



Jewish  
Heritage  
Travel

A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage



**We are dedicated to making your experience rich in content and superior in comfort.**

This unique travel program combines the expertise and resources of two organizations that cherish the traditions, achievements, and faith of Jewish communities – past and present – around the world. Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage are delighted to have the opportunity to share this rich, varied, and poignant history and culture with you on these select trips. We look forward to traveling with you.

## **Rabbis, Saints and Healers:** **MYSTICAL, EXOTIC** **MOROCCO**

APRIL 29 — MAY 10, 2019



# Program Overview

Morocco — exotic, mysterious, sensuous, and dramatic—a land of extremes, from high mountain peaks to deserts, lush valleys, and Kasbahs. Morocco, homeland to a unique Jewish culture that was formed during the age of Islamic ascendancy and later flourished with the spread of European culture in the Middle East.

Linked to the desert palm, “rooted in Africa, watered by Islam, and rustled by the winds of Europe,” Morocco combines African, Middle Eastern, and European influences to create a magical kingdom like no other. This trip will bring to life the history, tradition, and culture of Jewish Morocco, a fascinating meeting place of East and West.

Led by Iddo Katz, archaeologist and outstanding guide from Israel and expert on Moroccan Jewry and a superb local guide, we will immerse ourselves in the heritage and tradition of the Jews of Morocco, experience the traditional arts, crafts, and music, and learn about the particular fascination that Moroccan Jews have had with charismatic rabbis, saints, and healers. Along the way, we will explore picturesque souks, breathtaking coastline, and medieval streets, and visit a local Berber marketplace in the High Atlas Mountains.

We invite you to join us on this extraordinary journey!



*Ali ben Youssef Madrassa Marrakech*



# Tentative Daily Itinerary\*

## Monday, April 29

Check in to the five star, centrally located Movenpick Casablanca which combines French elegance with exotic Moroccan touches and features breathtaking views of Casablanca.

Evening: Introduction to our trip by our accompanying scholar Iddo Katz, followed by a welcome dinner at our hotel (included).

## Tuesday, April 30

Enjoy the first of our daily, lavish, buffet style breakfasts before departing for a day of touring in Casablanca, including a visit to the main synagogue and the Casablanca Jewish Museum. The only Jewish museum in the Islamic world, the museum traces the history of Morocco's once thriving Jewish community.

Other sites we will visit today include the Mosque of Mohammed II – the largest mosque in the world after Mecca, dramatically situated at the edge of the Atlantic – and the Marabout of Sidi Abderrahman, a holy shrine built on a rocky outcropping in the Atlantic Ocean to which women travel from all over Morocco in search of miracles. Lunch is included at a lovely restaurant along the sea.

Evening: Discussion led by Iddo Katz. Dinner on our own.

## Wednesday, May 1

Depart Casablanca for Fez. En route, we will visit the partially excavated, extensive Roman ruins of Volubilis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and view many old town-houses featuring mosaic floors derived from the prosperity of the olive market of the past.

From Volubilis, we will continue to Meknes - once home to several thousand Jews and whose monumental city gates are among the finest in the Arab world. Other sites we will visit today are the tomb of the feared Moulay Ismal, who modeled his capital Meknes in the image of Versailles, and the Nekkag (Jewish Quarter) with its narrow lanes and colorful courtyards. Lunch in Meknes (included) before we continue on to Fez and check in to the five-star Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace hotel in time for dinner (included).

## Thursday, May 2

Today we will step back centuries into the medieval world of Fes-el Bali (Old Fez) whose maze-like streets, ancient mosques, minarets and Souk symbolize the mystique of this ninth century city. Highlights of our day in Fez will include the Medressa (Koranic University) Bou Inania, a religious building that is still in use and open to the public and the Batha Museum, which houses a fascinating collection of Moroccan arts and crafts. In the afternoon, we will explore the Medina and its organized handicrafts and souks as well as see the house of Maimonides with its mysterious water clock.

Evening: Discussion led by Iddo Katz. Dinner on our own.





