

# Travel with The Jewish Museum

## **“Mystical, Exotic Morocco” A Jewish Museum Travel Program November 29 – December 11, 2011**



Morocco - exotic, mysterious and dramatic - a land of extremes - from high mountain peaks to deserts, lush valleys and kasbahs. 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. 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!

\*Tentative Daily Schedule:

Tuesday, November 29

For those on group flight, depart to Casablanca via Royal Air Maroc from New York (JFK).

Wednesday, November 30

For those arriving on group flight, board coach for Casablanca; check in to five-star, deluxe Hyatt Regency – centrally located in the heart of Casablanca. Rest and relax from journey.

Evening: Orientation, Introductions and opening dinner at our hotel (included).

Thursday, December 1

Enjoy the first of our daily, lavish, buffet style breakfasts before departing for day's touring in Casablanca - including visit to its main Synagogue and the Casablanca Jewish Museum - the only Jewish museum in the Islamic world, one which traces the history of Morocco's once thriving Jewish community. Following lunch on our own, guided tour of the Hassan II Mosque – one of the largest Mosques in the world.

Evening: presentation by Dr. Ray Scheindlin, "Morocco and its Jews: A Historical Sketch" followed by dinner on our own.

Friday, December 2

Depart Casablanca for Fez. En-route, visit Imperial Meknes, once home to several thousand Jews and whose monumental city gates are among the finest in the Arab world. Visit the tomb of the feared Moulay Ismail, who modeled his capital Meknes in the image of Versailles. Lunch along the way in Meknes (included) before continuing on to Fez, considered by some to be the "most complete medieval city in the world." Check into our hotel, the 5-star, the deluxe Sofitel Palais Jamais with rooms overlooking the ancient Medina of Fez.

Evening: festive, Shabbat dinner at our hotel (included).

Saturday, December 3

Optional: Attend services at Fez synagogue or free day to rest and/or explore Fez on our own.

Sunday, December 4

We will begin the day by exploring Fes J'did and the mellah (walled Jewish quarter), 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 - oldest in Fez. Lunch along the way (included).

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Ray Scheindlin, "The Culture of the Jews of Morocco" followed by dinner on our own.

Monday, December 5

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

Evening: performance by Janice Meyerson followed by dinner on our own.

Tuesday, December 6

Early morning departure from Fez for Imperial city of Rabat. Some of the sites we will see today, as we arrive in Rabat, include the Royal Palace Compound, Hassan Tower, and adjacent mausoleum of Mohamed V. Check in to the Sofitel Jardins des Roses for an overnight stay.

Evening: Dinner at our hotel (included).

### Wednesday, December 7

Depart Rabat for Marrakech, “soul of Morocco” with its African influence. Stop to visit the ancient necropolis of Chellah and the picturesque Kasbah des Oudaias before we leave Rabat. Arrive in Marrakech by early evening; check in to our hotel, the deluxe Sofitel Marrakesh (Please note: arrangements also available for those preferring staying at nearby La Mamounia. Call our office for details.)  
Evening: Dinner for those staying at the Sofitel (included).

### Thursday, December 8

Begin exploring Marrakech where we will see such sites as the Jewish cemetery; lush majorelled gardens of Yves St. Laurent; Bahia Palace; Saadien Tombs; towering twelfth century Koutoubia minaret and the exotic, colorful souk where each trade (i.e. spices, carpets, jewelry, copper and brass) are situated in their own, unique quarter. Time permitting, 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 on our own along the way.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Ray Scheindlin, "An Introduction to Islam for Jews" followed by dinner on our own, or free to experience Djmaa el Fna Square, heart of Marrakech and a place of lively entertainment throughout the night.

### Friday, December 9

Morning excursion to the Ourika Valley, with its plush green fields and Berber villages and where people still go to market on donkeys. Visit an authentic Berber village; 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.

Lunch (included) in the Ourika Valley. Return to Marrakech by late afternoon.

Evening: Festive Shabbat dinner (included).

### Saturday, December 10

Free to attend services or explore sites of personal interest on our own.

Evening: Closing dinner at an elegant restaurant (included).

### Sunday, December 11

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

### \*Please Note:

Tentative daily Schedule; subject to change



*Spices at Djmaa el Fna Square, Marrakech*



### **Accompanying Scholar:**

**Raymond P. Scheindlin, Ph.D.**, is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological Seminary and has served as the Seminary's Provost. Author of numerous articles and books, Dr. Scheindlin's publications include A Short History of the Jewish People, as well as companion volumes on Hebrew Literature in the Middle Ages, entitled Wine, Women and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life, and The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel and the Soul. A past Guggenheim fellow, Dr. Scheindlin is a member of the editorial boards of several scholarly journals. His latest book is The Song of the Distant Dove: Pilgrimage Poems by Judah Halevi.



### **Accompanying Artist:**

**Janice Meyerson, M.M.** has a master's degree in music from the New England Conservatory. She has sung as a soloist with the New York City Opera, the Boston Symphony, Deutsche Oper, Berlin and the Spoleto Festival among numerous others. A gifted mezzo-soprano and interpreter of song, Ms. Meyerson will perform Ladino and Hebrew examples of Sephardic music which will be informative as well as entertaining.



### **Trip 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. Formerly on the faculty of N.Y.U., he has authored and edited books and articles, including Lingering Shadows: Jungians, Freudians and Anti-Semitism.



*Roman Ruins of Volubilis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

**Participation: Limited to 30 participants:**

The Jewish Museum Travel Program is open to all members of The Jewish Museum at the [Individual](#) level or above; non-members are welcome to join the Museum at the Individual level 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, call our office for more information.

**Program Details:**

Land Program Cost: \$ 5900 (plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

**\*Program Cost Includes:**

- 11 nights at 5-star deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily; five lunches & four 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 (\$145) additional. Balance due: August 15, 2011  
Air travel arrangements available; please call the Museum Travel Program for details (845-256-0194).

**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; 74-60 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.

# Registration

Please complete, include a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person, and mail or fax to: The Jewish Museum Travel Program, 27 North Chestnut Street, New Paltz, NY 12561  
Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196

Destination and Date of Trip: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Phone (day)  
Phone (evening) Phone (cell) E-mail

Single room  Double room  I'm travelling with \_\_\_\_\_

I will make my own air arrangements  I would like help with my travel arrangements

METHOD OF DEPOSIT \*Credit card registration accepted by telephone or fax

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card  MasterCard  Visa  American Express

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name as it appears on card

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of cardholder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Billing address (if different from above)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account number Expiration date Security code

Deposit amount (If you are not a member of the Museum, a membership fee of \$75 per person will be added to the final invoice). Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership will be forwarded with registration acknowledgement.

## 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.