



Jewish
Heritage
Travel

A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage



MUSEUM
OF JEWISH
HERITAGE

A LIVING
MEMORIAL
TO THE
HOLOCAUST



Jewish
Heritage
Travel

We are dedicated to making your experience rich in content and superior in comfort.

This unique travel program combines the expertise and resources of two organizations that cherish the traditions, achievements, and faith of Jewish communities – past and present – around the world. Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage are delighted to have the opportunity to share this rich, varied, and poignant history and culture with you on these select trips. We look forward to traveling with you.

The Two Sicilies Naples & Sicily

November 11–22, 2016



Synagogue stairway, Naples

Program Overview

Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Spaniards, French—and Jews—have all left their traces on “The Two Sicilies,” as Naples and Sicily were once known. Thanks to their position in the center of the Mediterranean, these two Sicilies were the meeting point of many civilizations. During the course of this unique trip, we will be seeking out those traces and studying the rich and complex culture of this region and its Jewish communities.

Jews have had a presence in Naples since the days of Pompeii and Herculaneum, both dramatically destroyed by an eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in the first century CE. A stone’s throw away, across the Strait of Messina, stands Sicily – only a short hop away from Africa. Like Naples, it too has a volcano, Mt. Etna, with a destructive past. Here, Jewish communities once flourished under a series of cosmopolitan and tolerant regimes that began with the Arab conquest of the island in the ninth century, and continued through the period of Norman control, until they came under the same edict of expulsion that ended Jewish life in Spain in 1492.

For centuries, Sicily was truly the center of civilized life; it still contains impressive remains of Greek and Roman antiquity in the form of Greek theaters and Roman temples and the influences of every people that has ever lived there. Join us on this special trip to Sicily where, accompanied by scholar, Professor Ray Scheindlin, trip leader Aryeh Maidenbaum and local experts, we will experience startling sights, spectacular scenery, delicious foods and friendly, curious people. Along the way, we will be staying at the best hotels and learn about the tantalizing traces of Jewish life of the “Two Sicilies.”

Tentative Daily Itinerary*

Friday, November 11 | Naples

Arrive in Naples, and check in to the deluxe Grand Hotel Vesuvio one of Naples' finest. Rest and relax.

Evening: Overview by our accompanying scholar, Professor Raymond Scheindlin, who will present "The Jewish Communities of the Two Sicilies." This will be followed by an orientation meeting and an opportunity to get to know one another. Welcoming, festive Shabbat dinner at our hotel is included.

Saturday, November 12 | Naples

Morning: Free time to explore Naples on our own, or attend services with the local Jewish community.

Afternoon: (optional) Walking tour of Spacca Napoli, the succession of streets that divide Naples' historic district into two halves. The oldest part of town, dating back to Greek and Roman times and still considered the heart of the city today, contains some of Naples' most interesting artistic and cultural highlights, including churches, picturesque small shops, and traditional crafts makers. Villa Pignatelli, the early-nineteenth-century home of Carl Mayer Rothschild, will be included in the tour.

Evening: Professor Raymond Scheindlin will present "The Byzantine Emperor Basil I and His Jewish Antagonist." Dinner on our own.

Sunday, November 13 | Naples—Palermo

Our day will begin with a visit to the National Archaeological Museum of Naples, containing one of the world's foremost collections of Greek and Roman antiquities, including mosaics, frescoes, sculptures, and silver; many of the objects were sourced from excavations at Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Break for lunch (included) before a guided visit to Herculaneum, a UNESCO World Heritage site – a wealthier town than Pompeii, possessing an extraordinary density of fine houses with far more



Naples with Mount Vesuvius in the background.



Ruins of Herculaneum



Monreale Cathedral, Palermo



Ruins of ancient temple in Agrigento

lavish use of colored marble cladding. A large number of artifacts from Herculaneum are preserved in the Naples National Archaeological Museum. Departure for the airport and an evening flight to Palermo. Check in to the Villa Igiea, a five-star deluxe hotel in Palermo.

