

Italia Ebraica

A Study Tour of Jewish Italy

8–23 October 2018

Preliminary tour information

**JEWISH
MUSEUM OF
AUSTRALIA**
Gandel Centre of Judaica

Following a highly successful tour in 2017, the Jewish Museum of Australia is pleased to announce that this will be repeated in October 2018. The tour will be led by Paul Forgasz, who lectured for many years in Jewish history at Monash University's Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation. Paul is also well known as a regular contributor to the adult education program. For the past several years he has led Jewish study tours to various European destinations.

What is special about this tour?

As with any tour, you will visit various towns, cities, and sites of both Jewish and general historical interest. Local guides will be on hand to explain the features of these sites. Under Paul's expert guidance, you will actively engage and interact with these places through the reading and analysis of texts, group discussions and simulations. You will thus step back into history, as you explore the amazing story of Italy's Jews. You will re-live significant historical moments and experience the gamut of the Jewish historical experience in Italy: the earliest presence of Jews in Roman times, the highs and lows of the medieval Jewish experience, and Italian Jewry's encounter with modern world.

Tour operator

The local travel agent is FBI Travel. At the Italian end, all land arrangements will be handled by Jewish Italy, an Italian-based tour operator specialising in Jewish travel in Italy.

Italian land package

The price per person (twin share) is 5995€uros. The cost of a single supplement is 1545€uros. AUD payments will be tied to the EURO exchange rate.

Note: in order for this tour to proceed on the basis of the above price, we will need firm commitments from a minimum of 15 people. You are therefore advised not to make any flight arrangements until you are advised that the tour is definitely proceeding.

The following is included in the land package:

- Four star hotel accommodation (15 nights) and buffet breakfasts
- 4 evening meals and 2 lunches
- Full time bilingual tour manager/escort and experienced English speaking local guides
- Entrance fees to sites and deluxe motor coach travel as per itinerary
- Tips for guides
- Study sessions with Paul Forgasz as per the itinerary and study materials



Not included in the price:

- Airfare and airport taxes
- Travel insurance
- Hotel transfers to and from the airport
- Tips for hotel staff (at your discretion) and bus driver
- Hotel portorage
- Hotel extras such as mini bar, room service
- Meals other than breakfast and meals designated above

If you need any help with pre and post-tour arrangements, booking of flights arrangements, or organising travel insurance, Tamara Menachem of FBI Travel would be more than happy to assist. She can be contacted on 8573 0915 or via email: tamaram@fbitravel.com.au

Payment details

Visit our website to find the enrolment form, jewishmuseum.com.au via the what's on section.

At the time of registration you will be required to make a deposit of \$2000 per person in order to secure your place on the tour.

To pay by credit card you will need to write your card details on the registration form. A fee of 1.2% will be applied to VISA and Mastercard and 3.3% to American Express.

If you prefer to pay by EFT, please advise accordingly in the comments box at the bottom of the registration page and relevant bank details will be emailed to you upon confirmation of registration.

Further payment of instalments will follow on dates to be advised. Payment of the single supplement will be added to the final instalment.

For each instalment you will be invoiced for the equivalent Australian dollar amount based on the exchange rate at the time of invoicing. FBI Travel reserves the right to slightly vary the equivalent Australian dollar amount, as a buffer for any increase in the rate from point of invoice to paying the Italian supplier. However, appropriate account will be taken of this when calculating the Australian dollar amount of the final instalment.

For Melbourne participants: as membership of the Jewish Museum of Australia is a requirement for registration, a fee of \$88 per couple and \$66 for singles, will be added to the final instalment for those who are not paid up Museum members at the time of final invoicing.

Deposits will be held by FBI Travel until the first instalment is transferred to *Jewish Italy*, after which time deposits and subsequent payments will not be refunded if you wish to cancel your registration. You are therefore strongly advised to take out adequate and appropriate **travel insurance** to cover any unforeseen circumstances which might result in you not being able to participate in the tour. Also, as noted above, you should **not** make any flight bookings until you are advised that the tour is definitely proceeding.

Reservations

Places on the tour are strictly limited and will be filled in order of receipt of registration forms.

As demand for hotels in a number of locations is at a premium, it is important that reservations can be secured as soon as possible. Early registration is therefore strongly encouraged.

Refer to the following pages for a detailed tour itinerary (subject to revision).



TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – Monday 8 October: Venice

Check into Venice hotel. Welcome dinner in the evening.

