

Three Cultures of Medieval Spain

How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Glorious Culture

May 2-11, 2017
accompanied by Betty Brandt

Tuesday, May 2nd.. Depart by Air from Indianapolis to Madrid

Wednesday, May 3rd After arriving at Madrid's Barajas airport, we will be met and take our air-conditioned bus to Toledo. With its narrow winding streets and steps, stone houses and churches, Toledo fully embodies Spain's past. Throughout its long history, Toledo has always been known as a city of tolerance or the "City of Three Cultures", with the coexistence of Jews, Muslims and Christians. This evening we enjoy a Welcome Dinner in one of Toledo's best restaurants. We will check into our 5 star hotel, centrally located in Toledo's historic quarter.



Thursday, May 4th After breakfast at our hotel, we will take a private walking tour of the magical historic quarter (declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO), guided by a local art historian. We'll visit the Gothic cathedral; among the greatest of Gothic structures in Europe and home to paintings by El Greco, Van Dyck and Goya. Our walking tour continues along the narrow streets of the old Jewish quarter. In 1391, there were five Talmudic schools and 10 synagogues in Toledo. As Spain works toward reviving its Jewish past, many visitors flock to Toledo to see the two of the few remaining medieval synagogues in Spain. We will visit the beautifully crafted El Transito

synagogue, containing the Jewish Museum (devoted to the history and legacy of Sephardic Spain) and also the Santa Maria La Blanca synagogue. Both synagogues were built in the Mudejar style, heavily influenced by Arab aesthetics and were converted into churches after the Expulsion of the Jews in 1492 by the Catholic Monarchs, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. We continue to the Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz, a former mosque—the only one of the ten once existing in the city. It was then known as Mezquita Bab-al-Mardum, deriving its name from the city gate Bab al-Mardum.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Toledo. Perhaps see El Greco's finest work, the famed "Burial of the Count of Orgaz" in the Iglesia de Santo Tomé, or simply soak up the ambience strolling through the narrow streets of Toledo's old quarter.

Friday May 5th After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart Toledo for Granada. After checking into our

centrally located hotel, we will be met by a local art historian to explore the old Arab quarter, otherwise known as the Albaicin. The intertwining neighborhoods that merge together to form the Albaicin share an urban layout of narrow, tangled, cobbled streets and small-whitewashed houses. We will stop at the panoramic outlook point of San Nicolás, where we will have a magnificent view of the majestic Alhambra. We will also visit El Bañuelo; Granada's ancient Arab baths. Dating to the 11th century, the baths have been wonderfully restored.



Saturday, May 6th After enjoying breakfast at the hotel, we will embark on a private guided visit of the fascinating Alhambra; the palace and fortress complex of the Moorish rulers of Granada. The Alhambra is one of Spain's major tourist attractions, exhibiting the country's most famous Islamic architecture, together with Christian interventions in the 16th century and later. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984, the Moorish complex comprises three parts: the fortress (Alcazaba), the 13th century palace (Nasrid Palace) and the gardens (Generalife). We'll visit the highlights of all three areas this morning.

After the tour finishes, you may decide to linger on the Alhambra grounds. The afternoon is free for personal sightseeing and/or shopping.

Sunday, May 7th After breakfast, we will travel towards Seville. We will stop in Ronda, one of the small and most interesting of the white villages that Southern Spain is famous for. Noted as one of the oldest cities in Europe, Ronda's charm lies in its narrow streets lined with pretty white-washed houses, the Arab Baths dating from the 13th century; the minarets, churches and its spectacular position perched on the top of a deep ravine, "El Tajo" (for a story referring to this gorge, read Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls".) After exploring Ronda, we drive to a small family winery, which is producing excellent wines combining traditional methods with the most modern enological technologies. The winery is situated near the Roman ruins of Acinipo. This region was famous in Ancient Rome because of its vineyards and its wines, which were shipped back to Rome from Malaga's coast. After a delicious winery lunch, made up of local specialties and paired with wines from the bodega, we will drive to the picturesque mountain village of Grazalema. Situated 812 metres above sea level, it is located in one of the rainiest and most verdant areas of Andalucía. It is also well known for the production of wool blankets that are still made here by traditional methods. We will continue to our hotel in Sevilla.

