



Saturday October 5th

Grand Hotel Cavour in Florence is included for this night

Sunday October 6th

9:00 am: Depart Hotel

Full day walking tour of Jewish and Renaissance Florence

Our tour starts at the heart of Jewish **Florence** with an introduction to the history of the city's Jewish community. We will see the beautiful Moorish-style **Great Synagogue** or **Tempio Maggiore**, the **Jewish Museum** and the seat of today's local **community**. After a Visit to **Accademia Gallery** with the David of Michelangelo, we will then walk towards the city centre to explore traces of the Jewish historical presence in the city including the site of the **Former Ghetto**. Located in the area of **Piazza della Repubblica**, Jewish life played out here subject to the vagaries of various rulers like the **Medicis**. The ghetto ceased to exist in the mid-19th century when Jews of Tuscany were granted citizenship rights.

Piazza Duomo is a must with the Gates of Paradise and stories of the Old Testament. We will not miss the famous **Ponte Vecchio**, **Piazza della Signoria**, where the original David statue once stood, and a visit to **Uffizi Gallery** to see some of the great highlights of Renaissance, including famous masterpieces by **Botticelli**, **Leonardo** and **Michelangelo**.

7:30 pm: Opening Dinner with group

Overnight in Florence.

Monday October 7th

8:30 am: Depart Hotel

Day tour - Livorno and Pisa

Livorno has had a considerable Jewish community of Sephardic origin since the 17th Century. It never had a ghetto and at one time in the 18th century it represented 20% of the population.

We will visit the Synagogue in **Piazza Benamozegh**, designed by **Angel Di Castro**, and see the beautiful 17th-century Aron which was given to Livorno by the synagogue in **Pesaro**.

In the **Yeshivà Marini Museum** we will see the old furnishings from Livorno's original 17th-century synagogue, including works of embroidery and objects made from coral.



Like Livorno, **Pisa** is one of the two cities in Tuscany that never had a ghetto, and is believed to have been the first city in Tuscany where Jewish families settled as early as the 10th century. We will visit the **Jewish cemetery**, one of the most ancient Jewish burial grounds still in use. We will also see the city's highlights (from outside), among them are the **Leaning Tower**, the most famous image of the city and **Piazza dei Miracoli** (Square of Miracles), which got its name because of the wonderful monuments it is holding, such as the **Duomo** (Cathedral), the **Baptistry** and the **Camposanto Monumentale** (the monumental cemetery).

Free Evening

Overnight in Florence

Tuesday October 8th

8:30 am: Depart Hotel

Day tour –Arezzo and Monte San Savino

We will drive to **Arezzo** and be treated to a guided tour of Arezzo's great frescos by Piero della Francesca in the San Francesco Church and then continue to **San Savino**.

Monte San Savino was a home to an important Jewish community until the late 18th century. This city is also the birthplace of the important Jewish poet, **Salomon Fiorentino**. The **Ex Sinagoga**, partially visible after its last restoration, is located in a street that is now named after this poet. The most ancient parts of the building date back to restorations carried out at the beginning of the 18th century. From Monte San Savino, we will drive to **Sienna**, check in to **NH Excelsior Hotel** where we will spend the night.

Free Evening

Overnight in Sienna

Wednesday October 9th

Day tour – Sienna and San Gimignano

In the morning we will explore **Sienna** and its Jewish history.

We will wander the streets of the **former ghetto**, which functioned from the end of the 16th century, when it was imposed in the order of **Cosimo de' Medici**, until 1859. Some of the



original structures of the ghetto remained as is and are still visible to today's visitors. We will visit the **Synagogue** and see the small exhibition of documents and photographs.

We will not miss the city highlights (from outside), such as the **Duomo** (Siena Cathedral), the shell shaped **Piazza del Campo** (the town square) with the **Palazzo Pubblico** (town hall), the medieval **Torre del Mangia**, and more.

In the afternoon we will drive to the walled medieval hill town of **San Gimignano**, unique for the preservation of about a dozen of its tower houses. Within the walls, we will see well-preserved buildings of both Romanesque and Gothic architecture.

Our last stop for the day before returning to Siena will be at a **local winery**, where we will enjoy a kosher wine tasting.

Overnight in Siena

Free Evening

Thursday October 10th

Depart Hotel

Day tour – Pitigliano and Sovana

In the morning we will visit Sovana and then drive to **Pitigliano**, known as Piccola Gerusalemme (Little Jerusalem). The Jewish community here grew increasingly from the 16th century on, as Jews sought refuge there when they were forced out of the Papal State. In the **former ghetto area** we will visit the small **Jewish Museum**, the restored **synagogue** from 1598, **ancient mikveh**, dye works, a kosher butchering area, and bread ovens.

After dinner en route, we will continue to **Rome**, where we will spend the night at the **Hilton Garden Inn** near the airport.

Overnight in Rome

Friday October 11th

Escorted transfer to Fiumicino Airport at 7:30 am for El Al Flight 386 to Tel Aviv departing at 10:10 am



In the Forefront of Excellence:

Arrival in Israel
Transfer to Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem

7:00 pm: Friday night dinner with guest speaker Professor Haim Cedar (IMRIC)

Saturday, October 12

Morning Free
Saturday afternoon guided tour of Herod Exhibit at the Israel Museum
Evening Program- to be determined

Sunday, October 13

Excellence in Humanities:

9:00 am: We will begin the day with a visit to the North African Center accompanied by a Hebrew U scholar.

We will then proceed to the Mount Scopus Campus where we will meet with outstanding faculty in the areas of Archaeology, Jewish Studies and International Relations.

Light lunch with students studying in the Revivim Education program designed to provide a uniquely equipped group of teachers for the secular school system.

Followed by a visit to an archaeological site with a Hebrew U archaeologist

Dinner with guest speaker

Monday, October 14

Excellence in Agriculture

Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot

Focusing on providing an inside perspective on technology transfer originating in the Faculty. For example: Collplant – (collagen grafted on tobacco) and other high-tech projects



Light lunch at the Faculty with students in the International Program
Visit to Weizman House
Return to Jerusalem and free evening

Tuesday, October 15

Excellence in Science

Givat Ram (Safra) Campus

9:00 am: Address by Professor Shy Arkin, Vice President of Research – *What makes Hebrew U Excellent?*

This will be followed by visits to centres of excellence including Computer Science and Engineering and Nanotechnology

We will visit the Einstein Archives with Professor Hanoch Gutfreund

Followed by light lunch at Haivrit

In the afternoon we will drive to Maale Hahamisha and follow the *Path of the Haggannah*

Dinner and speaker

Wednesday, October 16

9:30 am: Tour and speaker at Supreme Court

Followed by lunch in Machane Yehuda

Afternoon

Excellence in Medical Research - Ein Kerem Campus

- IMRIC program
- Military Medicine

Dinner: with program with Rachel Elior and Edwin Seroussi about music and history in Greece/Turkey originating in middle Ages



Thursday, October 17

Walking Tour of Musrara and a visit to the Museum of the Seam

After lunch we will depart Jerusalem and travel to Holon to visit the Holon Museum of Design

Check into the David Intercontinental Hotel in Tel Aviv with a free evening

Friday, October 18

Tour of the Kerem Temanim (Yemenite Quarter)

Free afternoon

Shabbat Dinner

Saturday, October 19

Program to be determined

Sunday, October 20

Departure