

CONGREGATION OR AMI • DISCOVER ITALY TOUR • WITH RABBI PAUL KIPNES AND CANTOR DOUG COTLER

CONGREGATION OR AMI  
May 14 - 24, 2019

# THE ITALY TRIP



telling the story of Israel and the Jewish World.



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**telling the story of Israel and the Jewish World.**



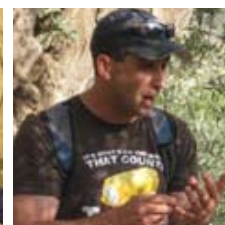
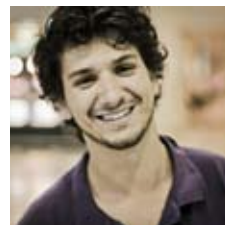
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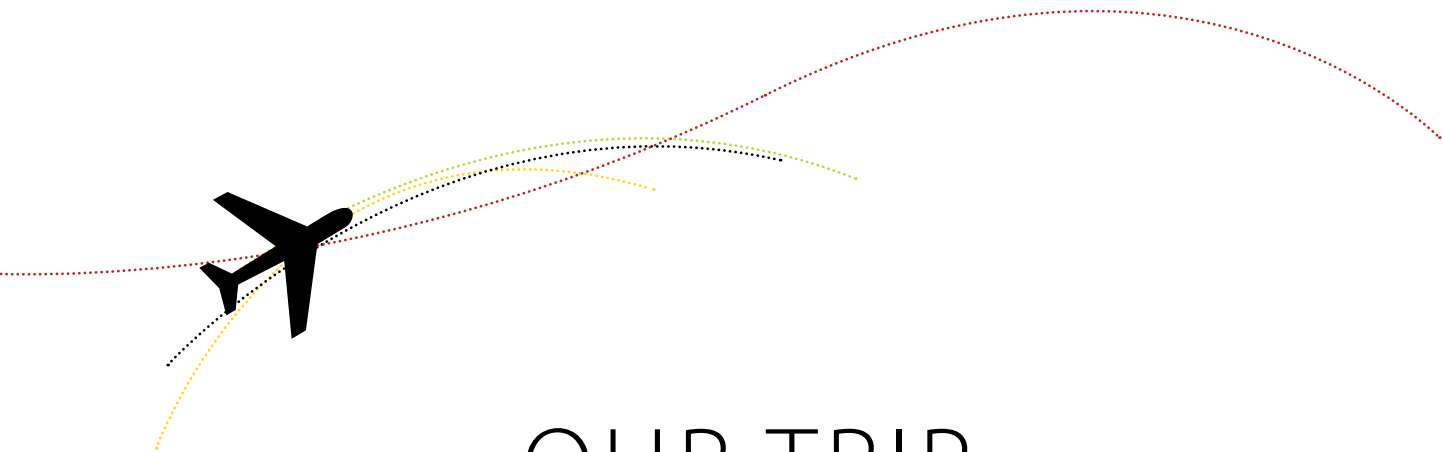


## **Your Tour Educator**

Every journey we offer is accompanied by a Tour Educator (TE) who brings your itinerary to life. Some of our TE's have decades of firsthand experience leading people to particular places.

Your TE will provide you with an authentic understanding of the locations you will visit, will introduce you to the locals, and will share his/her enthusiasm and passion for the local culture. The result is a journey that transforms your understanding of a place, connecting you to the people and places you encounter in a way that is palpable and unforgettable.

Our TE's are like no other: intelligent, knowledgeable, engaging and fun. They will become an indispensable part of your experience and some might just become lifetime friends.