Day 2 – Tuesday 9 October: Venice

In this morning's study session, will be devoted to biographical portraits of some Italian Jewish figures who made significant contributions to Jewish religious thought and were closely connected to a number of the places that are included in our itinerary. The focus of our afternoon tour will be on Jewish Venice: the medieval ghetto and its beautiful synagogues, as well as the Jewish Museum.

The day's program will end with an evening canal ride. Overnight in Venice

Day 3 – Wednesday 10 October: Venice

The day will commence with a study session in which an historical overview of the Jews in Italy will be presented. This will be followed by a guided walking tour which will include the must-see Venice sites: St Mark's Square, the Basilica of San Marco, the Bridge of Sighs, and the Doge's Palace. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at your leisure. Overnight in Venice

Day 4 – Thursday 11 October: Venice-Padua

This morning we will depart for Padua, for centuries one of the most important centres of Jewish life in Italy, where we will visit the city's beautiful baroque synagogue and old Jewish ghetto, as well as the world-renowned Giotto frescoes in the Scrovegni Chapel. The late afternoon study session will continue with the previous day's historical overview. Overnight in Padua

Day 5 – Friday 12 October: Venice-Padua-Ferrara-Bologna

Departing from Padua, we head this morning to Padua, for centuries one of the most important centres of Jewish life in Italy, where we will visit the city's beautiful baroque synagogue as well as the old Jewish ghetto. Our next stop will be in Ferrara, where we will visit the city's 15th century synagogue as well as the area of the old ghetto. Once home to some 2,000 Jews and ten synagogues, it became one of the most flourishing and important Jewish centres in Italy. The Italian Jewish writer, Giorgio Bassani was from Ferrara. He is the author of the celebrated book, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, which is based on the family of the same name who also lived in Ferrara, but met a tragic end during the Holocaust.

This evening we will gather to celebrate Shabbat in Bologna.

Day 6 – Saturday 13 October: Bologna

Given that Italy has for centuries been the home of the Vatican, the situation of the Jews in Italy was more intimately and directly connected with the Papacy than elsewhere in Europe. This morning's study session will therefore focus on the topic of the Popes and the Jews. The remainder of the day will be at your leisure. Overnight in Bologna.

Day 7 – Sunday 14 October: Bologna

Today's tour of the city will encompass both its general and Jewish sites, including the synagogue, museum and historic centre. In the 15th–16th centuries the Bologna community included many rabbis and noted scholars and there were 11 synagogues in the city during this period. After the advent of Guttenberg's press, Bologna became an important centre of Hebrew printing

In the evening we will gather for a viewing of Vittorio de Sica's 1970 film, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*, followed by a discussion over tea, coffee and assorted refreshments. Overnight in Bologna.



Day 8 – Monday 15 October: Bologna-Prato-Florence

This morning we depart for Florence where we will meet Dr Lisa Kaborycha, a scholar of the Italian Renaissance, who will present a fascinating lecture on the role of Florence as the birthplace and cradle of the Renaissance, paying particular attention to the Jews in the Renaissance. Overnight in Florence

Day 9 – Tuesday 16 October: Florence

This morning we visit Florence's green-domed Great Synagogue and the Jewish Museum. There will also be a guided tour of the Academy Gallery, home to Michelangelo's sculpture of David. The afternoon will be free for you to explore the city at your leisure. Overnight in Florence

Day 10 – Wednesday 17 October: Florence-Siena-Florence

The day will commence with a guided tour of Florence's historic centre and the Uffizi Gallery, one of the most famous art museums in the world. Following lunch, which will be provided in a Tuscan countryside trattoria, we will continue to Siena – home to a once substantial where we will visit the synagogue and historic centre. Overnight in Florence.

Day 11 – Thursday 18 October: Florence-Pisa-Lucca-Florence

On this second of our day trips, we will visit Pisa, home of the famous leaning tower. Pisa may be the first city in the Tuscan region in which Jews settled as early as the 9th century. It is also one of two cities in Tuscany that never had a ghetto. The presence of a once large Jewish community is evidenced by some beautiful landmarks in the city, such as the synagogue and the remarkable Jewish cemetery, both of which we will visit. On the way back to Florence we will stop in the beautiful city of Lucca, known for the well-preserved Renaissance walls encircling its historic city centre. Overnight in Florence.

Day 12 – Friday 19 October: Florence-Pitigliano-Rome

Today we depart for Rome, stopping along the way in the beautiful village of Pitigliano. It came to be known as La Piccola Gerusalemme or "Little Jerusalem", because of its once-thriving Jewish population which settled there in the 16th century. We will visit the restored synagogue, mikveh and kosher butchery. Tonight we gather to celebrate Shabbat in Rome. Overnight in Rome

Day 13 – Saturday 20 October: Rome

This morning, in our final study session, we will continue our previous discussion of the Popes and the Jews. In this session we will focus on the difficult issue of the Catholic Church and the Shoah and on the remarkable post-Holocaust transformation of Jewish-Catholic relations. The rest of the day you will be free to explore the city at your leisure.

