

Morocco Imperial Cities and Jewish Heritage *October 2021*



Day 1, Tuesday- Welcome to Morocco, Casablanca and Marrakesh

Casablanca- the Financial Capital and largest city of Morocco with a Jewish community of around 3,000 members, the largest Jewish community in Morocco. Visit to the Jewish Museum will be followed by lunch in one of the local Kosher restaurants, after enjoying a typical Moroccan lunch we will make our way to Marrakesh.



Day 2, Wednesday- Essaouira Full Day

Excursion to the town of Essaouira, an old fort and fishing port and considered one of the most popular excursions out of the busy and bustling Marrakesh. We will visit the Jewish Cemetery and the Ohel of Rabbi Pinto before visiting the famous and still in use Synagogue of the city. We will have a chance to visit the Old Port and walk in the small streets of the Old City. On our way back to Marrakesh we will visit the village of Chichaoua and learn about the famous Moroccan Argan oil and visit a local Berbers market. A short visit to the famous Yves Saint Laurent Museum and Gardens in Marrakesh will follow before dinner.



Day 3, Thursday - Oukaimden, Ourika valley and the Village of Stti Fatma

A visit to the station of Oukaimden, 3200 m above sea level and the highest ski resort in North Africa. We will then continue our tour to the Ourika valley. The Ourika Valley lies between the foothills of the Atlas Mountains and is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved valleys in Morocco. We will end the day with a hike in the beautiful waterfalls of Setti Fatma village before continuing back for dinner in Marrakesh.



Day 4, Friday - Full day to Marrakesh and Kabbalat Shabat

Marrakesh is two cities in one: Its distinctive Medina (Old City), comprised of intertwining narrow passageways and charming shops, the Melah (former Jewish Quarter), Lazama Synagogue, and the remnants of Jewish communal buildings, Bahaia Palace; and Ville Nouvelle, or new city, with its modern and cosmopolitan European flair.

Before our Shabbat Dinner (in the home of the Haliwa Family) we will enjoy a typical Kabbalat Shabbat in the beautiful Marrakesh Synagogue.



Day 5, Shabbat- Marrakesh - Jama El Fna

Walking tour of the city of Marrakesh.

In the afternoon, visit the busy and Magical Square of “Jemma El Fna”- an unique experience.



Day 6, Sunday- Waterfalls of Ouzoud and the Oasis of Bin el Quidan

Leaving early morning Marrakesh towards the Atlas Mountain region, we will visit the waterfalls of Ouzoud. This is a great spot for a short hike which will keep us busy until lunch time. Then continue to the Oasis of Bin el Ouidane Hidden in the heart of Berber territory in the Atlas Mountains – We will then enjoy a boat ride on the lake.

Day 7, Monday- Meknez and Fez

This morning we are heading north towards the magical city of Fez. On our way we will visit the city of Meknez. The Moroccan imperial city also known as "the Moroccan Versailles". The visit will include Bab El Mansour as well as the old synagogue.



Day 8, Tuesday - Fez Full day

The day will be devoted to the Jewish history of Fez; the golden ages of the Jewish community of Fez lasted from the 9th to 11th century. From a community of some 22,000 in 1947, there are less than 100 Jews today, but the city is rich in Jewish memories, Synagogues and a Jewish Cemetery. We will visit the two Synagogues and the Mikveh as well as the magnificent Cemetery. In the afternoon we will visit the neighbourhood and visit where the old craftsmen quarter is still alive, The leather tanneries, the Ceramic and the Copper stamping art. We will also visit the “Hina” Market and the Clock house and learn of its connection to the Rambam. We will have some time to stroll and shop in the Medina and the Kasbah to enjoy the smells, colours and atmosphere of this magical City.



Day 9, Wednesday, Volubilis, Rabat

After Breakfast we will take an hour drive to visit the archaeological sites of Volubilis and Explore the hillside settlements of Moulay Idriss Zerhoun and admire second and third Century Roman ruins at the UNESCO Site. Then we will continue to Rabat the capital of Morocco the “Kasbah of Oudayas” will be our first stop before visiting the mausoleum of King Mohammed the V, late afternoon we will start our journey back to Casablanca. Farwell Dinner at the Jewish Community Centre.



Day 10, Thursday, After Breakfast a visit to the outskirts. We will have a short visit to the Mosque of Hassan II the biggest Mosque in Africa before a group transfer to Casablanca Airport.



