Italia Ebraica – A Study Tour of Jewish Italy
16-31 October 2017

Shalom is pleased to announce an exciting Jewish travel venture from 16th – 31st October 2017. Focusing on the history of the Jews in Italy, 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 Jewish Museum of Australia’s adult education program. For the past several years he has led Jewish study tours to various European destinations on behalf of Shalom and the Jewish Museum.

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. However, 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 5880€uros. The cost of a single supplement is 1350€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 bookings until you are advised that the tour is definitely proceeding.

The following are included in the land package:
- Four star hotel accommodation (15 nights) and buffet breakfasts
- 3 evening meals and 3 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 and bus drivers
- 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)
- Hotel porterage
- 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

What happens next?

Click on the following link to access the online registration page or cut and paste it into your browser.
https://asp.tramada.com.au/tms/fbitravel/client/client-online-registration.htm?clientDebtorId=632&clientDebtorToken=NjU3Y2VkZDUtNWY5Yi00NjU0LWFiZjEtMThkOTI1MTdhNDRj

At the time of registration you will be required to make a deposit of $1500 per person in order to secure your place on the tour.

To pay by credit card you will need to insert your card details in 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.

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 16 October: Venice
Check into Venice hotel

Day 2 – Tuesday 17 October: Venice
The day will commence with a study session led by Paul Forgasz, in which he will present an historical overview of the Jews in Italy. Following a light lunch in the hotel, you will have an opportunity to explore the city on your own. The day’s program will end with an evening canal ride. Overnight in Venice

Day 3 – Wednesday 18 October: Venice
Following breakfast, we will take 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. In the afternoon, using one of the water taxi passes with which you will be provided, you will have an opportunity to visit the nearby Island of Murano, famous for its glass making. Overnight in Venice

Day 4 – Thursday 19 October: Venice
In this morning’s study session, Paul will present short biographical portraits of a number of 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. Overnight in Venice

Day 5 – Friday 20 October: Venice-Padua-Ferrara-Bologna
Departing from Venice, 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 21 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 22 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 23 October: Bologna-Prato-Florence.
This morning we depart for Florence and stop in Prato, a pretty Renaissance city very close to Florence. A light lunch at Monash University’s Prato Centre, will be followed by a study session introducing the next stage of our journey. We will focus 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 24 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.

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 26 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 27 October: Florence-Pitigliano-Rome
Today we depart for Rome, stopping along the way in the beatiful 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 28 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 29 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 30 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 Basillica. In the evening we will come together for a farewell dinner. Overnight in Rome.

Day 16 – Monday 31 October: Rome
Hotel checkout

See following page for hotel information
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  

Bologna: I Portici Hotel  
http://www.iporticihotel.com/en

Florence: Hotel Pierre  
http://www.hotel-pierre-florence.com

Rome: Hotel Ponte Sisto  
http://www.hotelpontesisto.it/en

Refer to following page 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. SHALOM and FBI Travel do not accept responsibility for any damage to property or person(s) incurred during the course of this tour.

4. SHALOM 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. SHALOM 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 SHALOM 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 $1500 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. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.