

Join us for
"Southern Italy Through Jewish Eyes" - October 1 – 10, 2013

A ground-breaking tour of Jewish Heritage in Calabria & Sicily

Part 1 – Calabria, October 1 – 6 Part 2 – Sicily, October 6 – 10
Parts 1 & 2, Calabria and Sicily, 9 nights*, October 1 - 10

This exciting journey focuses on some of the oldest places of Jewish presence in Italy and the rebirth, after 500 years, of modern Jewish life in Calabria - the "toe" of the boot.

The highlight of the Calabria experience is a **Symposium** at the WWII Concentration Camp at Ferramonti. Three survivors will describe their experiences as children in the Camp with the local Italians who saved their lives.

Your tour leader is **Rabbi Barbara Aiello**.

She is a first-generation Italian-American whose Jewish parents were born in Southern Italy. Rabbi Barbara traces her roots even further back to a small group of Jewish families expelled from Sicily during the Inquisition. She now resides in Serrastretta where she is the founder of the B'nei Anousim movement in Southern Italy and has established the first synagogue in Calabria in 500 years. Her astounding story holds the key to the Jewish heritage of these regions.



Part 1 – Calabria with Rabbi Barbara • October 1 – 6 • 5 nights, \$2475

01 Oct. Arrival into Lamezia Terme, ground transfer to the Hotel Savant in Nicastro
Welcome Dinner, Meeting with Rabbi Barbara and Guest Scholar

02 Oct. Walking tour of “**Il Timpone**” medieval Jewish Quarter in Nicastro

Lunch and Lecture with invited guest (to be announced)

Afternoon visit to Tiriolo where participants will unlock the secret of the Calabrian Tallit (prayer shawl) and the Jewish heritage of these mountain villages.



The Jewish Quarter, Il Timpone



Making a Calabrian Tallit in Tiriolo

03 Oct. **Symposium at Ferramonti Concentration Camp with (optional) “March to Survival”,**
Tour of Museum, Discussion with Survivors

Symposium at the Ferramonti Concentration Camp, Cosenza.

This Camp, the largest of the 15 internment camps established by Mussolini in the early years of WWII, provides a unique experience in that no inmate died other than from natural causes. The Italian soldiers and local villagers dedicated themselves to saving the lives of the nearly 4,000 Jews detained there until liberation by the Allies in the Fall of 1943.

Your day at the camp includes a tour of the Ferramonti museum where you will see a moving exhibit of photos and artifacts of camp life, which included synagogue worship, Hebrew school, and Bar Mitzvah training for the camp's Jewish children.

Participants will meet Ferramonti survivors who will describe their experiences as children in the Camp with the Italians who saved their lives.

The symposium also includes the opportunity to participate in “**The March to Survival**”, where you will have the option to disembark the tour bus at the Ferramonti Tarsia train station and walk the 1.2 km to the camp itself, following in the footsteps of the Jews who made the trek 70 years ago.



04 Oct. Excursion to the **Synagogue of Serrastretta**, the first active synagogue in Calabria since Inquisition times. Meeting with Rabbi Barbara and a local family with ancestral Jewish roots. Lunch of traditional Calabrese Jewish dishes. Kabbalat Shabbat in the Sephardic tradition followed by a joyful Oneg (Italian challah and pastries).



05 Oct. Full day excursion to **Reggio Calabria and Bova Marina archeological site**. Visit to the Archeological Museum to see ancient Jewish artifacts and the famous Riace Bronzes, life-size statues from the ancient Greek period

Lunch in Reggio near the Old Jewish Quarter, followed by an excursion to the site of a 4th century synagogue discovered 20 years ago in the town of Bova Marina. The visit includes a viewing of the ancient mosaic floor extracted from the ruins and a discussion with the archeologist who initiated the excavation.

Participants continuing on **Part 2 to Sicily** will have an overnight stay on Oct. 5 at a lovely hotel in the town of Villa San Giovanni, the departure point for the ferries to Sicily.

Participants taking only **Part 1 will return to Lamezia Terme** to the Hotel Savant for the night of Oct. 5. Participants must arrange ground transportation on their own through the hotel to go back to the Lamezia Terme airport or train station for their departure on Oct. 6.

Part 2 – Sicily with Rabbi Barbara • October 6 – 10 • 5 nights*

Total Cost for entire 9 nights, Calabria & Sicily - \$5395

(*Parts 1 & 2 overlap on the night of Oct. 5th)

Oct 5. Overnight in the town of Villa San Giovanni, near Reggio Calabria. Dinner.

Oct 6, Today we start early, crossing the straits of Messina into Sicily and traveling down the eastern coast to **Siracusa**, arriving in its charming island district of **Ortigia**. After a great lunch and hotel check-in you will have a little time to relax. In the late afternoon we enjoy a historical walking tour of this wondrous locale that has been host to 3,000 years of history, including a **continuous Jewish presence** from pre-Christian times to the middle of the 16th century. Dinner and Overnight Ortigia.



Oct. 7 This morning we tour Ortigia's former Jewish Quarter and visit the **ancient Mikveh**. Built in the 6th century, it remained in continuous use until the day the Jewish community was expelled from the city in the mid 1500's. It is in miraculous condition, has 3 large baths and 2 smaller ones, and is the oldest Jewish ritual bath in Western Europe. After lunch we have a guided visit of **Siracusa's famed Archeological Zone**, dating back to the Greco-Roman foundations of the city.

