

# ***JCC MetroWest Journey to Portugal***

***Monday, April 28 to Wednesday, May 7, 2025***

***Monday, September 8 to Wednesday, September 17, 2024***

\*Cost: \$6400 Members, \$6650 Guests

April (refundable) deposit of \$1500 is refundable until December 6th, and is nonrefundable after that time.

September deposit of \$1000 is required to hold your spot. More details about the deadlines to follow.

April balance is due by Monday, December 23, 2024, and is nonrefundable at that time.

\*Double Occupancy

\*Membership rates are for "JCC Social and Fitness Members"

## **Tour Includes:**

Coach bus transportation to and from EWR from JCC

Round-trip airfare

Ground transportation

3 nights in Porto

5 nights in Lisbon

Meals: Breakfast Daily, 4 lunches 5 Dinners

Experienced tour guides

Tips for bellman, guides and drivers

All Entrance fees as per itinerary

Parking at the JCC in West Orange

Memories for a lifetime!

*Travel insurance strongly suggested (information on a group policy will follow)*

*\*If you purchase your own travel insurance, many policies require insurance to be purchased within 7-14 days of the deposit to cover pre-existing conditions. Our group policy only requires that the insurance be purchased prior to final payment to cover pre-existing conditions.*

*Travelers must be in possession of a passport valid for at least 6 months after the date of return*

*All travelers must be fully vaccinated for COVID – 19.*

***Please keep in mind that all reservations are on first come, first served basis and can only be secured with a deposit.***

# JCC Metrowest trip to Portugal

**April 28 – May 7, 2025**

## **April 28**

Depart JCC for our flight to Porto

## **Arrive 29**

### **Arrive Porto**

Meet your escort guide at the airport.

We will have an overview of Porto as you learn about how Porto's Jewish history dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the community coexisted harmoniously with the local Christians. You will learn about the old Jewish Quarters, secret synagogues and all the places where the Jewish influence was strong. Discover where the richest Jews settled. Your private guide will take you through the historic Jewish Quarters and places that are popular with Jewish people today.

Porto is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world and plays a unique role in Jewish history and offers the opportunity for an interesting cultural tour off the beaten path. See the Vitoria viewpoint. The Vitoria quarters was one of the Jewish Quarters founded in 1386 by King John I. It was one of the largest Jewish communities in the city.

We stop for an included lunch and continue to the hotel for check in. Rest of day at leisure. (L)

## **April 30**

### **Porto – Douro Valley – Porto**

Breakfast and depart to discover one of the most beautiful regions of Portugal, The Douro Valley. The Douro is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is where the famous Port wine is produced. The Douro Valley has a unique landscape created by the terraces of its vineyards. Here you will have the opportunity to discover the whole process of creating Port wine. Among the many villages that belong to this region, Pinhao is in the heart of the Alto Douro Vinhateiro where many of the main wine estates of Porto are located. We will go on a private Rabelo boat cruise on the Douro and afterwards we will visit Quinta de Portal, a wine estate for a guided visit with wine tasting and lunch. After lunch, if time permits, we will go to the village of Peso de Regua, a town located next to the Douro River and considered the capital of this region. (B,D)

## **May 1**

### **Coimbra - Porto**

After breakfast, we travel to Coimbra. Coimbra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is located on the river Mondego and is world famous for its university, the oldest in Portugal and one of the oldest in Europe which over time has shaped its image to become the city of students. After an included lunch, we return to Porto. Once in Porto, we will go to the famous Livraria Lello, likely the world's most stunningly beautiful bookshop. Lello's bookstore has served as an inspiration to several artists and writers including J.K. Rowling. During our tour, we will get to know the typical neighborhoods of Porto. The center of Porto has undergone a remarkable transformation in recent years. See Avenida dos Aliados, the Sao Bento train station and learn about the historical events portrayed in the magnificent tiles displayed on its walls. We will make a stop at Clerigos tower (Tower dos Clerigos ) as we go to a wine cellar and Port wine tasting.

Stop at Ha Makom Synagogue in Porto and continue to the municipality of Gondoma which is known as the Jewelry Capital in Portugal. The gold mining dates to the Roman period but it is from the eighteenth century that it has been recognized as the most important productive center of the country. Filigree has a special place among the creations of the local jewelers. Handcrafted, it is produced in small-scale and family-owned workshops, using techniques passed down from generation to generation. (B,L)

## **May 2**

### **Porto – Tomar - Lisbon**

We depart Porto for Lisbon via Tomar. This city is known as the origin of the Knights of Templar. Tomar is a city of great charm known for its artistic and cultural wealth and is also a city with a large Jewish Heritage. We will stop at the Abraham Zuato Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Portugal.

We end the day at Shaare Tikvah Synagogue. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Lisbon's Jewish community did not have a formal synagogue and religious celebrations took place in private homes. Shaare Tikvah (Doors of Hope) was inaugurated in 1904. It is the first one built from scratch since the time of the expulsion. It has no street façade because Portuguese law at the time did not allow any cult or religion other than Catholicism to be visible. Optional services.

Shabbat dinner (B,D)

## **May 3**

### **Lisbon**

Lisbon has had a strong connection with the Jewish community. You will visit the Alfama district which is not only a very important area for Portuguese culture, but also for the Jewish community, as it was the site of the old Jewish quarter dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

You will also visit the church of Santo Domingo, the scene of numerous massacres due to religious intolerance. Today, the site pays homage to all the victims of the massacre of 1506.

Tonight enjoy a Fado show, a typical Portuguese evening where food and traditional music come together. (B,D)

## **May 4**

### **Lisbon – Evora – Lisbon**

Depart from your hotel to Evora. Being the most important city in the south of the country, Evora has a lot to offer. (It is also a UNESCO Heritage Site) You can see a lot by walking through its narrow streets, mingling with the locals and observing how day-to-day life is lived here.

We will have the opportunity to explore this city and learn about the Jewish history of this town. The Jewish Quarter in Evora was near the great Giraldo Square and was one of the biggest and most important Jewish quarters in the country. We will stop at the Church of St. Francis, where we find the famous “Capela dos Ossos” (Chapel of Bones), a small chapel inside the church where all the walls and the ceiling are covered with skulls and bones.

If possible, we will visit a cork factory in the Alentejo area. (B,L)

## **May 5**

### **Lisbon – Sintra – Cascais – Estoril - Lisbon**

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart for a full day trip from Lisbon to the “Portugal Riviera” to discover Sintra, Cascais and Estoril. In Sintra after a walk around the historical center, you’ll visit the National Palace, which presents the characteristic of architectural styles ranging from Medieval, Gothic, Manueline and Renaissance to Romantic. Stop for lunch in Sintra. Afterward, we go to Cabo de Roca and the town of Cascais. Cabo de Roca is the farthest point of Continental Europe and home to several species of birds and varied vegetation. Here you will see the Lighthouse, one of the oldest of the Portuguese coast, surrounded by breathtaking views. We make a stop at Boca do Inferno for a photo op and return to Lisbon after a Panoramic tour of Estoril. (B,D)

## **May 6**

### **Lisbon – Obidos – Lisbon**

Spend a full day excursion to explore the countryside of Lisbon. The first stop is medieval Obidos, with its historic center and labyrinth of cobblestone streets, whitewashed houses, and beautiful vistas. We continue to visit the famed Church of Santa Maria. It was the first building in Portugal to adopt the Gothic style and is the largest church in the country. See the decorated tombs of Pedro I and his lover Ines de Castro. Then we go to see the charming fishing harbor of Nazare before returning to Lisbon.

Farewell dinner tonight (B,L,D)

## **May 7**

Breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight to the USA