Monday, November 14 | Palermo

Visit Monreale, the magnificent twelfth-century basilica, with its amazing interior recounting the Old Testament. Continue to lunch (included) in Palermo's city center, where we will walk through the former Jewish quarter, "La Meschita," visit the Church of La Magione with its biblical garden and well with Hebrew inscriptions, and the Norman castle "La Zisa."

Evening: Professor Raymond Scheindlin will present "Muslim Sicily and Its Jewish Community," followed by a musical performance by Janice Meyerson, and dinner (included).

Tuesday, November 15 | Palermo

Tour Mozia, an ancient Phoenician island settlement, accessible by a 15-minute boat ride across a lagoon and past salt flats still harvested in the ancient method. The Mozia Archaeological Museum is a remarkable museum as well as the ruins of an equally remarkable civilization. Mozia as a whole provides visitors with a rare, unspoiled glimpse into Sicily's Phoenician past.

Lunch in Marsala (included) and a visit to the Tapestry Museum, with eight precious sixteenth-century Flemish tapestries depicting scenes from the Roman-Jewish war (first century CE) that are attributed to the Spanish-Flemish painter Pedro Campaña.

Return to Palermo in time for dinner on our own.

Wednesday, November 16 | Palermo—Agrigento

Depart Palermo for Agrigento. Lunch (included) upon arrival, followed by a private, guided tour of the Regional Archaeological Museum "Pietro Griffo," one of the most important and most visited archaeological museums in Sicily. This museum displays more than 5,600 artifacts arranged both in chronological and topographical order, illustrating the history of the Agrigentan territory from prehistoric times to the end of the Greek-Roman period. It will be the perfect introduction to our visit to the Valley of the Temples the next morning. Check in to the deluxe Villa Athena Hotel, with time to rest and enjoy the spectacular scenery surrounding the Villa Athena. Dinner at our hotel (included).



Valley of Temples near Agrigento

Thursday, November 17 | Agrigento

Morning walking tour of the Valley of the Temples, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world as well as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Picnic lunch (included) before afternoon visit to the Piazza Armerina and a tour of the Villa del Casale. An estate that dates back to the third century CE, the villa is renowned for what many consider the most exceptional Roman mosaics in the world. Return to Agrigento in time for dinner on our own and overnight at Villa Athena.

Friday, November 18 | Agrigento—Siracusa

Depart Agrigento for Siracusa. Originally a Greek colony, Siracusa—founded in the eighth century BCE and described by Cicero as “the greatest Greek city and the most beautiful of all”—has one of the largest concentrations of Greek ruins outside Greece. Arrive in time for lunch on our own and an afternoon tour of the Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum, which holds one of the most important collections in southern Italy. Check in to the Grand Hotel Ortigia, and rest and relax before a festive Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).

Saturday, November 19 | Siracusa

Free to rest and relax...(OR) optional morning walking tour of the island of Ortigia, where we will visit the ancient market and Roman ruins; and walk the narrow streets of the Giudecca (ancient Jewish quarter), and see what was once the site of a synagogue and ancient mikveh (Jewish ritual bath). Located 11 meters below ground level, this mikveh is among the oldest ever found in Europe. Our morning will end at the Bellomo Gallery, where some tombstones from the Jewish medieval cemetery are displayed.

Afternoon: Free.....

Evening: Professor Scheindlin will address the theme “The Holy Roman Emperor and His Jewish Intellectuals,” followed by dinner on our own.



