



Jews and their Italian Renaissances

Padua, Ferrara, Bologna

September 12th – 16th 2024



It should come as no surprise that Jewish Journeys is returning to Italy, since on the surface, so many things fit together: story, scenery, culture, and food. But as with all things JJ, nothing is ever quite as it seems - there are always more layers to be peeled away, casting fresh light on the dramas of Jewish life and destiny.

All three cities to be visited, Padua, Ferrara and Bologna, embody the spirit of the Renaissance, that great revolution of ideas and culture in the late Middle Ages that uncovered wisdom and unleashed curiosity and creativity. And on the instinctively positive side, these cities radiate that spirit at every turn: Bologna is home to Europe's oldest university, Padua to its first modern medical school, and in Ferrara, the humanist concept of the 'ideal city' took shape. And yet, Bologna was the setting for the notorious Mortara Affair when emancipated Italian Jews felt the renewed force of Catholic prejudice; and though a work of fiction, Ferrara was the setting for the Garden of the Finzi Continis, Giorgio Bassani's classic story of betrayal in the 1940s, the author himself a (half) native of the city.

And so, in the best traditions of Jewish Journeys, set against the backdrop of beautiful palaces, universities, and squares, as well as in the smaller backstreets of former ghettos, and chastened by more recent history, we will be seeking updated evidence of that spirit of wisdom.

Thursday 12th September 2025 Padua

Walking tour of Jewish sites of Padua, incl. Capella degli Scrovegni

O/n Padua

Friday 13th September Padua

Behind closed gates: two ancient Jewish cemeteries; Palazzo Bo and Medical school, university, market squares, the Palace of Justice, Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua

Friday night services in synagogue of Padua

o/n Padua

Saturday 14th September Ferrara

Walking tour of Jewish sites of Ferrara, incl. Ghetto, Via delle Volte, Via Mazzini.

In search of the Garden of the Finzi Continis

O/n Ferrara

Sunday 15th September Ferrara / Bologna

National Museum of Italian Judaism, Jewish cemetery Ferrara

Transfer to Bologna

o/n Bologna

Monday 16th September 2024

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna; Ghetto area; Palazzo Bocchi; all things Mortara; Shoah Memorial

Finish by late afternoon (in time for evening flights)

Price will be £1045 pp for double occupancy with a single supplement of £295. The price excludes flights to and from Italy but includes transport between Padua, Ferrara and Bologna. It includes 4 nights hotel accommodation on a Bed and Breakfast basis, 2 evening meals, all entry fees and local co-ordinator and as usual will be led by Jeremy Leigh throughout. It does not include other meals or tips to local guides or drivers. Please budget 6 euros (or equivalent currency) per day for those tips which will be collected in cash.

Trip is based on a minimum of 30 participants. A non-refundable deposit of £175 per person is payable with your booking form. Balance of payment will be due by 31st May 2024. Flyer and booking form are attached.

To book please contact Marcel Manson at West End Travel. Tel: 07712 290520 marcel.manson@westendtravel.co.uk

PLEASE DO NOT BOOK YOUR TRAVEL UNTIL THE TRIP AND YOUR PLACE ON IT ARE CONFIRMED.