Italian Manuscripts & Monuments
Rome, Bologna & Venice with The Library of JTS
April 15–23, 2018
Dear JTS Alumni and Friends,

The Jewish presence in Italy stretches back more than two millennia. Long before the birth of Jesus, Judah Maccabee sent Jewish envoys to Rome seeking an alliance in his revolt against the Seleucid Empire. Two centuries later, enslaved Jews helped build the Coliseum, and during the Renaissance Italy was the worldwide center of Jewish printing and scholarship, with major Hebrew texts published in Bologna, Padua, Venice, and other cities.

I invite you to join me next spring for a very special exploration of Italian Jewish history, book-culture and scholarship, organized by The Library of JTS. From the Arch of Titus—preserving Rome’s conquest of Jerusalem forever in stone—to the secretly lavish synagogues of Venice, we will uncover the unique history of the Italkim.

In Rome, view rare Judaica on an exclusive visit to the Vatican Library before traveling north to Bologna, to marvel at the oldest complete Torah scroll still in existence and meet with the scholar who discovered it. Peruse important Hebrew manuscripts in Parma and Modena, and in Ferrara discover a landmark in the history of printing—the first Spanish translation of the entire Hebrew Bible. Pause briefly in Padua before concluding with two days in Venice, where we will celebrate Shabbat and explore the rich history of the oldest ghetto in Europe.

I hope you will join us for this experience of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

David C. Kraemer
Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics
Jewish Theological Seminary

TRAVELING WITH YOU

David Kraemer has been part of the JTS community since 1977 when he enrolled at The Graduate School after completing his undergraduate degree at Brandeis University. He began teaching as a graduate student in 1980, receiving his PhD in 1984. Dr. Kraemer’s focus as a professor is on the literary analysis of rabbinic literature, rabbinic ritual, and the social and religious history of Jews in late antiquity. He accepted the position of Librarian in 2004 and has since played a crucial role in forging policy and expanding the impact of the Library’s world-renowned collections and programs.
SUNDAY, APRIL 15: U.S. DEPARTURE
Depart for Rome on an overnight flight from the United States.

MONDAY, APRIL 16: ROME, ITALY
Arrive this morning in the “Eternal City” and continue to our hotel. In the early afternoon, tour the Roman Forum, once the religious, commercial, and civic center of the city. See the Arch of Titus, built to commemorate the Roman victory over Jerusalem in 70 C.E. Gather at the hotel for an orientation lecture by Professor David Kraemer, followed by a welcome dinner.

TUESDAY, APRIL 17: ROME / BOLOGNA
A special visit to the Vatican has been arranged this morning. In the Vatican Library, enjoy a showing of rare Judaica and other exceptional works. Conclude in St. Peter’s Basilica, where, according to tradition, one of the columns in the Pieta Chapel originated from the Jerusalem Temple of Solomon. In the afternoon, travel by train to Bologna, the cultural, intellectual, and gastronomic center of the Emilia-Romagna region, and one of Italy’s best-kept secrets. Attend an evening discussion with distinguished scholar Mauro Perani, on his research and collection of Hebrew manuscripts.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18: BOLOGNA
This morning we will visit the State Archives, housing documents dating from the Middle Ages to the present day, and tour the nearby Museo Civico Archeologico or the Medieval Museum. Following lunch at leisure, view the collection of Hebrew manuscripts at the Library of the University of Bologna, including a Torah scroll considered to be the oldest and most complete.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19: BOLOGNA / PARMA / MODENA
A full-day excursion leads us to northwestern Emilia-Romagna. In Parma, explore the outstanding collection of Hebrew writings at the Palatina Library. Continue to Modena and visit the Este Library, housing important Hebrew manuscripts including a collection of ketubot, scrolls from the Book of Esther, and antique books. Return to Bologna for an evening at leisure.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20: BOLOGNA / FERRARA / PADUA / VENICE
Depart for Venice this morning, with a stop in the medieval city of Ferrara, once a center of Jewish life. The city was also a center for Hebrew typography in the 15th and 16th centuries, and operated a Hebrew printing press. Meet with a local historian of manuscripts and books before viewing the Bible Española, also known as the Ferrara Bible, at the City Library. After lunch, continue to Padua. Visit the historic library at the Episcopal Seminary, which contains a collection of medieval manuscripts and antique books. Arrive in Venice in the late afternoon and check into our hotel, just a short distance from the Piazza San Marco. Gather for a Shabbat dinner.

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St. Peter’s Basilica, photo by Brook Ward

University of Bologna, photo by Voyaze
SATURDAY, APRIL 21: VENICE
Breakfast will be followed by Shabbat services led by Dr. Kraemer. Then, following a Shabbat brunch, the balance of the day is at leisure to relax or perhaps explore this wonderful city on foot. A suggested list of local sites will be provided and an optional walking tour will be arranged. The evening is at leisure. B,L

SUNDAY, APRIL 22: VENICE
Depart by vaporetto to the Ghetto Nuovo, the oldest ghetto in Europe, created in 1515, where we will be greeted at the Jewish Museum. Enjoy a guided tour and visit the 16th- and 17th-century synagogues with their rich interiors. After free time for lunch, continue on a walking tour including the churches of Santa Maria Formosa, San Giovanni e San Paolo, and Santa Maria dei Miracoli. This evening gather for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

MONDAY, APRIL 23: U.S. RETURN
Transfer to the airport early this morning to connect with your flight home. B

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Jewish Theological Seminary and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms

PROGRAM RATE per person $5,499
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT $999

RATE INCLUDES
- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner): bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, select wines at welcome, Shabbat, and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escort sightseeing by private motor coach and entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE: International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

ACCOMMODATIONS

WESTIN EXCELSIOR, ROME
Located in one of the city’s most imposing palaces, the Westin Excelsior is rich in history. The hotel is located on one of the most celebrated streets in Rome, the fashionable Via Veneto, ideally situated between the Spanish Steps and the Borghese Gardens and Gallery.

GRAND HOTEL MAJESTIC, BOLOGNA
The Grand Hotel Majestic, the oldest and most prestigious hotel in Bologna, is within walking distance of Piazza Maggiore and the famous Due Torri. The hotel is in a former palace designed by architect Alfonso Torregiani during the early 18th century and built by order of Cardinal Prospero Lambertini, who later became Pope. The palazzo is built on top of an ancient Roman road, part of which can be seen inside the hotel.

WESTIN EUROPA & REGINA, VENICE
Inside the historic 17th-century palaces that comprise the hotel Europa & Regina, guestrooms and suites nestle in a setting of relaxed luxury with a breathtaking view over the Grand Canal. The hotel is in the heart of the artistic and theater district, just a short walk to Piazza San Marco.
THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ITALIAN MANUSCRIPTS & MONUMENTS • APRIL 15–23, 2018
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; or complete and return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person (of which $500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad. Mail to: Academic Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

___________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address

City  State  Zip

Telephone (home)  (business)

Fax  E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference  ☐ One bed  ☐ Two beds  ☐ Single (at a supplement of $999)

I wish to share a room with ________________________________________________________________

FORM OF PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Academic Arrangements Abroad)  ☐ Debit card  ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code  Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)  Date

Signature (required)  Date