Archaeological park of the Neapolis, Siracusa



View of Taormina from the ancient amphitheater

Sunday, November 20 | Siracusa—Taormina

Depart Ortigia for Taormina, with a stop to tour Siracusa's (World Heritage) archaeological site, including the archaeological park of the Neapolis. Here, we will visit the monolithic Greek theater; its cavea (curved, stone seating area), one of the largest ever built by the ancient Greeks, is still used today for classical performances. Our morning tour will continue with a visit to the sacrificial Altar of Hieron II, "Ear of Dionysius" (an artificial limestone quarry so named by the painter Caravaggio), and its ancient Roman amphitheater before we continue to Taormina. Upon arrival in Taormina, check in to the five-star San Domenico Hotel, one of the finest in Taormina, with an expansive view of the sea. After lunch on our own, a walking tour of Taormina, including its magnificent Greek theater. Dinner on our own.

Monday, November 21 | Taormina

Free to rest, relax, or explore Taormina on our own, OR.... enjoy an excursion to Messina and its ancient Jewish quarter. In Messina, we will visit the Norman Cathedral (with its Latin inscription that negatively refers to the Jewish community) and the beautiful Palazzo Penso, originally of Jewish family heritage. We will also visit the Regional Archaeological Museum, which contains, among its many artistic treasures, a Hebrew inscription. The museum illustrates the development of art and culture in Messina from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries and displays the work of outstanding artists such as Caravaggio.

Evening meeting: Final thoughts by Professor Raymond Scheindlin and a musical performance by Janice Meyerson.

Evening: Closing dinner (included).

Tuesday, November 22 | Taormina—Catania

Depart Taormina for Catania airport and return flights to the U.S.

**Please Note: Daily schedule may be modified subject to weather or unanticipated changes.*



Promenade, Siracusa, Sicily

Traveling with You...

Scholar in Residence



Raymond P. Scheindlin, Ph.D. is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has served as the Seminary's Provost. His publications include *A Short History of the Jewish People*; *Wine, Women and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life*; and *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel and the Soul*. A former 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*.

Trip Leader



Aryeh Maidenbaum, Ph.D., has a strong background in the fields of History, Psychology and Jewish Studies and more than 25 years experience in organizing and leading educational tours – including trips focusing on Jewish culture and history. Director of the N.Y. Center for Jungian Studies, Dr. Maidenbaum received his Doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Former faculty member at N.Y.U., he is a contributing author to *Current Theories of Psychoanalysis*. Among his publications are “The Search for Spirit in Jungian Psychology;” *Lingering Shadows: Jungians, Freudians and Anti-Semitism*; and *Jung and the Shadow of Anti-Semitism*.

Accompanying Artist



Janice Meyerson (M.M., New England Conservatory; B.A., Washington University), has sung as a soloist with the New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Deutsche Oper, Berlin, and the Spoleto Festival, among numerous others. A gifted mezzo-soprano and interpreter of song, Ms. Meyerson will perform Ladino and Hebrew examples of Sephardic music.

Trip Guide



Lucy Rapoport has guided and accompanied many previous Jewish heritage tours – all to great acclaim. Born and schooled in England before moving to Italy as a young adult, Lucy is fluent in Italian, German, French, and Spanish and has been a tour manager for more than 20 years. Specializing in Europe, Lucy has accompanied previous Jewish groups to such places as Lithuania, Krakow, Prague, Berlin, Croatia, Spain, Northern and Southern Italy, and Sicily. With Lucy's attention to detail, knowledge of history, and considerable expertise in guiding groups, participants will be well served on this trip.

Accommodations



Gran Hotel Vesuvio, Naples

Attention to detail is the five-star Grand Hotel Vesuvio's theme, while graciously combining old-world charm with modern comfort and the latest technology. Dining at the Caruso Roof Garden Restaurant is a unique experience, and there is a breathtaking view of the bay. The Grand Hotel Vesuvio is only a few steps from the Royal Palace and the Castel dell'Ovo.

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Grand Hotel Villa Igia, Palermo

Located at the foot of Mount Pellegrino, overlooking the Gulf of Palermo, the Grand Hotel Villa Igia is a five-star luxury hotel in Art Nouveau style. With an old-world, romantic atmosphere of the Belle Epoque, the Villa Igia has welcomed guests for over a century. It is surrounded with colorful terraced gardens and the scent of jasmine and Mediterranean herbs.

