Dr. Ray Scheindlin and guest artist Janice Meyerson.
- All museum and archaeological site entrance fees.
- All touring and sightseeing in Spain accompanied by knowledgeable escort and licensed, local guides, aboard deluxe chartered, air-conditioned coaches.

*Based on double occupancy; airport taxes (\$280—subject to change, i.e., tax in effect at time of ticketing), and gratuities (\$150 per person) additional. Single supplement available at \$1,365. Additionally, should the value of the dollar continue to fall significantly (i.e., 3 percent or more—based on a dollar-to-euro ratio of \$1.47 to the euro), the land cost of this trip will be adjusted accordingly. For those wishing to guarantee final cost of this trip, payment in full as early as possible will ensure this. Please call the JTS travel office at (845) 256-0197 for currency updates; thank you for your understanding.

For those preferring to share a room and in need of a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Also, a limited number of business class seats are available at an upgrade cost of \$2,200. For those making their own air arrangements and preferring to meet the group in Madrid, please deduct \$500. Full payment due by February 4, 2008.

PARTICIPATION: (LIMITED TO THIRTY PARTICIPANTS)

Designed for people of all ages, this program entails walking moderate distances and keeping pace with the group while walking and touring. Please feel free to call the travel program office at (845) 256-0197 if you have any questions. Either Dr. Maidenbaum or one of his assistants will answer any concerns.

MEALS

Meals included are full, buffet-style breakfasts daily, opening dinner (May 19); dinner at Cordoba (May 22); Friday evening Shabbat dinner (May 23); and closing dinner in Malaga (May 28). Lunches included are in Toledo (May 20); Shabbat lunch (May 24); and on our full-day tour in Andalusia (May 26). At group meals, fish, dairy, or vegetarian food will be served.

TO REGISTER

Please complete the attached registration form; include nonrefundable deposit of \$1,000 payable to The Jewish Theological Seminary and return to the office of:

The Jewish Theological Seminary
Travel Program
c/o Aryeh Maidenbaum, PhD
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Registration accepted by telephone or fax with credit card.
Phone: (845) 256-0197
Fax: (845) 256-0196

CHANGES

All rights are reserved to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

INSURANCE

We recommend travel insurance for losses necessitated by you having to cancel your participation. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration, or consult with your own insurance agent.



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Please complete and mail to:

Aryeh Maidenbaum, PhD, Director
The Jewish Theological Seminary Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Telephone: (845) 256-0197

Fax: (845) 256-0196

Registration

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	ZIP:
Telephone (day)	(evening)
Fax:	
Email:	

YES! I am registering now and my nonrefundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is enclosed.

I prefer a double room. I need a roommate.

I'll be traveling with _____.

I would prefer a single room
(single-room supplement: \$1,365).

Credit Card Registration accepted by
telephone: (845) 256-0197, fax (845) 256-0196, or mail.

VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Card Holder's Name

Card Number

Expiration Date

Amount \$

Signature

Disclaimer of Responsibility:

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Theological Seminary and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident, or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Theological Seminary and its respective employees assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft, or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will The Jewish Theological Seminary be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars, and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty.

Cancellations and Refunds

All cancellations must be received by The Jewish Theological Seminary Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 90 days prior to departure: full refund less \$1,000 deposit per person; 89–60 days prior to departure: 50 percent refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. No refunds after this date.