Day 14 – Sunday 21 October: Rome

The day will commence with a guided visit to Rome's great Synagogue, the Jewish Museum, the ghetto area and Tiberina Island, which has been connected with bridges to both sides of the Tiber River since antiquity. In the afternoon we will take a tour of the ancient area of the Roman Forum and the Coliseum. Overnight in Rome.

Day 15 – Sunday 22 October: Rome

In this final day of touring, in the morning we will visit Rome's historic center and see various sites including the Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona and the Pantheon. The day will end with a guided tour of the Vatican Museums and St Peter's Basilica. In the evening we will come together for a farewell dinner. Overnight in Rome

Day 16 – Monday 23 October: Rome

Hotel checkout



HOTEL INFORMATION

Please note that the following hotels may be subject to revision, particularly in view of the fact that demand in some of the cities in our itinerary are at a premium and reservations cannot be locked in until such time it is decided that the tour will definitely proceed.

Venice: Splendid Hotel

starhotels.com/en/our-hotels/splendid-venice-venice/

Padua: to be advised

Bologna: I Portici Hotel

iporticihotel.com/en

Florence: Hotel Pierre

hotel-pierre-florence.com

Rome: Hotel Ponte Sisto

hotelpontesisto.it/en

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Paul Forgasz via email:

paul.forgasz@monash.edu

[Refer below for terms and conditions.](#)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in places visited and it is important that tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in such activities without the need of assistance from others.
2. Jewish Italy is responsible for making arrangements for the tour services offered here, including transportation, sightseeing, meals and hotel accommodation. FBI Travel acts only as agents for facilitating the collection of monies and making payments to the Italian supplier. Accordingly FBI Travel cannot accept liability for any act of omission, whether negligent or otherwise of those carriers, hoteliers or others providing services in connection with the tour over whom we have no direct or exclusive control.
3. Jewish Museum of Australia (JMA) and FBI Travel do not accept responsibility for any damage to property or person(s) incurred during the course of this tour.
4. JMA and FBI Travel are not liable and accept no responsibility for any direct or indirect loss, financial loss, consequential loss, loss of enjoyment, pain & suffering, damage, injury, accident, delay or irregularity occasioned to the individual, whether caused by act, omission, negligence or otherwise while participating in this tour.
5. JMA and FBI Travel strongly recommend that individuals insure themselves against medical expenses and loss of personal possessions, and any other foreseeable loss or expense.
6. It is the responsibility of tour participants to obtain suitable advice from a recognised health authority regarding any vaccinations or applicable health precautions.
7. Tour participants are responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passports, visa and permits which meet the immigration and governmental requirements of the country of travel. Passports must be valid for at least six months upon return into Australia from overseas travel.
8. Before travelling overseas JMA and FBI Travel recommend you to register your travel and contact details online or at the local Australian embassy, high commission or consulate once you arrive so you can be contacted in an emergency.
9. Upon registration, payment will be required of a \$2000 deposit per person. Further payments instalments will follow in the lead up to the tour. Payment of the single supplement will be added to the second instalment. For each instalment you will be invoiced for the equivalent Australian dollar amount based on the exchange rate at the time of invoicing. FBI Travel reserves the right to slightly vary the equivalent Australian dollar amount, as a buffer for any increase in the rate from point of invoice to paying the Italian supplier.
10. For Melbourne participants: as membership of the Jewish Museum of Australia is a requirement for registration, a fee of \$88 per couple and \$66 for singles, will be added to the final instalment for those who are not paid up Museum members at the time of invoicing.
11. In order for this tour to proceed on the basis of the quoted price, we will need firm commitments from a minimum of 15 people. You are therefore advised not to make any flight bookings until you are advised that the tour is definitely proceeding.
12. Deposits will be held by FBI Travel until the first instalment is transferred to Jewish Italy, after which time deposits and subsequent payments will not be refunded if you wish to cancel your registration. Deposits held by FBI Travel will be returned if the tour does not go ahead due to lack of numbers.
13. Places on the tour are strictly limited and will be filled in order of receipt of registration forms. Successful applicants will be notified once the tour group is filled. Prospective tour participants should not make any flight arrangements until advised that the tour is definitely proceeding and that their registrations have been accepted.