



ROME

ITALIAN JOURNEY TO JEWISH HERITAGE

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ROME: Arrive in Rome where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This afternoon you'll be picked up at your hotel for a tour of Rome in a golf cart to visit some of the city's famous fountains and squares. This private experience lets you sit back and relax as you're expertly chauffeured around the Eternal City quickly and efficiently while sharing the rich history and exciting stories that have built up Rome.

Overnight Rome

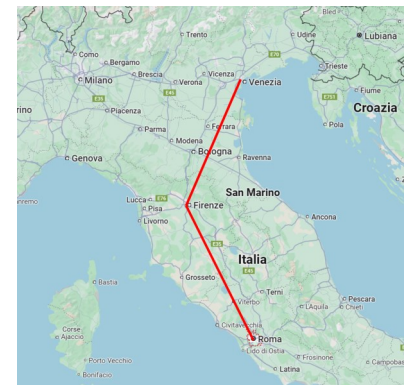
DAY 2 - ROME: This morning after breakfast you'll visit the Colosseum, the Arch of Titus and the Roman Forum from a Jewish point of view. The day will take you through the archaic sites of the city where the Jewish legacy is felt the strongest. From the Colosseum to the Roman Forum, to the Arch of Titus to the church of St. Peter in Chains, you'll embark on a journey rich in stories, anecdotes, and secrets not shared on any other Jewish tour in Rome.

Rome, Florence and Venice 10 Days/9Nights

Your first stop is the iconic Colosseum. Financed by the treasures plundered from Jerusalem and its Temple, the Colosseum is inextricably bound to the Jewish history of Rome. Few people know that the Roman conquest of Judea funded the most recognizable structure of imperial Rome. After your visit to the Colosseum, you'll stroll over to the Roman Forum and see the famous Arch of Titus. As you enter the Roman Forum, you'll pass by a monument commemorating the victory of the emperors Titus and Vespasian over Judea in 70 AD. The victory had considerable consequences, not least the conquest of Jerusalem and the destruction of its Jewish temple. Our last stop of the day is the Church of Saint Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses.

Overnight Rome

DAY 3 ROME: This morning, we visit the Jewish Ghetto, The Great Synagogue of Rome and The Jewish Museum.



The Jewish Ghetto's past is full of both triumphs and tragedies. To get a better understanding of the Jewish Ghetto's significance, we will take an up close and personal look at its origins, and how the neighborhood has changed over the centuries. The Great Synagogue of Rome, completed in 1904 is an Orthodox congregation and the largest synagogue in Rome. Commemorative plates have been affixed in the Synagogue to honor the local Jewish victims of Nazi Germany and of the Abu Nidal attack in 1982.





FLORENCE

The Jewish Museum of Rome (Museo Ebraico di Roma) is located in the Great Synagogue monumental complex. Walking across the different rooms you can see a reconstruction of Jewish life in Rome since the earliest settlement in the second century. It offers a perspective of the Jewish life in Rome and shows us how they managed to integrate into the socio-economic structure of the city, while they maintained their own identity.

Overnight Rome

DAY 4 - ROME: After breakfast we're off to experience the beauty that is Rome! Our guide will be taking us to see and visit St. Peter's Cathedral, The Vatican, Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel and the Vatican Museum. From there we'll visit the Spanish Steps, the Arch of Constantine as well as the Circus Maximus.

Overnight Rome

DAY 5 - ROME/FLORENCE: This afternoon you'll be driven from your Hotel to the Rome train station where you will board a Hi-speed train to Florence. Upon your arrival in Florence, you will be met at the train station and transferred to your hotel. The Jews of Florence have one of the oldest and largest continuous Jewish

communities in Europe that can be traced back over nine hundred years. The balance of your day is at leisure to become acquainted with this magnificent Renaissance town.

Overnight Florence

DAY 6 – FLORENCE: History of the Jewish Quarter including the Great Synagogue and Jewish Museum. This morning after breakfast, meet your local Expert-Guide next to Florence's Cathedral. Did you know that this iconic church features a Jewish inscription of the 10 Commandments? You will find many traces of Jewish heritage this morning as well as discover hidden Jewish symbolism. Your guide will show you the hidden Star of David on the facade of the Santa Croce Basilica, and take you to the former Jewish Quarter, where many of the Jews moved after the Ghetto was demolished. After lunch visit the Great Synagogue and Jewish Museum in Florence. The Great Synagogue was one of the most important synagogues built in Europe in the age of the Jewish emancipation. The synagogue houses the Jewish Museum, where religious items and clothing are displayed.