### Friday, May 3

Today, we will be taking an in-depth look at the history and culture of traditional Morocco. We will explore the mellah (Jewish district) of Fes, founded in 1438 and once home to tens of thousands of Jews. At its height, the Jewish community included 40 synagogues, a Bet Din, communal ovens, ritual baths and many schools. Other places we will visit today include the vast Jewish cemetery opposite the gates of the Royal Palace, the restored Ibn Danan Synagogue (oldest extant synagogue in Fez) and the recently restored Al Fassiyeen synagogue nearby.

This evening, we will enjoy a Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).

### Saturday, May 4

Optional: Attend services at Fez synagogue. Or...Free day to rest and/or explore Fez on your own. Evening free; dinner on our own.

### Sunday, May 5

This morning we depart Fez and drive to Rabat, enjoying lunch along the way (included) at Marina Sla – a lovely restaurant facing the river in Sake, an old walled city on the Atlantic Coast. Upon arrival in Rabat, we will check in to the five-star Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses with time for a quick rest before we begin a tour of Rabat at the ancient necropolis of Chellah. A thriving city for nearly 1,000 years, Chellah's ruins date back to Roman times. The Chellah is also known as a favorite destination for bird-watchers. Other sites we will visit today include the picturesque labyrinthine Kasbah des Oudaias which overlooks the Atlantic Ocean, and the lovely Oudaya Gardens outside the Kasbah. We will end our day at the majestic Hassan Tower and the Mausoleum of Mohamed V before returning to our hotel.

Evening: Dinner at the hotel (included).

