



**“Mystics, Saints and Healers:  
The Jews of Morocco”  
October 31 – November 11, 2010**

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 nourished with the spread of European culture in the Middle East.

Likened to the desert palm, “rooted in Africa, watered by Islam, and rustled by the winds of Europe,” Morocco combines African, Middle Eastern and European influence to create a magical kingdom unlike any other. The Jewish Museum trip to Morocco will bring to life the history, tradition and culture of Jewish Morocco - a fascinating meeting place of East and West.

Accompanied by an outstanding scholar and expert local guide, we will immerse ourselves in the heritage and tradition of the Jews of Morocco; experience their traditional arts, crafts and music and learn about the particular fascination Moroccan Jews have had with charismatic Rabbis, Saints and Healers. Along the way, we will explore picturesque souks; walk along 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!

**“Mystics, Saints and Healers:  
The Jews of Morocco”  
October 31 – November 11, 2010**

**Tentative Itinerary:**

**Sunday, October 31:**

Late night departure from JFK Airport, via Royal Air Maroc

**Monday, November 1:**

Arrive Casablanca early morning where we will be greeted by our local guide; board luxury coach and drive into the heart of Casablanca, through the (once heavily Jewish) Anfa quarter and onto the Corniche - an ocean side drive along the Atlantic. Stop at a seaside cafe to enjoy a cup of coffee or orange juice before visiting the nearby Mosque Hassan II, largest mosque in the world after Mecca and dramatically sited at the edge of the Atlantic. Visit the Bet El Synagogue – main synagogue of Casablanca. Proceed to Rabat, Capital of Morocco and check into the five stars Tour Hassan Hotel, our home for the first two nights. Rest and relax...

Evening: Orientation, Introductions and Welcoming Dinner (included).

**Tuesday, November 2:**

Enjoy the first of our daily, lavish, buffet style breakfasts, followed by a visit to the Synagogue Azhawi, built against the massive ochre ramparts of Rabat. Continue to the compound of the Royal Palace; Hassan Tower and adjacent Mausoleum of Mohamed V, and the ancient necropolis of Chellah- a thriving city for 1000 years and a favorite site for birdwatchers today. Lunch along the way (included). End our day at the picturesque, labyrinth Kasbah des Oudaias overlooking the Atlantic Ocean and the lovely gardens outside the Kasbah.

Evening: Presentation: Dr. Yoram Bilu, “The Folk Veneration of Saints among Moroccan Jews,” followed by dinner on our own.

**Wednesday, November 3:**

Drive to Imperial Meknes, once home to several thousand Jews, whose monumental city gates are among the finest in the Arab world and visit the tomb of the feared Moulay Ismail, who modeled his capital Meknes in the image of Versailles. From Meknes, drive to Volubulis, ancient Roman province of Mauritania. Continue to Fes, considered by some to be the “most complete medieval city in the world.” Lunch along the way (included). Late afternoon arrival in Fes; check into our hotel, the Five Star, deluxe Palais Jamai in time for dinner (included).

**Thursday, November 4:**

Step back centuries into the medieval world of Fes-el Bali (Old Fes), whose maze like medieval streets, ancient mosques, minarets and Souk symbolize the mystique of this ninth century city. Highlights in Fes include the medressa (Koranic University) Bou Inania, Place Nejjarine, the shrine of Moulay Idress II, countless souks, the famous tanneries and the house of Maimonides with its mysterious water clock.

Evening: presentation: Dr. Yoram Bilu: “Traditional Healing among Moroccan Jews” followed by dinner on our own.

**Friday, November 5:**

We will begin the day by exploring Fes J'did and the mellah (Jewish District), once home to tens of thousands of Jews, 40 synagogues, a Bet Din, ritual baths and schools. We will visit the impressive Jewish cemetery opposite the gates of the Royal Palace, the Jewish Museum at Em Habanim synagogue, and the recently restored Ibn Danan synagogue- the oldest in Fes. Lunch along the way (included).

Evening: Traditional Friday evening, Shabbat Dinner (included).

**Saturday, November 6:**

Optional: Attend services at a synagogue / or...Free day to rest and/or explore Fes on our own.

**Sunday, November 7:**

Depart Fes for Marrakech, “soul of Morocco,” with its African influence and universal appeal. Today we will enjoy a full day journey along the Middle Atlas range, passing through some of the most spectacular scenery of the Middle Atlas Mountains and stopping in the town of Beni Mellal, located along the foot of the Middle Atlas mountains for lunch (included). Arrive in Marrakech by evening and check in to our hotel, the deluxe Sofitel Marrakech. {Please note: arrangements also available for those preferring staying at nearby La Mamounia. Call our office for details.}

Evening: presentation: Dr. Yoram Bilu, “Visitational Dreams and Naming Practices among Moroccan Jews,” Followed by dinner at our hotel (included).

**Monday, November 8:**

Excursion to Ourika Valley in the High Atlas Mountains, with its lush green fields and peaceful Berber villages. Visit an authentic Berber village and marketplace, where people still go to market on donkeys. Explore the culture of the “Tzadikim” in Moroccan Jewish history and visit the tomb of one of these “saints,” whose burial place is the focal point of a yearly pilgrimage by Moroccan Jews.

Following a discussion by Dr. Yoram Bilu on “Rabbi Yaacov Wazana: A Jewish Healer in the Atlas Mountains,” and lunch (included) in the Ourika Valley, return to Marrakech by late afternoon in time to see the towering 12<sup>th</sup> century Koutoubia minaret and the Menara gardens. Begin exploring Marrakech’s exotic, colorful souk where each trade-spices, carpets, jewelry, copper and brass-is situated in its own, unique quarter.