Overnight Florence

DAY 7 - FLORENCE: After breakfast this morning your walking tour takes you to Michelangelo Square for a panoramic view of the city. Then visit the Museum of the Accademia to see Michelangelo's original statue of "David", followed by a walk to Giotto's Bell Tower, the Baptistery with its "Gates of Paradise" doors, Signoria Square and Santa Croce. The afternoon is at leisure

Overnight Florence

DAY 8 – FLORENCE/VENICE: This morning after breakfast you will board a high-speed train to Venice. Upon your arrival in Venice, you will be met at the train station and transferred to your hotel. Balance of day at leisure. THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF VENICE has been well known since the medieval era. Christians were forbidden to live with a Jew or a Muslim. Over the centuries that followed, this translated into legislation to segregate Jews in their lands. The number and importance of Jews in Venice grew considerably. In 1516, the Doge and the senators of the Republic of Venice enacted a decree to formally isolate the Jews of Venice.

Overnight Venice





VENICE

DAY 9 – VENICE – JEWISH GHETTO AND SYNAGOGUE WALKING TOUR: Begin your Jewish Ghetto tour in the Cannaregio district, a fascinating residential area in the city's northern part. Walk past artisan workshops, galleries, shops, and delis, best explored at a relaxed pace. Next, cross the bridge into Campo del Ghetto Nuovo (New Ghetto Square), which was founded as a fortified island in 1516. Learn about the confinement of Venetian Jews to the island and how it became densely populated. Then, learn from your guide as they point out one of the most significant highlights of the tour: a series of bas-reliefs in the Campo del Ghetto Nuovo – a sight that most visitors to Venice never see. Discover how Napoleon's decision to tear down the gates of the Jewish Ghetto gave Jews the right to live anywhere in Venice. The Venetian Ghetto. Beginning in 1516, the Republic obliged the Jews to live in an area of the city known as the Ghetto. Many onerous regulations were also included, in exchange for which the Community was granted the freedom to practice its faith and protection in the case of war.

There was little to no accommodations for Jewish merchants traveling to Venice in the existing ghetto and it was a requirement for all Jews to live in the Venetian Ghetto even if it was temporary. Under the permission and discretion of government officials, Jewish merchants living in Venice temporarily were allowed to move into the ghetto as long as none of them would move to Venice permanently or bring their families. The ghetto was closed from 6 p.m. every night to 12 noon the next day. The boats of the Christian guards scoured the surrounding canals to impede nocturnal violations. This is how Europe's first ghetto was born. This afternoon you'll visit the Basilica of St. Mark and the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Piombi Prison.

Overnight Venice

DAY 10 – VENICE TO USA: Transfer to the airport for your flight home

TOUR FEATURES:

10 days/9 nights' accommodations & services

- Selected class of Hotels -
4 Star First Class or 5 Star Deluxe Hotels
- Rome 4 nights
- Florence 3 nights
- Venice 2 nights

Inclusions:

Service charges, hotel taxes.
Breakfast daily.
Friday night Shabbat dinner with an Italian Jewish family or families.

TRANSPORTATION:

- Private arrival transfer from Rome airport to hotel
 - Private car for sightseeing tours as listed
 - Private transfer from Rome hotel to the train station & Florence from the train station to the hotel
 - Private transfer from Florence hotel to the train station & Venice from the train station to the hotel
 - Train Tickets - Rome/Florence/Venice
- Private departure transfer from Venice hotel to Venice airport

SIGHTSEEING TOURS:

7 days of private sightseeing with English speaking guides. Tours are a combination of walking tours and private car tours as described in the itinerary below

NOT INCLUDED:

Meals (Lunches & Dinners (with the exception of one Friday night Shabbat dinner)
Tipping for drivers & guides
Porterage
Transatlantic & Intra European flights