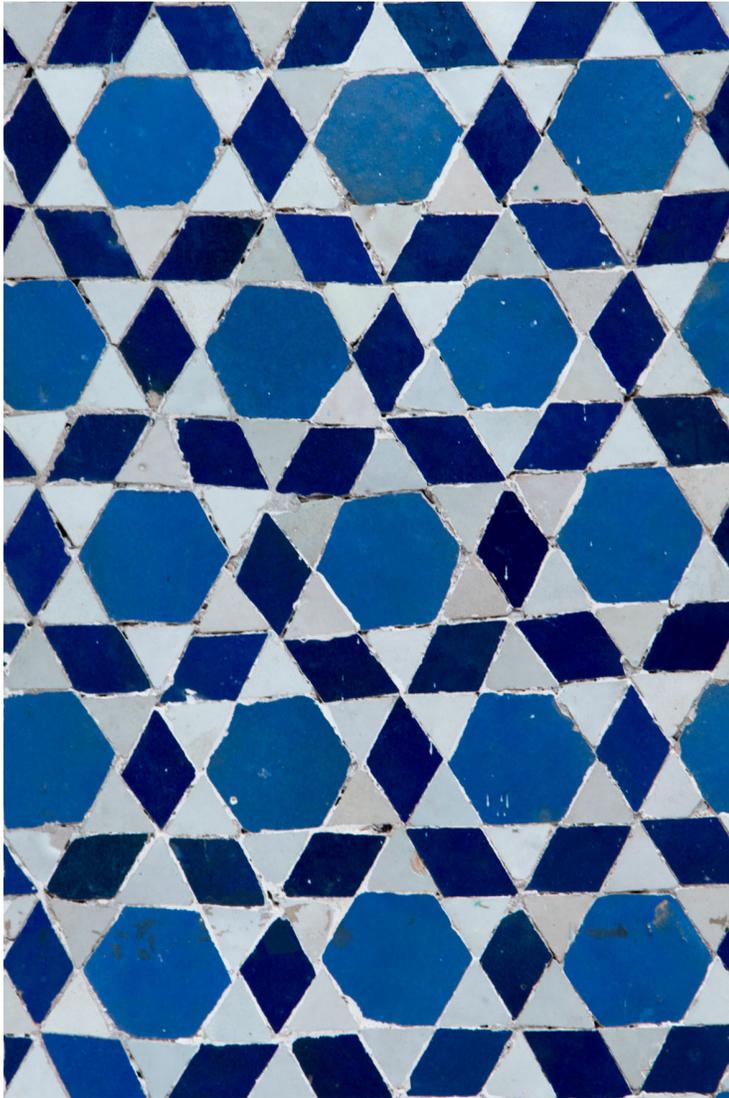
### Monday, May 6

Depart Rabat for Marrakech where we will check in to the five-star Movenpick Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech hotel. Lunch en route (included.) In the afternoon, we will begin our exploration of the tantalizing city of Marrakech by visiting the defining landmark of Marrakech – the 12th-century tiled minaret of the Koutoubia mosque. In the early evening, we will visit the frenetic Djemaa el Fnaa – the most splendid square in all of Africa. This exotic square was once the ultimate destination for traders from diverse places such as Venice, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Today, it provides ever-changing entertainment for Moroccans and foreigners alike, reaching its climax at sunset when the square is alive with storytellers, healers, snake charmers, acrobats, and countless food stalls.

Evening: Dinner at our hotel (included).

*Synagogue, Marrakech*





*Tiles decorating at Lezama Synagogue, Mellah, Medina, Marrakesh*

### **Tuesday, May 7**

Today's highlights will include the Musee de Marrakech (housed in a 19th-century Mnebhi Palace) and the Dar Bellarj Cultural Foundation - established to showcase Moroccan culture. Over the course the day, we will stop for tea or orange juice at the beautifully restored Dar Cherifa (which houses a cultural foundation, bookstore and art gallery) and experience the colorful souks of Marrakech. At the souk, each trade (spices, carpets, jewelry, enamel, copper, brass, cedar) is situated in its own unique quarter. Here, we might view villagers bringing in their handmade rugs to sell to merchants or observe artisans hand-tooling crafts as they have done for centuries. Lunch (included) in the Medina.

Evening: Dinner on our own.

### **Wednesday, May 8**

We will begin our day with a visit to the mellah (old Jewish quarter) of Marrakech, dotted with narrow streets, ancient synagogues and an extensive Jewish cemetery. Later, we will enjoy an excursion to the plush, green Ourika Valley, where some people still travel to the market on donkey. In the valley, we will visit an authentic Berber village, explore the culture of the "Tzadikim" in Moroccan Jewish history, and visit the tomb of Tzaddik Rabbi Shlomo ben Hans, whose burial place is the focal point of a yearly pilgrimage by Moroccan Jews. Other sites today include the village of Tafza and the Berber Eco-museum, which contains collections of Berber artifacts, an exhibition of antique photos of the High Atlas, documentaries. During the course of our travel, enjoy magnificent views of the Ourika Valley and Seth Fatma - known for its seven waterfalls and Berber rugs. Lunch (included) in the Ourika Valley.

Evening: Discussion led by Iddo Katz. Dinner on our own. Dinner on our own.

### **Thursday, May 9**

We will spend this morning at the tropical Majorelle Gardens - lovingly restored under the patronage of the late Yves St. Laurent - and the small but excellent museum of Berber culture, located in the home of painter Jacques Majorell. Later in the day we will visit the opulent Saadien Tombs - the mausoleum of the great dynasty that once ruled North Africa. Lunch on our own and afternoon free before closing meeting and dinner at our hotel (included).

### **Friday, May 10**

Depart for home.

*\*Please Note: Daily schedule may be modified subject to weather or unanticipated changes.*

# Traveling with You...

## Trip Leader and Accompanying Scholar



**Iddo Katz** is an archeologist and tour guide licensed by Israel's Ministry of Tourism. Iddo is a 7th-generation born Israeli who graduated from Bar-Ilan University with degrees in Land of Israel Studies, geography and biology. A

former lecturer at the Schools of Tour Guides at Bar Ilan University, Iddo has also lectured widely throughout the United States and Israel and was the area manager on archaeological excavation sites, including a well-known site at Shiloh. Iddo also leads trips, and is accompanying scholar to other countries, including Spain, Portugal and Morocco among others

# Accommodations



## Mövenpick Casablanca Hotel

The Mövenpick Hotel Casablanca is centrally located and only a short distance from the Old Medina. Guests here will find they are able to immerse themselves in the style and colors of Moroccan life while enjoying a welcoming and comfortable 5-star accommodations complete with a rooftop pool and stunning views.



