

TEMPLE SHOLOM JEWISH JOURNEY TO MOROCCO

LED BY RABBI SHOSHANAH CONOVER

Jan 12, 2025 - Jan 21, 2025



DESTINATION
MOROCCO



WHO'S GOING
OUR COMMUNITY



TRIP TYPE
CONGREGATIONAL



DURATION
10 DAYS



GROUP SIZE
20+





REGISTRATION DATES

AUG 27, 2024 - OCT 27, 2024



Program is tentative and subject to change. Connect with our Customer Care Team by calling: (888) 230-6008 Mon.-Thur. from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).

YOUR JOURNEY

J² crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

- Art & Culture
- Archaeology
- Food & Wine
- Heritage
- Local Specialists
- Active
- Expert Scholar
- Special Access

PASSIONATE JEWISH JOURNEYS

EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.

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PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

ON OUR WAY

Sun. Jan 12, 2025

- Depart the US.

 Overnight: Flight

DAY 2

THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY

Mon. Jan 13, 2025

- Arrive at Casablanca International Airport.
- Transfer to the hotel for check-in.
- An Inside Look at Moroccan Culture: Orientation dialogue with your J² Expert Educator & local Moroccan tour guide, including an overview of your journey.
- Visit the Beth-El Synagogue, which is still very active and is considered Casablanca's "main" synagogue. Meet with a member of the local Jewish community to discuss what life is like for a Jew today in Morocco.
- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

 Overnight: Casablanca, Morocco  Meals: Dinner

DAY 3

GIANT MOSQUES AND JEWISH LIFE

Tue. Jan 14, 2025

- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit the famous Mosque of Hassan II, one of the largest mosques in the world.
- Visit the Neve Shalom Jewish day school and meet with the school's Rabbi, Jacky Sebbag.
- Lunch at a Jewish Club.
- Guided visit through the Museum of the Jews of Morocco.
- Depart Casablanca for Fes, once the capital of Morocco, the most extensive medieval city in the Arab world, and the home of Jewish scholars and rabbis for hundreds of years.
- Check into the hotel and enjoy dinner.

 Overnight: Fes, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4

THE MYSTERIES OF FES

Wed. Jan 15, 2025

- Enjoy glorious views of Fes and its Medina (Walled City) from the Borj Sud fortress.

- Travel through time as we explore:
 - The recently restored Ibn Danan Synagogue, one of the oldest and most important synagogues in North Africa.
 - The El Fassiyin Synagogue: This once-vital synagogue was used as a boxing ring and carpet factory until it was recently restored.
 - The Fes Jewish Cemetery, where we'll hear stories of some of the city's legendary rabbis who are buried here.
- Fes's Medina is a dense maze of alleyways and streets and the largest car-free pedestrian zone in the world. The visit includes:
 - A glimpse of local craftsmen at work in their shops.
 - A tour of the Madrasa Bou Inania, an ancient religious college and one of the few Islamic sites in Morocco that is accessible to non-Muslim visitors.
- Lunch at a restaurant before continuing on our tour:
 - Stop at the University of Al-Karaouine, believed to be the oldest functioning university in the world. Non-Muslims can view it only from the outside.
 - Visit the Chouara Tannery.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner at a restaurant.

 Overnight: Fes, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

CITY OF KINGS

Thu. Jan 16, 2025

- Check out of the hotel.
- Depart for Rabat, Morocco's capital:
 - Walk around the walls of Rabat's Royal Palace, the primary residence of the current king Mohammad VI.
 - Visit the majestic mausoleum of Mohammad V, Morocco's king during World War II, and hear how he helped prevent the Nazis from deporting Morocco's Jews to the death camps of Europe.
 - Continue to the mausoleum of his son, Hassan II, who ruled over Morocco during the so-called "Years of Lead."
- Walk through the markets, jewelry stores, and grand old diplomatic complexes of Rabat's Medina (Walled City) as we make our way up to the Kasbah des Udayas.
- Check into the hotel.
- Meet with members of Association Mimouna, an organization of Muslim students who honor the country's Jewish traditions and promote Jewish-Muslim friendship.
- Dinner at a restaurant.