Monday, May 8th After breakfast at the hotel, we will tour the main monumental sights of Sevilla; the Cathedral, with its Giralda bell tower and the Reales Alcázares Palaces (both UNESCO world heritage sites). Our guide will not only explain the history, but the legends related to these famous monuments. The walking tour continues through the labyrinth that is the Barrio de Santa Cruz, the old Jewish Quarter. Our guide will lead us through the narrow winding cobbled streets, through plazas filled with the perfume of orange trees and past local houses adorned with beautiful wrought-iron balconies. The rest of the day is free for personal sightseeing or for an afternoon siesta, in preparation for the evening's entertainment! We gather once more in the evening to go to a wonderful flamenco performance. First mentioned in the literature in 1774, the genre of flamenco grew out of Andalusian and Romani music and dance styles in Southern Spain. The performance this evening takes place in an intimate venue where the dancing and music attracts both locals and tourists alike.

Tuesday, May 9th *NOTE: The Festival de los Patios Cordobeses; an annual fiesta celebrated in Cordoba, is normally held during the first two weeks of May. During this time, participants open their patios to the public. The stark-whitewashed walls are covered with ceramic pots crammed with shade loving plants that stand around the walls and create a lush outside space.*



After breakfast, we will travel to Cordoba, one of Andalucia's most dramatic and compelling cities. The entire Old Quarter of town is packed with countless historical sites, museums, peaceful plazas, religious buildings and medieval white-washed mansions featuring some of Europe's finest patios. After lunch, we will drive to Madint al-Zahra, one of Spain's most important archaeological sites. Here, our guide will lead us on a tour of this magnificent city palace, the Versailles of Cordoba, which was built for Abd al-Rahman II at the foot of the Sierra Morena mountains. According to popular belief, Abd al-Rahman III) after proclaiming himself Caliph in 929 AD) decided to build the city-palace in honor of his favorite, al-Zahra. However, recent research strongly suggests that the real reason for the Caliph founding Madinat al-Zahra was to promote the new image of the recently created independent western Caliphate as one of the strongest, most powerful kingdoms in Medieval Europe.

Wednesday, May 10th Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and then we will meet our guide once more to visit the unique Mosque-Cathedral. The Mezquita Catedral is the most important site in Cordoba and the only remaining mosque from the time of the Arab Caliphate. This fantastically elaborate structure was originally built in the 8th century when Emir Ad al-Rahman reused the land and materials from an older Visigothic church on the site. Dramatic elements that remain from the Cordoban era include the columned double arches and the 10th century Byzantine mosaic covered domes.



In the 16th century, a powerful local bishop commissioned the construction of a Catholic Cathedral within the walls of the Mezqita. The walking tour continues to the Barrio Judio. The Jewish Quarter . The Jewish Quarter is the best known part of Cordoba's historic centre, which was declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1984. We will visit the beautifully restored Synagogue, one of the only three remaining synagogues in

Spain (the other two we have already seen in Toledo). The rest of the neighborhood has a distinctly Islamic air. Nearby is the Zoco (Souk), a medieval version of the famed Arabic souks, which used to dot the urban landscape of the Caliphate. After lunch, we have free time to visit one of the patios open to the public or perhaps visit the Hammam Al Andalus, where you can relax in these beautiful restored Arab baths, where the spa circuit includes warm, hot and cold baths in addition to a steam room . Or, you can stroll to the Museum of the Al=Andalus Life situated in the historic Calaharra Tower. This wonderful museum provides a recreation of the Cordoba of the period between the 9th and 13th centuries, a time of brilliant cultural, artistic and scientific achievement. This evening, we celebrate dinner together as we sample delicious Andalusia dishes in one of Cordoba's best restaurants.

Thursday May 11th After breakfast, we will transfer to Madrid's airport for our trip home or for those who are interested in visiting Barcelona, we will offer a two night extension at a wonderful 5 star located right on the famous Las Ramblas.

This 9 day/ 8 night trip includes round trip airfare plus:

- 8 night's accommodation in 4 & 5 star hotels
- All breakfasts
- Two dinners with regional wine, bottled water and tea/coffee included
- One winery lunch in Ronda
- Air-conditioned bus transportation
- Private guided walking tours with local bilingual art historians as mentioned.
- Selected entrances to historical monuments as per the itinerary
- Evening flamenco performance in Sevilla (beverages not included)
- Guided winery visit in Ronda
- Luggage portage upon arrival/departure at all hotels

Price: The price for the The Three Cultures of Medieval Spain trip is estimated to be approximately \$3950 per person (double occupancy.) A single supplement will be available at approximately \$850.00. Prices may vary slightly with fuel costs and taxes and the final price will be determined when the final payment is due. We will make every effort to keep the price as close to the estimate as possible.

