



Spirituality on the Sea:

7-DAY MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE AND SOLAR ECLIPSE WITH TEMPLE ISAIAH

Join Rabbi Jaclyn and members of our Isaiah community for a 7-day cruise from Barcelona to Rome. Together we will explore this beautiful part of the world and witness the celestial wonder of a total solar eclipse. SPACE IS LIMITED and we expect this cruise will sell out quickly. Make your reservation today!



FAST TAKES:

- The cruise departs Barcelona on Saturday August 8 and ends in Rome on Saturday August 15
- The ship docks in Barcelona (Spain), Gibraltar, Cartagena (Spain), La Spezia (Florence & Pisa, Italy) and Civitavecchia (Rome, Italy). Participants must be in Barcelona by the morning of August 8
- The total solar eclipse takes place on August 12, 2026
- Spots are limited! This is an all-ages 30-person-maximum trip (adults + kids). A deposit of \$360 (to Temple Isaiah) per person holds your spot with us
- Priority registration goes to Isaiah members. If you have folks who are not members of Isaiah who wish to join, please reach out to Rabbi Jaclyn directly (rabbijaclyn@templeisaiah.com)
- Cruises designed around the solar eclipse are in high demand, therefore we cannot guarantee availability. The sooner you book, the better!
- Average cost per person for the cruise is \$3500. Each individual / couple / family gets to decide their level of stateroom and cruise "package" which will raise or lower the cost. You will receive those details after you secure your spot with Isaiah.
- Folks will need to book their own flights; there will be no pre-arranged group flight. We can recommend a travel agent to help with flights if you need
- Jewish content for this journey will be focused on Jewish time and the lunar calendar. Learning sessions will take place six months before departure + onboard the ship.
- Our plan is to offer a few days of touring together in Barcelona before the trip departs, including Shabbat dinner together on Friday August 7. We recommend spending at least a day or two in Barcelona ahead of cruise departure
- We will celebrate Shabbat together as an Isaiah community onboard the ship on Friday August 14, and we plan to celebrate Shabbat together in Barcelona on Friday August 7 (the day before we set sail)



Q: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE “JEWISH JOURNEY TO SPAIN” SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2026?

A: While we had lots of interest in the trip to Spain scheduled for mid-June 2026, ultimately we did not feel confident we'd be able to hit our tour company's minimum number of participants required for the trip to depart. Plus, an increasing number of congregants expressed curiosity about traveling to that same part of the world for the total eclipse a few months later.

Q: WHY AN ECLIPSE? WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ECLIPSE IN JUDAISM?

A: The Jewish calendar is lunar; our holidays are all related to cycles of the moon. There is a great deal of learning material connecting our tradition with the movements of the sun, moon, and stars. Witnessing totality - a rare event when the moon fully comes between the sun and the Earth - has been described as deeply moving, powerful, and spiritually uplifting. Astronomists have known for years that on August 12, 2026 a total solar eclipse would pass through a specific part of the Mediterranean, western & northern Spain, and up through Iceland. If you'd like to know more about this total solar eclipse, we recommend this website.

Q: WHY A CRUISE? WHY THIS CRUISE?

A: Cruises are a fantastic, efficient, fun, cost-effective way to travel the world. Cruises offer a great mix of solo time and time for groups to be together, mainly around meals. Being able to choose your onshore activities when the boat is docked in a port offers a level of autonomy and independence that's simply not possible on a more traditional group tour (like the original trip we planned for June 2026). Additionally, we've learned the best way to view a total solar eclipse (especially one happening later in the day, as this one is) is on the water. There are dozens of eclipse-focused cruises running in August 2026. We felt this one had the best combination of factors including cost, quality and variety of experiences, location, and timing.

Q: WHAT DOES THIS TRIP COST? WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE COST?

A: The average baseline price per person for this 7-day cruise is around \$3500. That includes non-specialty meals, lodging, activities on the boat, and more. The way cruise ships work is that when you make your reservation, you decide what type of stateroom and what “package” you want. You can upgrade your cruise experience to your heart's content! Excursions, specialty meals, alcohol, and some onboard activities cost extra. We recommend you speak with your trusted travel agent or representatives from the cruise line to make the best decision for you and your fellow travelers.

Separately, all participants need to pay a \$360 per person deposit with Temple Isaiah to hold their space on this cruise. This \$360 will go toward group meals, shared activities, and our Shabbat gathering on the ship.



Q: WHO'S COMING ON THIS TRIP? HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING? CAN I BRING SOMEONE WHO'S NOT A MEMBER OF ISAIAH?

