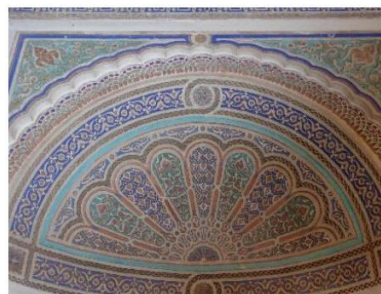
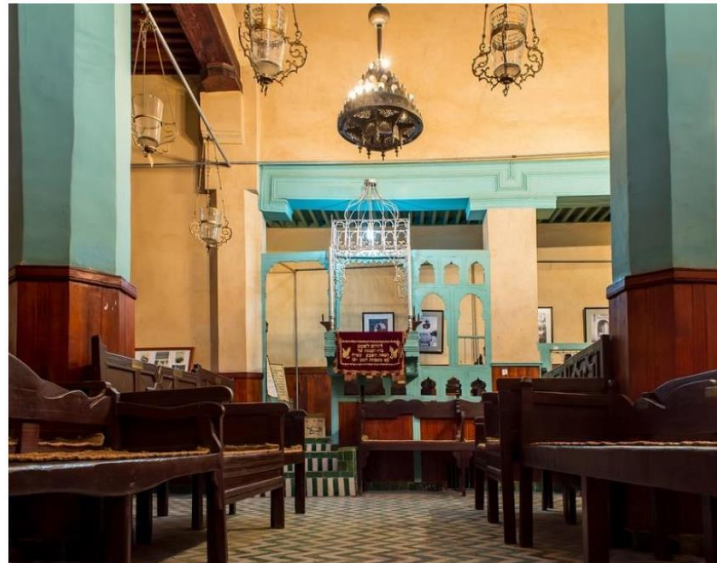


MOROCCO... Rodeph Shalom!

Keepers of the Faith

November 6 – 17, 2022



Day 1 – Sunday, November 6 – Departure from the US

Departure from JFK approximately at 8:20 PM for your overnight non-stop flight to Casablanca, arriving the following morning. **Iconic Journeys Worldwide (IJW)** will be happy to assist in air ticketing.

Day 2, Monday, November 7 – Arrival in Casablanca/Rabat

Upon your morning arrival at Casablanca airport, you will be met by your English-speaking Moroccan guide, who is knowledgeable about Morocco and its Jewish heritage. We depart for Rabat, Morocco's capital, approximately one hour away. You will have some time to refresh yourself from your flight and have a light lunch at the hotel, and after we begin our touring of Rabat. Our visit includes the 12th-century Hassan Tower. Begun at the end of the 12th century under the direction of Sultan Yacub al Mansour,



Hassan Tower in Rabat.

the intent was that it become the largest minaret in the world at that time. Due to his death within four years of the start, construction stopped and the tower that remains is approximately half the height that was originally intended. We also visit the neighboring mausoleum of Mohamed V.



Moroccan specialist, Mokhtar, speaking with an American group.

Today, there are less than fifty Jewish families in Rabat. We will arrange to meet with a member(s) of Rabat's Jewish community and hear about what has kept them in Rabat, as well as having a meeting with a representative of the Mimouna Foundation, which is dedicated to preserving the heritage of Jew of Jewish life and most importantly, teaching non-Jewish Moroccans of the Jewish presence and role in Morocco's history. Overnight in Rabat. (B, L, D).

Day 3, Tuesday, November 8 - Meknes, Volubilis, Fez

Check out from our Rabat hotel this morning and travel to the city of Meknes; one of Morocco's four "Imperial Cities" where we will have lunch. We also visit the *mellah*, the old Jewish quarter, with its synagogue and six-hundred-year-old cemetery, which helps provide the Jewish history of Meknes. Today, the Jewish community is very small.



Entering an old palace in Meknes.

From Meknes, we drive a relatively short distance to Morocco's primary Roman archaeological site, Volubilis.



Volubilis, with Roman mosaics in situ.