# OUR TRIP

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**MAY** 14– 24, 2019

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FROM **\$4,085** LAND ONLY

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## HIGHLIGHTS

- A journey of education and inspiration
- Explore the creativity, communities and ghettos of Jewish life in Italy
- Marvel at the art and beauty of Florence
- Discover the glory of Rome, from the Empire to modern style
- Persecution, partnership and Popes: the history of Jews in a Catholic country
- La Dolce Vita: the food, wine and joy of Italy
- Outstanding tour educator, service and logistics



## **DAY ONE** ∩ **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019**

### **DEPARTURE**

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

## **DAY TWO** ∩ **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019**

### **ARRIVAL IN FLORENCE**

- Arrive at Florence International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Transfer to the city center.
- 2:00 p.m. Gather in the hotel lobby to meet your tour educator and fellow travelers and begin the program.
- Walk to the Duomo, celebrated for its magnificent dome designed by Brunelleschi, and view the Baptistry's renowned "Gates of Paradise" by Ghiberti.
- Continue with an exploration of the open-air art museum of Piazza Della Signoria, ending at the Ponte Vecchio, or the "Old Bridge."
- Check into the hotel.
- LaDa'at Focus 2,000 Years of Italian Jewry: Orientation dialogue with your tour educator.
- Welcome dinner.

Overnight: Florence

## **DAY THREE** ∩ **THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019**

### **FLORENCE - THE CRADLE OF THE RENAISSANCE**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- LaDa'at Focus The Jews of Tuscany: Introduction by your tour

educator.

- Take a closer look at the Jewish world once centered in Florence. The stories that emanate from the late 14th-century ghetto and the Moorish-style synagogue built in 1882 will be enhanced by a visit to the Museo Ebraico (Jewish Museum).
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Visit the Accademia Gallery, which houses Michelangelo's famous David sculpture.
- Visit the Uffizi Gallery, one of the oldest and most famous art museums in Europe.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight: Florence

## **DAY FOUR** ∩ **FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019**

### **LA DOLCE VITA**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Life Before the Renaissance: Depart Florence for Siena, beginning your visit with a city tour of this open-air museum of Gothic religious and secular architecture.
- Visit the synagogue in Siena.
- Lunch on own in Siena.
- Continue to San Gimignano, a small, walled, medieval hill town, famous for its architecture. The town has uniquely preserved about a dozen of its old tower houses. It also boasts some of the best ice cream in Italy.
- Drive along the Chianti wine route and stop for a wine tasting with local wine specialists.
- Return to Florence.



- Kabbalat Shabbat services with Shir Hadash, a local Progressive synagogue.
- Shabbat dinner.

Overnight: Florence

## **DAY FIVE** ▸ SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 **SHABBAT IN FLORENCE | Walking Tour**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Musical meditative Shabbat service in the lovely Boboli Gardens.
- Florence Behind the scenes - an inside look into Florence as the locals know it. Tour with a local resident of Florence and hear the stories of the aristocracy and culture battles in Florence, visit the secret galleries and explore the hidden alleys of Florence.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Free afternoon and evening to explore the city on your own or relax.

Overnight: Florence

## **DAY SIX** ▸ SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2019 **JEWISH STORIES AROUND ON THE ROAD TO ROME**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel, depart Florence and drive south towards Rome.
- Stop along the way in Pitigiliano, once known as "La Piccola Gerusalemme" -- Little Jerusalem - thanks to its once-thriving Jewish community. Though the Jewish community is no longer, one can still walk through the restored synagogue, mikveh and kosher butchery, and even enjoy a glass of kosher wine.
- Lunch on own, en route.



- Continue to Rome, and take a panoramic tour of the 'Eternal City' and its vistas.
- Check into the hotel.
- Kneading dough, chopping vegetables and using spices - making our own creative Italian food: Enjoy a hands-on cooking workshop, and enjoy dinner of your own making.
- Spiritual closing and sing Shma and Hashkevenu with Rabbi Paul and Cantor Doug.