Our principal guide for these 4 days is a Sicilian scholar who **traces his roots** back to the Jewish community which fled the island to Morocco during Inquisition times. His story is not unlike Rabbi Barbara's and others in the region who have actively worked to uncover the secrets of their families' Jewish past.

Evening harbor cruise. Dinner on your own. Overnight Ortigia

Oct. 8 We leave Ortigia early this morning for an exciting excursion to **Mt. Etna**. From the main parking area of Rifugio Sapienza we will take the Cable Car up to the viewing point at 2500 meters. If conditions allow, we will continue to the craters.

Lunch at a **charming winery** in the Etna valley, then onto the bustling city of Catania. Check in to our hotel.

Late afternoon walking tour in the cultural center of the city and the former Jewish Quarter, with a discussion of its Jewish heritage. Dinner and Overnight in Catania.

Oct. 9 A morning walking tour of Catania and its famous fish market. Lunch in Catania. Afternoon guided visit to charming Taormina and its famous Greco-Roman Amphitheatre. Dinner and Overnight in Catania.

Oct. 10 Breakfast and transfer to the Catania Airport for your flight.

Recap & Explanation of Costs

Part 1 – Calabria, Cost - \$2475 per person in double occupancy

Single Supplement - t/b/d

Part 1 Cost includes the following:

5 nights at Hotel Savant in Nicastro, Lamezia Terme

Breakfast daily

4 lunches, 3 dinners

Hotel tax and service

All transportation, entrance fees, and guide services during the tour

Tips

Exclusions:

Airfare & Trip Insurance

Ground transfers between Lamezia Terme airport or train station and Hotel Savant

Meals not included in the itinerary

Items of a personal nature

Parts 1 & 2, Cost for entire 9 nights - \$5395

Single Supplement - approx \$725

Parts 1 & 2 Inclusions:

9 nights hotel

(4 nights at Hotel Savant in Nicastro, Lamezia Terme)

(1 night hotel in Villa San Giovanni)

(2 nights hotel in Ortigia)

(2 nights hotel in Catania)

Breakfast daily

8 lunches, 7 dinners

All transportation, guide services, entrance fees during the tour

Hotel tax and service

Tips

Exclusions:

Airfare & Trip Insurance

Meals not included in the itinerary

Items of a personal nature

Ground transportation between Lamezia Terme airport or train station and Hotel Savant

For more information and payment instructions:

Part I – Contact Ellen Paderson • 508-238-4088 or ellenp1@comcast.net

Entire Tour – Contact Laurie Howell • 347-240-1244 or Laurie@AmalfiLife.com

Jewish Heritage in Calabria & Sicily Oct 2013

Tour Directors



Ellen Paderson

A true travel pioneer and innovator, almost 20 years ago Ellen Paderson was among the first to introduce such concepts as Destination Weddings and Honeymoons Destination, and Destination Bar and Bat Mitzvahs. Always looking for novel ideas, a few years ago Ellen joined with Rabbi Barbara Aiello to arrange Bar and Bat Mitzvahs in Italy. Ellen arranges itineraries for families to tour around Italy before or after the service with Rabbi Barbara. Ellen has also branched into river cruising and developed a special niche there, too: Jewish Heritage river cruise tours in Europe. Ellen has been recognized as one of the top 15 home-based travel agents in the

U.S. by the Network of Entrepreneurs Selling Travel (NEST). She's a member of The Affluent Traveler Collection, an elite group of independent travel advisors, and she's on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Travel Market Report*. Ellen has been featured in numerous publications and websites including MSNBC Online.



Laurie Howell

Laurie Howell is co-founder and managing director of "Amalfi Life", a tourism company distinguished by its uncommon expertise, personalized approach and passion for Italy's Amalfi Coast and beyond. Since 1999 Laurie has made dozens of trips to Southern Italy to research and develop the high quality tours and services which have garnered years of rave reviews for their creativity and access to the authentic local life. Together with Rabbi Barbara, Laurie developed and operated 3 Jewish Heritage Tours in Sicily, Calabria, and the Amalfi Coast between 2006 and 2009, each one an entirely unique journey through the Italian-Jewish experience as well as an equally special culinary and cultural immersion. Laurie is the planner and operator of the Sicily portion of this tour of "Southern Italy through Jewish Eyes." She is very excited to reveal its beauty, mystery, and Jewish secrets to you.



Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Rabbi Barbara Aiello is Italy's first woman and first non-orthodox rabbi and she is the founder of the B'nei Anousim movement in Italy whose mission is to help Italians from Calabria and Sicily to discover and embrace their lost Jewish roots. A Bat Anousim herself, Rabbi Barbara is a descendant of Jews who were forced into Christian conversion during Inquisition times. Currently she lives and works in the village of Serrastretta, her family's ancestral home where she has established Sinagoga Ner Tamid del Sud, ("The Eternal Light of the South), the first active synagogue in Calabria in 500 years. Rabbi Barbara has worked closely with Ellen Paderson to offer destination Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies in Italy and with Laurie Weiss Howell as leader and lecturer for specialized tours, "Southern Italy Through Jewish Eyes." Rabbi Barbara is the 10 year host of the [Radio Rabbi](#) show.