Extend your trip with two nights in Barcelona at a 5 star hotel located on the famous Las Ramblas. This extension will include a flight from Cordoba to Barcelona and our return from Barcelona to the US for \$399.00 double occupancy.

Payments: To hold a spot on the trip, a deposit of \$500 per person is required by July 1, 2016. A second payment of \$1500.00 will be due on October. 15, 2016 with the final balance due Feb 15, 2017.

Flights: We endeavor to book flights, using economy class seats, that provide the best schedule at lowest price. Upgrades to Business Class on the same itinerary may be available. For a price quote, please let me know. You may choose to book your own airfare because you are traveling on a different itinerary or using Frequent flyer miles, please let me know that you will not be using the group fare. If you would like to alter either your departing flight or your return flight and leave early or return later, we can make that change with the group fare. Please let me know the specifics of your itinerary so I can get a quote.

For all flights, You will need to provide information from your passport, your name, exactly as it appears on your passport along with your date of birth, passport number and the passport expiration date.

Cancellation: Once you have made a payment, If you must cancel before 120 days prior to the trip, you will be entitled to a full refund. Between 120 days and 30 days prior to the trip, you will be entitled to a refund of the total trip cost less the cost of the airline ticket and any non refundable deposits paid to hotels and other vendors plus a handling fee of \$200.00. If you cancel less than 30 days prior, there will be no refund. If you cancel after 120 days prior and the airfare has been paid, you may be entitled to an airline credit less the change fee assessed by the airline. Usually you have

one year to use the value of the ticket minus the change fee set by the airline, currently at \$300.00. After 120 days prior to the trip, any cancellation will also incur a \$100 administrative fee.

Trip Insurance: You may wish to purchase trip insurance to protect your cost of the trip in case of a last minute emergency. Upon receipt of your deposit, you will receive an application for trip insurance. Please note that insurance will only cover pre-existing conditions if it is purchased within 14 days of your initial deposit. You can also purchase and compare insurance plans on the website www.insuremytrip.com. You can purchase trip insurance to cover limited situations or you can purchase insurance that will allow you to cancel for any reason. Prices and various plans are available.

Baggage: Most carriers allow for one free checked bag on international flights. You may be charged for a second checked bag. You will be allowed a small carry-on and one personal bag. Please be sure you meet the specifications for the carry on bag so you are not surprised with a charge at check in. Selection of Vendors: Travel to Remember, LLC will use the following guidelines for the selection of international and domestic land and air suppliers. All suppliers will be chosen from those recommended by other known and trusted vendors in our industry. We will look for suppliers that have a proven track record for safety and a reputation for being the most experienced local receptive operators. Suppliers will be expected to comply with all local insurance and licensing regulations. One of the tour managers from Travel to Remember will accompany all excursions to make sure that the suppliers provides the best in service and customer response.

Responsibility: “Tour Operator” acts only as an agent for the various independent suppliers that provide hotel accommodations, transportation, sightseeing, activities, or other services connected with this tour. Such services are subject to the terms and conditions of those suppliers. Tour Operator and their respective employees, agents, representatives, and assigns accept no liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or any other incident which may be caused by the negligence, defect, default of any company or person in performing the services. Responsibility is not accepted for losses, injury, damages or expenses of any kind due to sickness, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature, local laws or other such causes. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws and regulations of the country in which they are provided. Tour Operator is not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in the tours/trips arranged by Tour Operator. Individual travelers are responsible for purchasing a travel insurance policy, if desired, that will cover some of the expenses associated with the loss of luggage or personal effects.

Questions: Send your questions by email to rdzehr@traveltoremember.net

Three Cultures of Medieval Spain

How Muslims, Jews and Christians Created a Glorious Culture

May 2-11, 2017
accompanied by Betty Brandt

Name(s)_(as they appear on your passport(s))

#1 _____

#2 _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

#1 E-Mail _____ Cell _____

#2 E-Mail _____ Cell _____

#1 Date of Birth _____ #2 Date of Birth _____

#1 Passport Number _____ #2 Passport Number _____

#1 Passport Expiration Date _____ #2 Passport Expiration Date _____

Please register me for single occupancy ____ Please help me find a roommate ____

My roommate will be _____.

Please sign me up for the extension in Barcelona _____

Payment Schedule

Checks made out to: "Travel to Remember" Memo: "Medieval Spain 2017"
Deposit of \$500 per person – by July 1, 2016
Second Payment of \$1500 per person – by October 15, 2016
Final Payment of balance – tbd – February 15, 2017

Please print this and mail with your checks to:

Travel to Remember
Attn: Bob Zehr
621 Timber Mill Lane