Following your visit to Volubilis, we continue to Fez, Morocco's fabled city just over an hour away. Considered to be the spiritual and intellectual capital of Morocco, we will be seeing the rich architecture of this exotic city as well as learning about its Jewish history. Dinner and overnight in Fez. (B, L, D)

Day 4, Wednesday, November 9 – Fez

Today is fully devoted to Fez. Our visit will include the *mellah*, the 17th century Ibn Danan synagogue, the

Jewish cemetery, and the King's Palace; one of the most sumptuous complexes in Morocco. Our visit will also include the *Slat Al Fassiyine*, an equally exquisite 17th-century synagogue.

You will also have time to walk through the maze of alleyways, which are too narrow for motorized vehicles, and with the up and down slopes, it is a walking tour that is best suited for hearty and healthy walkers.



Maimonides' home in Fez.

Perhaps one of the most important sites for Jewish visitors is the home of Maimonides. Moses Maimonides was from Cordova Spain and was a highly revered and prolific medieval scholar and philosopher. When Jews were being told to convert in Spain under the rule of the fanatical and rather extreme Almohad Berber dynasty at the end of the 12th century, Maimonides and his family chose to go into exile, rather than convert. He had already gained a reputation as a prolific medieval scholar and philosopher. He settled in Fez, where he researched and wrote his famous commentary on the *Mishnah*. Your touring will include a visit to Maimonides's home in Fez.

Dinner tonight will be in a nice venue. Overnight in Fez. (B, L, D)



Plenty of enjoyable dining in Morocco.

Day 5, Thursday, November 10 – Fez to Marrakech via the Middle Atlas Mountains

This morning, we depart Fez to Marrakech, traveling through the Middle Atlas Mountains, with a stop in Ifrane. A mountain town that looks more like a French ski resort than what one might expect to find in Morocco, Ifrane is, in fact, a popular ski resort in Morocco and one visited at times by the King, who keeps a home in the area. The scenic terrain traveling south towards Marrakech gradually transitions from mountains to more arid terrain.



The town of Ifrane is unlike other Moroccan towns.

Arrive in Marrakech by mid-to-late afternoon. Check into your hotel and an opportunity for a brief rest. We then regroup for a wonderful dinner. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, L, D)

Day 6, Friday, November 11 - Marrakech

Today is devoted to touring the sites of Marrakech, including a visit to Bahia Palace, the herbalists in the *medina*, the Koutoubia Mosque area and the fabled Djema Fna, the main square in Marrakech, which takes on a very different ambiance from day to night. There will also be time to walk through the maze of alleyways and shops that make up the *medina* of Marrakech, including the old quarter, the *mellah* and its 500-year-old Aljama Synagogue.

This evening we will have the opportunity to attend Shabbat services at a local synagogue, meet others from the small Marrakech Jewish community and then have dinner in a Jewish home. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, L, D)

Day 7, Saturday, November 12 – Marrakech

This morning, for those who wish to attend Shabbat services, arrangements will be made. Today is a day for everyone to feel they can explore independently. For those who wish to have the company of our guide, he will be happy to show us other areas of the town and/or point out some of the places people might want to shop if

they so desire. Lunch will be independent, with recommendations provided. We will regroup later this evening at our hotel for dinner. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, D)

Day 8, Sunday, November 13 – Marrakech/Ourika Valley

This morning depart for an excursion out of Marrakech to the Ourika Valley. The primary purpose of this excursion is not only to see the relatively remote village but to possibly meet the last of the Berber Jews remaining in the village. Historically, many Berbers of Morocco converted to Judaism and remained in their rural villages. We will also visit the grave of Rabbi Shlomo Bel Hench, considered a *tzadik*, or righteous scholar by Morocco's Jews. Late day return to Marrakech.