 Overnight: Rabat, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

THE ROAD TO MARRAKECH

Fri. Jan 17, 2025

- Check out of the hotel and drive to Marrakech.
- Begin your visit in Marrakech with a panoramic tour of the city.
- Visit the enchanting Majorelle Garden of the French painter and botanist Jacques Majorelle.
- Visit the Berber Museum, also housed in the garden.
- Continue to the Yves St. Laurent Museum.
- Check into the hotel with time to freshen up and prepare for Shabbat.
- Optional Kabbalat Shabbat services at the Beth El Synagogue.
- Enjoy Shabbat dinner at the hotel.

 Overnight: Marrakech, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast, Shabbat Dinner

DAY 7

SHABBAT IN MARRAKECH

Sat. Jan 18, 2025

- We'll tour the Medina (Walled City) of Marrakech, also known as the Red City for the red walls that surround it. Highlights of the tour include:
 - The Dar El Bacha Palace is considered one of the greatest palaces of its time. Its architecture, gardens, and design render it one of the finest achievements of Moroccan culture.
 - The Madrasa Ben Youssef is certainly a gem of Moroccan architecture in Marrakech. This 16th-century school of theology was considered the largest in the country at the time. This historic school and students' campus ceased to function in 1960, but it was restored and remains one of the best examples of Moroccan traditional architectural arts.
- Discover Djemaa El Fna Square and enjoy the marketplace's snake-charmers, street vendors, musicians, storytellers, and acrobats.
- Free time to explore Marrakech's enormous marketplace on your own.
- At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal Havdalah ceremony.

 Overnight: Marrakech, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8

THE MANY LAYERS OF MARRAKECH

Sun. Jan 19, 2025

- The Role of the Imam in Moroccan Society: What Is Islam in Morocco and What Makes It Different? Dialogue with a Professor of English who will facilitate a dialogue with a local Imam.
- Explore the Mellah (Jewish quarter) of Marrakech, with a chance to visit:
 - The Slat el Azama Synagogue, still active and bears witness to the glories of the past.
 - The Jewish Cemetery of Marrakech.

- Enjoy a cooking workshop followed by a delicious lunch and mint tea.
- Free time to explore Marrakech on your own or enjoy one of its fantastic hammams.

🌙 Overnight: Marrakech, Morocco 🍴 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9

BERBER LIFE IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Mon. Jan 20, 2025

- The closest part of the High Atlas Mountains to Marrakesh is the Ourika Valley, a beautiful area of fertile orchards and traditional Berber villages surrounded by the towering peaks of the Toubkal National Park. You'll leave Marrakesh and drive into the mountains to Timalizine village.
- Visit the grave of Jewish saint "Rabbi Shlomo BelHench" and learn about the many legends that surround the life of the rabbi known as the "Son of the Snake." Meet with the woman who has been the sole caretaker of this holy site.
- Continue your drive through the Atlas and make your way to Ait Ouamden, a traditional Berber village nestled at the foot of the mountain.
- Experience Berber hospitality with lunch at a local house where the village chief will share stories and insights about village culture over a glass of mint tea.
- Visit the newly opened kindergarten and meet local artisans. Participate in a hands-on bread-making course.
- Drive back to your hotel in Marrakech after a stunning day in the Atlas Mountains.
- Festive farewell dinner.

🌙 Overnight: Marrakech, Morocco 🍴 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Tue. Jan 21, 2025

- Check out of the hotel and transfer to Marrakech Airport for your return flight to the US.

🍴 Meals: Breakfast

THE EXPERT



YISHAY SHAVIT

Yishay was born on a kibbutz in Northern Israel. In 2000, he moved to Jerusalem, fell in love with the city, and hasn't looked back. Yishay, a history and hiking lover, was first introduced to the world of guiding at the age of 15, in his youth movement. After serving in the IDF, he started guiding in various museums, the Knesset (Israel's parliament), and the Supreme Court. In 2007 he received a formal guiding

education. The areas of his expertise are history, politics, and theology connected to Jerusalem. Yishay holds a bachelor's degree in History and a master's degree in Jewish History from Hebrew University, focusing on Indian Jewry and contemporary Jewry. Yishay speaks fluent Hebrew and English and a little bit of Hindi. When not guiding, he enjoys spending time with his wife Noa and their two sons – Yotam and Assaf.





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