



A Spanish Jewish Journey

**Cordoba-Seville
December 4-7 2008**

With Jeremy Leigh

Why does one visit, on a Jewish Journey, a place with no Jews? Even Jewish Journeys to once great centres of Jewish life such as Rome, Warsaw, Prague and Berlin end up with an encounter with remnants of or a Renaissance of Jewish community.

In Cordoba and Seville there are only ghosts. But what a story they would tell if they could. And this is the story we will be telling. The story of one of the Golden Ages of European Jewish History, of unrivalled Wealth and Influence, of heights seldom climbed before or after in fields as diverse as Science, Poetry, Politics, Diplomacy and Commerce.

But this is only one half of the story. The other ends with the notorious period of the Inquisition where a dark shadow was drawn over Jewish Life, where the Auto da Fe brought individual and community life to a chilling end.

We will talk both of times when Tolerance and Pluralism in the world of Belief created a paradigm for Christian, Jew and Moslem, people of different faiths, lived together peacefully in this world, as well as the times when this all went horribly wrong and ended up with terrible, cruel persecution, all the more so because of the Golden times which preceded it.

Thursday December 4th:

Introduction to Cordoba

18.00 Meet at the Hotel in Cordoba

19.30 Evening walk and orientation to Cordoba and our themes. We will end up at the Restaurant so please dress appropriately

20.30 Dinner

Friday December 5th:

The Jew in Medieval society. Living as a tolerated minority. The borders of Dialogue.

10.00 Meet in the Lobby (ready to walk in the Old City)

10.15 The Juderia (the old Jewish Quarter), the Story of Maimonides, the Old Synagogue, the Bath house

13.30 Lunch

16.00 The Mesquita (the Cathedral of Cordoba – and once the main mosque of Cordoba), the story of the Conquista and Reconquista

17.30 Poetry, Music and Wine in a Mediterranean Courtyard

20.00 Dinner with Kabbalat Shabbat

Saturday December 6th:

The Court Jew. Just how high could a Jew climb? First encounter with the Shadows of the Inquisition.

10.00 Meet in the Lobby ready to depart for Seville via Medina al Zahra

10.45 Medina al Zahra, the Royal Palace

12.00 Continue to Seville

13.00 Lunch in Seville

15.00 Check into the Hotel

16.30 Barrio Cruz, the old Jewish Quarter

20.30 Dinner and Havdalah

Sunday December 7th:

The Pity of it all. Encountering the Christian World

10.00 Meet in Lobby

10.15 Seville Cathedral

11.30 Real Alcazar (the Royal Palace)

13.00 Inquisition Square (our name not theirs)

13.30 Lunch