Dinner tonight is independent. Searching design and food magazines, as well as online sources, one finds that Moroccan cuisine and the restaurant scene in Marrakech is hot!!! Numerous suggestions will be provided, as well as for instructions on how to get to the restaurant of your choice. You can also visit the famous Djema Fna, Morocco's central square that turns into a circus-type atmosphere at night with crowds coming to the market to listen to the variety of local musicians, enjoying the many food stalls and the exotic atmosphere that has carried on for generations in Marrakech, including snake charmers. Overnight in Marrakech. (B, L)

Day 9, Monday, November 14 - Marrakech/Essaouira

This morning we depart Marrakech to Essaouira. En route, we stop to visit a winery to learn about what has become a burgeoning industry in Morocco, appealing to the millions of tourists who come to Morocco.

Our base for the night is a beautiful hotel at the seaside. Dinner is independent, allowing you to try one of the many dining options in Essaouira. Overnight in Essaouira. (B)

Day 10, Tuesday, November 15 – Essaouira to Casablanca

Today depart for Casablanca, Morocco's economic capital and home to Morocco's largest Jewish community. Lunch will be en route to the village of Ouladia.

This afternoon's touring in Casablanca will include a visit to the famous Hassan II Mosque, the largest in the world outside Mecca (the only Moroccan Mosque that can be visited by non-Muslims). The Jewish community contributed to the construction of this mosque, which was inaugurated in 1994, as a way of honoring King Hassan's role as a protector of Morocco's Jewish community.

Dinner tonight will be at Cercle de L'union, Casablanca's primary Jewish club, providing an opportunity to have kosher, traditional Jewish Moroccan dishes, as well as meeting members of the Jewish community.



*Casablanca's Jewish club,
Cercle de L'union*

Overnight in Casablanca. (B, L, D)

Day 11, Wednesday, November 16 – Casablanca

Today will be spent learning more about Morocco's Jewish institutions in the capital. Our visits will include the Museum of Moroccan Judaism, which showcases religious, ethnographic and artistic objects that reflect the history, religion, traditions and daily life of Jews in the context of Moroccan civilization. It is the only Jewish museum in the Arab world. We will also meet with additional members of Casablanca's Jewish community as well as visiting the Beth El synagogue, one of the numerous synagogues still in use in Casablanca and at least one of Casablanca's Jewish schools.



Visiting Beth El Synagogue.

Lunch today will be at the legendary, Rick's Café, which is modeled on Rick's Café portrayed in the Humphrey Bogart film, Casablanca.

Our “Farewell Dinner” will be in a lovely venue. Overnight in Casablanca. (B, L, D)

Day 12, Thursday, November 17 – Departure

We will have some time this morning to visit more of Jewish Casablanca, before departing to the airport for our departure flight. (B, L)

HOTELS

Rabat: Sofitel MGallery ★★★★★ *Night of November 7*

<https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2820-hotel-le-diwan-rabat-mgallery/index.shtml>

Fez: Marriott's Jnan Palace ★★★★★ *Nights of November 8 & 9*

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/fezmc-fes-marriott-hotel-jnan-palace/>

Marrakech: Radisson Blu ★★★★★ *Nights of November 10, 11, 12 & 13*

<https://www.hotelsbarriere.com/fr/marrakech/le-naoura.html>

Essaouira: Le Sofitel Mogadir Thalasso & Spa ★★★★★ *Night of November 14*

<https://sofitel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-7145-sofitel-essaouira-mogador-golf-spa/index.shtml>

Casablanca: Hyatt Regency ★★★★★ *Nights of November 15 & 16*

<https://casablanca.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

COSTS per person based on double or single occupancy. \$4,175 per person, plus airfare.

\$500 non-refundable deposit per person upon registration.
\$3,695 balance due no later than August 27, 2022.

Airfare is additional.

SPECIAL NOTE: For this special Rodeph Shalom tour, we have eliminated Single Supplements. Thus, everyone pays the same whether sharing a room or are having a room of their own.



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Services Included in package:

- || Hotels as described
- || Meals as indicated by B, L, D
- || English speaking Moroccan tour guide throughout
- || Private 48 seat bus and driver

Not included in the package:

- || Gratuities to Moroccan guide and driver
- || Customary Donations to Jewish institutions in Morocco
- || Round-trip international air estimated to be approximately \$1,000 per person from JFK.