Evening: Dinner on our own.

**Tuesday, November 9:**

Begin our day at the mellah of Marrakech, with its narrow streets ancient synagogues and Jewish cemetery. Continue on to the lush Majorelled Gardens of Yves St. Laurent; and the Bahia Palace and Saadien Tombs - a treasure lost within the medina until its rediscovery this century. Wander through the Dar Si Said Museum of traditional crafts and the nearby Maison Tiskiwin - a private collection of indigenous crafts open to the public.

Lunch along the way (included).

Evening: Free. Dinner on our own, and/or experience Djmaa el Fna Square, heart of Marrakech and a place of lively entertainment throughout the night.

**Wednesday, November 10:**

Continue touring Marrakech. Afternoon free to explore sites of personal interest on our own and/or last minute shopping.

Evening: Closing discussion and dinner (included).

**Thursday, November 11:**

Early breakfast followed by departure for Marrakech airport and flights home.



### **Accompanying Scholar:**

**Yoram Bilu, Ph.D.**, earned an M.A. degree in Clinical Psychology and a Ph.D. in Psychological Anthropology from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem where he is a professor of anthropology. His research interests include folk religion (with special emphasis on saint worship, visitational dreams and messianism), culture and mental health.

Professor Bilu is an expert on the culture and religious practices of Moroccan Jews. In 1994 he delivered the prestigious Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture Series at the University of Rochester on the revival of saint veneration among Moroccan Jews in Contemporary Israel. He received two awards from the American Anthropological Association: the Bryce Boyer Prize for the best paper in psychoanalytic anthropology, and the Stirling Prize for the best paper in psychological anthropology. He has published four books and close to 100 scientific papers. His most recent publications include The Saints' Impresarios: Dreamer, Healers and Holy Men in Israel's Urban Periphery, and Without Bounds: The Life and Death of Rabi Ya'aqov Wazana.

Dr. Bilu served as the chair of the department of at Hebrew University, and as the president of the Israeli Anthropological Association (1989-1991). He has been a visiting professor in several American Universities including UC San Diego, Brandeis, JTS, and Western Washington.



Fondouk el-Nejjarine - Fes

## Tour Leader:

**Aryeh Maidenbaum, Ph.D.**, with a strong background in the fields of History, Psychology and Jewish Studies, and more than 20 years experience in organizing and leading educational tours, is serving as a special consultant to the Jewish Museum for its Travel Program. Director of the N.Y. Center for Jungian Studies, Dr. Maidenbaum received his Ph.D. from the Hebrew University. On the faculty of N.Y.U., he has authored and edited books and articles, including Lingering Shadows: Jungians, Freudians and Anti-Semitism.



Hassan II Mosque

## **Participation: Limited to 30 participants:**

The Jewish Museum Travel Program is open to all members of The Jewish Museum; non-members are welcome to join the Museum to participate. **Designed for people of all ages, the Museum travel programs entail walking moderate distances which may include uneven or slightly hilly terrain. Participants must be able to keep up with the group.** Please feel free to call the Museum Travel Program office if you have any questions and we will be happy to speak with you personally.

Participants might consider arriving in Morocco earlier to acclimate to the time difference. For those interested in additional nights (at the Hyatt Regency) in Casablanca. Please call the Jewish Museum travel office for more information.

## **Program Details:**

Land Program Cost: \$ 5700 (plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

### **\*Program Fee Includes:**

- Ten nights 5 star deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily; six lunches & five dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, Museum and site entrance fees
- All ground transportation for group travel

\*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1350. For those preferring to share a room and need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Gratuities (\$125) additional. **Balance due: August 15, 2010**  
Air travel arrangements available. Please call the Museum Travel Office for details.

**To Register:**

Include non-refundable deposit of \$750, payable to The Jewish Museum. Please complete the attached registration form and return to:

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

**(OR)** Registration accepted by telephone or fax with credit card  
Tel. (845) 256-0194 Fax (845) 256-0196

**Changes:**

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

**Cancellations. Refunds and Insurance:**

All cancellations must be received by the Jewish Museum Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 75 days prior to departure: full refund less \$750 deposit per person; 75-60 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. No refunds after this date. [In this context, we strongly recommend travel insurance in the event you may have to cancel your participation.](#) For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration ... or consult your own insurance agent.

**For More Information: contact The Jewish Museum Travel Program at:**  
Tel. 845-256-0194 Fax: 845-256-0196 or e-mail < [TheJMtravelinfo@aol.com](mailto:TheJMtravelinfo@aol.com) >

**Registration: Morocco**

Please complete, include deposit of \$750 per person, and mail or fax to:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196  
27 North Chestnut Street  
New Paltz, NY 12561

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

- YES! I am registering now and my non-refundable deposit is enclosed.
  - I prefer a double room.  I need a roommate.
  - I'll be traveling with \_\_\_\_\_
  - I would prefer a single room (single room supplement \$1350)
  - I will make my own air arrangements  I would like help with my travel arrangements
  - I am a member of The Jewish Museum.
  - I am not yet a member of The Jewish Museum.
- (Basic Membership fee of \$75 will be added to final invoice. Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership, will be forwarded with registration acknowledgment.)

Credit Card Registration Accepted by Telephone or Fax:  
Telephone: (845) 256-0194, Fax (845) 256-0196, or mail.

\_\_\_\_ Visa      \_\_\_\_ Master Card      \_\_\_\_ American Express

Card holder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

~

**Disclaimer of Responsibility:**

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Museum and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Museum and its respective employees 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 Jewish Museum 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.