



Jewish Federation
of Greater MetroWest NJ

Missions

Women's Philanthropy Mission to Portugal
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ
October 20 -24, 2025
(Updated: April 2)

October 19: Depart Newark to Porto, Portugal
United #144 9:55 pm. Arrives Porto on October 20 at 9:45 am

Day 1: October 20th – Arrival in Porto

9:45 am Arrival in Porto

Our Portuguese journey begins with a guided tour of the **Palacio da Bolsa**. This stunning historical building, boasting intricate architecture and a rich history, providing an immersive introduction to the city's grandeur and sets the perfect tone for our adventure. Following the tour, we'll transition to a delightful **opening lunch**. We'll wander through the beautifully renovated **Bolhão Market**, exploring **(and shopping!)** its vibrant mix of traditional and creative stalls. On the second floor, we'll find a selection of restaurants, including **Casa Vegetariana** (The Vegetarian House), offering a delicious blend of traditional and contemporary cuisine right in the heart of Porto.

After lunch, check into your hotel and take some time to refresh and settle in. In the late afternoon, meet in the hotel lobby and depart for a guided **walking tour** of Porto's historic downtown, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The tour will weave through narrow streets rich with history and highlight Porto's Jewish heritage. Cross the iconic **D. Luís I iron bridge**, with breathtaking views of the Douro River, to reach **Vila Nova de Gaia**. Here, embark on a short **boat ride** along the Douro, soaking in the river's beauty and the storied surroundings.

Wrap up your first day with a **private dinner at Churchill's lodge** reflecting on a fulfilling introduction to Porto's charm and heritage. We will start our evening with wine tasting followed by dinner with wine pairing. **Invited Guest:** Sharon Cohn, Founder & President of *Hamakom*, Progressive Synagogue in Porto.

Overnight: Hotel Pestana Porto - A Brasileira

Day 2: October 21st – A day exploring Porto

Breakfast at the hotel

Embark on an extraordinary **3-hour walking tour** through Porto's vibrant heart, led by the insightful **Alejandra Jañas**, and delve into the **stories of the remarkable women shaping the city's creative landscape**.

This isn't just a tour; it's a behind-the-scenes journey to meet the visionaries behind unique projects that are making a real difference. Discover innovative spaces like **Burel Porto, where Isabel Costa has revitalized traditional textiles with a modern twist**, and explore **Colectiva, a jewelery haven crafted by women**, where you'll connect with the artists themselves. Immerse yourself in the world of renowned **female artists at a leading gallery, guided by the knowledgeable Rita Sã Alves**. Witness the breathtaking **street art street by Joana Vasconcellos**, and step into a local artist's studio for an intimate conversation about their work. Beyond the art and design, experience the city's social pulse in **iconic cafés and uncover hidden pop-up exhibitions and design stores**. This tour is a celebration of female creativity, resilience, and the power to transform a city.

Savor a scenic **lunch along the Douro River**, taking in the picturesque views of Porto. In the afternoon, we'll delve into the art of **pastel de nata making** with an interactive workshop, learning the secrets behind Portugal's iconic pastry. Enjoy a period of free time to discover Porto's charms, followed by a chance to relax at the hotel before our **group dinner**.

Overnight: Hotel Pestana Porto - A Brasileira

Day 3: October 22nd – Journey to Lisbon via Tomar

Breakfast at the hotel

Depart Porto and journey south toward Lisbon, with a stop in the historic town of **Tomar**, a place rich in history and a testament to the enduring legacies of the **Knights Templar** and Jewish heritage.

In Tomar, visit the **Synagogue of Tomar**, one of Portugal's oldest preserved synagogues. This small yet significant museum offers a window into the lives of the vibrant Jewish community that once thrived here. Through carefully preserved artifacts and exhibits, you'll uncover stories of resilience and tradition that shaped the town's history.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant**, where you can savor regional dishes that reflect the culinary traditions of central Portugal before continuing our journey to Lisbon.

Our Lisbon exploration begins at the breathtaking **Edward VII Park**, where we'll pause for a panoramic introduction to the city. From this stunning vantage point, we'll take in the sprawling cityscape and its iconic landmarks. To mark this special moment, we'll raise a glass of local Portuguese drink called **Ginja** and offer a heartfelt "Saúde!" (the Portuguese equivalent of "L'chaim!") as we toast to the beginning of our Lisbon adventure.

Check into your hotel.

Cocktails at the **Dom Pedro** bar with women from the Lisbon Jewish Community.

Enjoy dinner on your own.

Overnight: Dom Pedro Lisbon Hotel

Day 4: October 23rd – Discovering Lisbon's Layers

Breakfast at hotel

Explore Lisbon's riverside beauty with a tour of Belém, home to iconic landmarks like the **Jerónimos Monastery and Belém Tower**.

After lunch, continue to **Castelo São Jorge**, a castle perched high above the city. From its ramparts, take in breathtaking panoramic views of Lisbon's rooftops, the Tagus River, and its steep, layered history. Descend into the **Alfama district**, one of Lisbon's oldest neighborhoods. This atmospheric area was once home to a thriving Jewish community centered around **Rua da Judiaria**, where Jewish life flourished before the devastating 1755 earthquake reshaped the city. Discover how, as Jewish refugees arrived from Spain, the area expanded to include the **Judiaria Grande** and **Judiaria Pequena**, today known as the **Praça do Comércio**. Continue your exploration with a visit at **Rossio Square**, the historic heart of downtown Lisbon. Amidst the lively atmosphere, reflect on the somber significance of the **Jewish Memorial**, a tribute to the victims of the Inquisition and a poignant reminder of the resilience of Lisbon's Jewish community.

Continue with a tour in **Chiado**, Lisbon's vibrant neighbourhood, where tradition meets modernity including time for shopping.

After you have had a bit of time to refresh back at the hotel, we will meet for a **reflection session** at the hotel followed by your **farewell dinner** at Casa da Comida restaurant.

Overnight: Dom Pedro Lisbon Hotel

Day 5: Friday, October 24th: Departure

7:00am Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the USA.

United #65 10:25 am. Arrives Newark on October 24 at 1:10 pm