Overnight: Rome

## **DAY SEVEN** ▸ MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019 **THE GLORY OF ROME WITH HIDDEN TREASURES REVEALED**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- LaDa'at Focus The Roman Empire and the Jewish People: Introduction by your tour educator.
- Tour ancient Rome, including the Coliseum, the Roman Forum and other monuments that recall Rome's great famous and infamous historic past. View the Arch of Titus, perhaps the best-known symbol of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E.
- Lunch on own.
- Embark on a walking tour to some of Rome's most beautiful structures, including the Spanish Steps, Europe's longest and widest staircase, the Trevi Fountain, the largest baroque fountain in the city; Piazza Navona (Navona Square); and more.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome



## **DAY EIGHT** ▾ **TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019** **JEWISH ROME**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the Great Synagogue, built in 1904, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage housed inside it.
- Tour the Jewish Ghetto, established by Pope Paul IV in 1555. Rome's Jews were stripped of their rights and forced to live in this walled-in, overcrowded area. The medieval streets wind their way towards the square from which Jews were deported during the Holocaust.
- Participate in a Kaddish of remembrance of the Italian Jewish community. Rabbi Paul and Cantor Doug guide us to renew the memory of the ancient Jewish community.
- Lunch on your own and afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## **DAY NINE** ▾ **WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019** **THE RUINS OF POMPEII**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Rome and drive south.
- Explore the ruins of Pompeii, an ancient Roman city which was buried under a large amount of volcanic ash from Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. The city has remained extremely well-preserved and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Return to Rome.

- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## **DAY TEN** ▾ **THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019** **SACRED ROME**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- LaDa'at Focus Michelangelo and the Jews: Introduction by your tour educator.
- Enjoy a special behind the scenes visit the Vatican Museum with a unique viewing of some of the seldom-revealed Jewish historic relics preserved there.
- Continue to the Sistine Chapel, followed by a visit to Peter's Basilica, built in the late Renaissance.
- Enjoy a special audience with Vatican leadership. (pending confirmation)
- Lunch on own.
- Afternoon at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Rome

## **DAY ELEVEN** ▾ **FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2019** **RETURN HOME**

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Rome International Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.



## PRE-TRIP ▾ MAY 12 - 15, 2019

### DAY ONE ▾ SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019 DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

### DAY TWO ▾ MONDAY, MAY 13, 2019 ARRIVAL IN VENICE | walking tour

- Arrive at Venice International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Transfer to the city center and drop off luggage at the hotel.
- 2:00 p.m. Gather in the hotel lobby to meet your fellow travelers and begin the program.
- Visit Mark's Square to begin a guided walking tour of romantic Venice, followed by a view of the Golden Basilica of San Marco and the Bridge of Sighs.
- Visit the Doge's Palace, once the residence of the Venetian Republic's supreme authority. Enjoy the beautiful interiors and explore its hidden dungeons.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Venice

### DAY THREE ▾ TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019 THE CITY ON THE WATER: VENICE & THE ISLANDS | walking tour

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Visit the Island of Murano to tour one of its many glass-making workshops.
- Sail to the colorful Island of Burano noted for its lacework and colorfully painted houses.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Unchanged Legacy: Tour the Jewish Ghetto, the home and center of Venetian Jewish life, 1515-1848. Visit the Great Synagogue and Jewish Heritage Museum in the Nuovo Ghetto.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

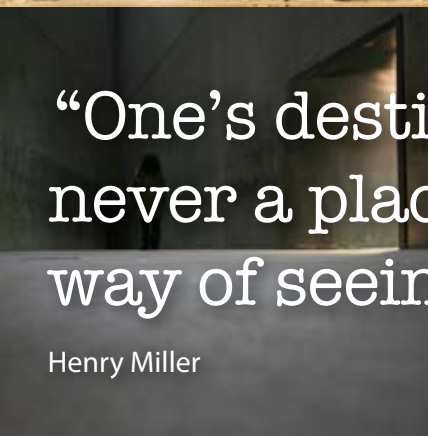
Overnight: Venice

### DAY FOUR ▾ WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019 FROM VENICE TO FLORENCE

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Transfer to Florence to meet the group arriving from the U.S.A.

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“One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things.”

Henry Miller

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