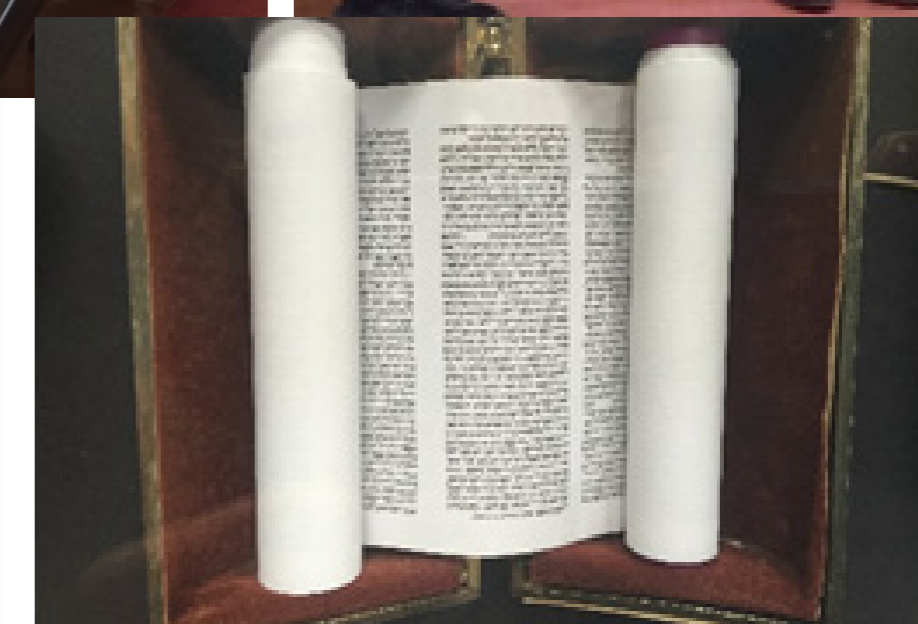


Traces of Jewish life in Porto, Portugal

8/12

Tuesday was catholic holiday, so it didn't prevent our visit to the synagogue Kadoorie Mekor Haim, the biggest one in the Iberian Peninsula. There, we had the possibility to listen carefully to our guide, that explained to us the History of the place and of the Jewish community and its traditions in Porto. Before this we had first had a short lecture from Professor Rui Cunha about the German philosopher Hannah Arendt, that allowed everyone to engage in some critical thoughts about humanity, freedom, will and power. It was a productive and mostly meditative moment. The visit ended with the Jewish museum.

After lunch, we met the father of one of the Portuguese students, who took the tour guide role to the Jewish quarter. All the afternoon we wandered up and down through the streets of the old Jewish quarter, and found architectural marks in the stones of secular homes, down the vertiginous stairs which gave access to the river and finally through the garden of delights "Jardim dos prazeres", where centuries before there was an old Jewish cemetery.



9/12

On Wednesday morning, the day started at school, where a short briefing about the activities for the day was done. The students were divided into small groups and a Portuguese student from the Tourism classes was assigned to each group to be their tourist-guide during the walking tour in the historic center. The teachers were guided by Suzana Melo and Joana Neto.

During the tour to the banks of the river Douro, where lies the old town called "Ribeira", all the groups could observe and listen to the history of monuments as Clerigos tower, Lello library, Carmo church, Train station of São Bento, ... across the no less important streets of the old town, where each stone had an history to tell.

The visit stopped at the museum of Discoveries – Museu dos Descobrimentos – where all the delegations had a guided tour through the secular history of the Portuguese discoveries. During the visit, the participants experienced some interactive activities, like the boat tour across the five continents.