## Fes Marriott Hotel Jnan Palace

This historic 5-star luxury Jnan Palace hotel in Fes is situated near the Medina de Fez and the Batha Museum. It is considered among the finest accommodations in the city, and each room features a balcony that overlooks the pool, gardens or the city, as well as stylish décor.



## Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses

The completely renovated, 5-star Sofitel Rabat Jardin des Roses is surrounded by a 17-acre garden which contains over 3000 roses. Graced with views of the imperial city and Andalusian gardens, this majestic hotel occupies a unique position in the heart of the capital city Rabat, and is situated close to the Royal Palace and Mausoleum of Mohammed V.



## Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech

The Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech is a five star hotel that offers a warm welcome to visitors of the captivating "Red City" of Marrakech. Located in the central L'Hivernage district just a few minutes from the Medina, the Majorelle Garden and the Menara, the hotel is a contemporary oasis away from the exciting hustle and bustle of the city.

## Rabbis, Saints and Healers:

# MYSTICAL EXOTIC MOROCCO

APRIL 29 — MAY 10, 2019

## Program Details

Program cost: \$5960\* (plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage membership fee for nonmembers)

Program fee includes:

- Eleven nights' accommodations at deluxe hotels
- Full breakfast daily; six lunches; six dinners
- Entrance fees to all museums and sites on the itinerary
- All group transportation via deluxe, air-conditioned coach
- Airport transfer on day of arrival

*\*Per person, double occupancy for registration by December 20, 2018. Cost after December 20 is \$6,100. Single supplement (\$975) and gratuities (\$165) additional.*

A \$1,000 per-person nonrefundable deposit due upon registration; second deposit of \$1,000 per person due February 15, 2019. Balance in full due 90 days prior to departure.

**Disclaimer of Responsibility** By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office or their staffs be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty. All rights reserved to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at his/her own expense when such an action is determined by the tour staff to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, and that of the group in general.

## Registration Information

### How to register

**Online** [jhtravel.org](http://jhtravel.org)

**Mail** Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:

Jewish Heritage Travel Program  
27 North Chestnut Street  
New Paltz, NY 12561

### Fax

Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to: **845.256.0196**

### Telephone

Call our office: **845.256.0197**, Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

**Participation** Limited to 26 participants, the program will entail considerable walking, including uneven terrain. Participants need to be in active, good health, able to keep up with the group, ready to travel and experience group and cultural differences with grace. Feel free to contact us at (845-256-0197) with any questions.

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 due upon registration; second non-refundable deposit due December 1, 2018. Balance due January 29, 2019.

**Insurance** Participants are urged to purchase travel insurance for losses necessitated by having to cancel participation due to health issues. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration, or consult your own insurance agent. Please contact The Jewish Heritage Travel office at 845.256.0197 for more information.

**Changes** All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

**Cancellations** All cancellations must be received by The Jewish Heritage Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure: full refund less non-refundable deposits, per person; 119-90 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after non-refundable deposits. No refunds after this date.



# Registration Form

Please send your nonrefundable deposit for \$1000 per participant by mail or fax.

**Mail** Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:  
Jewish Heritage Travel Program  
27 North Chestnut Street  
New Paltz, NY 12561

**Fax**  
Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to: **845.256.0196**

**Telephone**  
Call our office: **845.256.0197**,  
Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

## Rabbis, Saints and Healers: MYSTICAL EXOTIC MOROCCO

APRIL 29 — MAY 10, 2019

### Contact information

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Phone number

Cell phone number

### Deposit

Make your deposit by check or credit card.

Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel Program in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:

Master Card  Visa  American Express

card holder's name

card number

exp. date: mo/yr

validation code

Signature

### Participant names:

Museum Member  Yes  No

Museum Member  Yes  No

### Accommodations

I would like a single room ( for single room supplement please see trip details)

I'll share a room with:

Please share any special information we should know to enhance your experience.

### FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

I will make my own flight arrangements .

I need assistance and will call (845.256.0197).