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Villa Athena, Agrigento

The Villa Athena, located in the heart of the Valley of the Temples, overlooks the Temple of Concordia, a fine example of architectural beauty dating back to the fifth century BCE.

Formerly a princely residence of the eighteenth century, the building was carefully restored to preserve its architectural style; thus was born the five-star Villa Athena, surrounded by a beautiful park of Saracen olive trees and palms, making it a quiet and comfortable location.



Grand Hotel Ortigia, Siracusa

The five-star Grand Hotel Ortigia is situated in a recently renovated historic building on the island of Ortigia, in Siracusa, just a few steps from the old town center, Fonte Aretusa, and Marina di Siracusa. The hotel offers a restaurant with a panoramic sea-view terrace, as well as welcoming guest rooms. Enjoy a memorable stay in one of the most beautiful towns of Sicily.

Marina di Siracusa. The hotel offers a restaurant with a panoramic sea-view terrace, as well as welcoming guest rooms. Enjoy a memorable stay in one of the most beautiful towns of Sicily.



San Domenico Palace Hotel, Taormina

Carved into a rocky hillside in Taormina, Sicily, the five-star San Domenico Palace Hotel commands a stunning perch on the coast. There are multiple terraces, four restaurants, fragrant gardens, and a newly refurbished swimming-pool area, all featuring vistas of the glittering Ionian Sea. The hotel, housed in a former fourteenth-century monastery, retains its classic façade and soaring ceilings with spacious, elegant, light-filled rooms.

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Program Details

Program Cost: \$6,950 (plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage fee for non-members)

Includes:

- Eleven nights' accommodations at deluxe hotels*
- Full breakfast daily; five lunches; five dinners
- All group transportation via deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all museums and sites on itinerary
- Group flight from Naples to Palermo

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1,400. Gratuities: (\$160) additional.

To reserve your place, please complete the registration form, and submit with a non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person (payable to The Jewish Heritage Travel Program). Second non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person due on May 1, 2016. Balance due in full by June 30, 2016.

Disclaimer of Responsibility By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs 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 Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office or their staffs 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. All rights reserved to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at his/her own expense when such an action is determined by the tour staff to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, and that of the group in general.

Registration Information

How to register

Online jhtravel.org

Mail Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:

Jewish Heritage Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Fax Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to:

845.256.0196

Telephone Call our office

845.256.0197

Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

Participation The program will entail considerable walking, including uneven terrain. Participants need to be in active, good health, able to keep up with the group, ready to travel and experience group and cultural differences with grace. If you have any questions, or need help with your travel plans, please call the Jewish Heritage Travel Office at 845.256.0197. Participation is limited. Register early.

Insurance Participants are urged to purchase travel insurance for losses necessitated by having to cancel participation due to health issues. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration, or consult your own insurance agent. Please contact The Jewish Heritage Travel office at 845.256.0197 for more information.

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

Cancellations All cancellations must be received by The Jewish Heritage Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure: full refund less non-refundable deposits, per person; 119-90 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after non-refundable deposits. No refunds after this date.



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Registration Form:

Trip title/country

Dates of travel

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email address

Phone number Cell phone number

PARTICIPANT NAMES: Museum Member

 Yes No

 Yes No

ACCOMMODATIONS

I would like a single room (for single room supplement please see trip details) I'll share a room with:

Please share any special information we should know to enhance your experience.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

- I will make my own flight arrangements .
 I need assistance and will call (845-256-0197).

DEPOSIT

Make your deposit by check or credit card.

- Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel Program

in the amount of: \$_____.

- Please charge \$_____ to my:

- Master Card Visa American Express

card holder's name

card number exp. date: mo/yr validation code

Signature

Please send your non-refundable deposit for \$1000 per participant by mail or fax.

MAIL
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TELEPHONE
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