A: We have space for 30 individuals max (adults and kids/teens). Priority registration will go towards Isaiah members. We expect a multigenerational group of Isaiahs to sign up for this trip, and we're excited to see how this travel cohort shapes up. Reach out to Rabbi Jaclyn (rabbijaclyn@templeisaiah.com) if you have a specific non-Isaiah-member in mind.

Q: IS THIS TRIP A DEFINITE "GO?" HOW OR WHEN WILL WE KNOW FOR SURE?

A: As with any group travel experience, we cannot guarantee at this point (spring 2025) that the trip will definitely depart in August 2026. There are - for all of us - many factors that go into it, most of which are beyond our control. What we can promise is this:

- We will continue to update those who've signed up for the trip on how registration goes, and as soon as we hit our numbers (or come close to it) you will be notified
- We intend to have a clear answer - "go" or "no go" - by September 1, 2025
- If the trip does not wind up happening, you will be refunded your \$360 per person to Isaiah
- If the trip does not wind up happening, you can still plan on doing the cruise on your own
- If the trip does not wind up happening and you cancel your reservation with Princess Cruises, please speak with them about their refund policy and using the deposit as credit for a future cruise

Q: CAN I BRING MY YOUNG KIDS? WHAT ABOUT MY TEENS?

A: Yes and yes! For younger kids, we chose a cruise that has childcare options for preschoolers and up. Know that Rabbi Jaclyn and Josh plan to bring their two sons who will be 5 and 10 years old by the time of the cruise. Families can choose onshore excursions that work best for them; we recommend you investigate (and book) kid-friendly excursion options ahead of time.

The cruise has some designated teen and tween hangout spaces. It's unclear how "cool" your kids will think they are, but it is important to note the cruise line has made an effort to cater to every member of your family.



Q: WHAT WILL THE LEARNING BE FOCUSED ON? WHAT'S THE JEWISH CONTENT?

A: Our focus for this trip is on Jewish time and space. In the six months leading up to the trip, Rabbi Jaclyn will teach a monthly class on Jewish time open to all members of the congregation. The content of the class will orient folks to the lunar calendar, cycles of the moon, and the significance of major celestial events like an eclipse. Our “textbook” will be *From Time to Time: Journeys in the Jewish Calendar* by Rabbi Dalia Marx, published in 2023. We highly recommend trip participants join this class in their leadup to the trip, as it will provide the basis for learning we will continue to do on our journey.

During the trip, participants will have the ability to choose their own onshore excursions; it is your choice whether to focus an excursion on a town's Jewish heritage and history.

For days at sea, expect a couple optional learning sessions with Rabbi Jaclyn and a pop-up yoga class or two. Additionally, we plan on celebrating Shabbat together with our Isaiah community on the cruise ship on Friday August 14.

Q: WHAT IF I WANT TO TRAVEL BEFORE OR AFTER THE CRUISE?

A: It's totally up to you! We recommend you work with a trusted travel agent to make your arrangements, including flights. **All participants must be in Barcelona by Saturday morning August 8th for a 5pm boat departure.** We highly recommend giving yourself at least a day or two in Barcelona before departing on the cruise, both for peace of mind and jet lag adjustment.

Our final port is near Rome, Italy. It is entirely up to you whether you wish to fly back to Los Angeles directly from Rome or embark on a new adventure.

Q: IF SEVERAL OF US ARRIVE EARLY TO BARCELONA, CAN WE DO SOME ACTIVITIES AS A GROUP?

A: Yes! Once folks' travel plans take shape, we'll start to coordinate opportunities to learn / tour / dine & gather together in Barcelona prior to setting sail. There are plenty of incredible sights to see, plus the city has a fascinating Jewish history.

We will schedule a Shabbat celebration and dinner on Friday August 7th, the evening before our ship's departure; we hope most if not all trip participants will have arrived in Barcelona by then.

Expect to hear more details on pre-cruise activities starting in January 2026.



Q: WILL YOU ORGANIZE A GROUP FLIGHT TO AND FROM EUROPE?

A: No, everyone will need to make their own flight arrangements.

Q: THIS TRIP SOUNDS GREAT! HOW DO I REGISTER? WHEN SHOULD I REGISTER?

A: After attending or watching our Info Session on April 28, we will share registration links. First you'll need to fill out a short registration form through Temple Isaiah and pay a \$360 per person deposit to hold your space with us. Once that's done, you'll then be directed to the cruise's web page where you'll be able to learn more about the ship, investigate stateroom and package options, and book your travel! FYI - the cruise line requires a \$200 deposit to hold your reservation.

IMPORTANT: Cruises connected to the eclipse are selling fast and we **do not** have a hold on any staterooms. We recommend you make your cruise reservation as soon as possible!

Q: WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS TRAVEL EXPERIENCE?

A: Reach out to Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen: rabbijaclyn@templeisaiah.com

