



## Mission to Morocco and Israel

May 19-31, 2024

Draft Itinerary

(Subject to Change....for the better)

### Day 1: Sunday, May 19th, 2024 – Casablanca

Arrival at Casablanca Mohammed V airport, welcome, and assistance.  
Today is our first outdoor dinner at a local restaurant with entertainment.

Overnight: Marriott Casablanca

### Day 2: Monday, May 20th, 2024 – Casablanca

Breakfast at the hotel.

Casablanca, the largest city in Africa after Cairo, is home to the largest remaining Jewish community in Morocco with several congregations, active communal institutions and good kosher restaurants. We will depart around 11:00 to visit the Museum of Moroccan Judaism ([www.casajewishmuseum.com](http://www.casajewishmuseum.com)) then to visit the magnificent Hassan II Mosque, the second largest mosque in the Islamic world after the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca. This architectural masterpiece, a symbol of an Islam open to the world, took 7 years to complete using 50 million man-hours and inaugurated on the 30th August, 1993 was built partially on the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, on the farthest western point of the Maghreb. Embedded in the axis of the southern facade, a 210 metre-high minaret, boasts a laser beam of 30km reach pointing towards Mecca.

Next we move on to the Corniche running alongside the Atlantic Ocean where we have lunch before proceeding to the seaside resort of Aïn Diab. While Jews no longer live in the Mellah, kosher butchers are found in the old market, next to other butchers selling horse, sheep and goat meat. The Jewish cemetery in the Mellah is open and relatively quiet, with well-kept white stone markers in French, Hebrew and Spanish. The Rue Djemda Es Souk, one of the main streets of this Quarter, has amongst its special interest the many shops on Rue de Rabat where a few Jewish goldsmiths still ply their trade and

whose windows display jewellery with Hebrew motifs. A short walk away are the half dozen Synagogues such as Beth-El, Em Habanim, and Neve Shalom on the long block of the Rue Lusitania.

Dinner in a local kosher restaurant.

Overnight: Marriott Casablanca

### Day 3: Tuesday, May 21st, 2024 - Rabat – Meknes – Volubilis – Fes

After breakfast, departure to Rabat and Sale. Visit the Chellah and Kasbah of Oudayas located next to the Medina within the ramparts of the old city. The Mellah, with its narrow lanes and colorful courtyards, is now the home of a few Jewish families.

Continue to Sale, the twin city of Rabat and the birthplace of Rabbi Hayyim Ben Moses Attar, the famous 18th-century scholar, and kabbalist, known throughout the Jewish world for his Bible commentary, the “Or Ha-Hayyim”.

We continue our drive via High Way to Meknes (the Moroccan Versailles), which was founded at the end of the 17th century by Moulay Ismail, where Hebraic epitaphs dating from the Christian era evidence the Jewish presence, and Greek inscriptions still appear in local Synagogues. It's a place of pilgrimage where the tomb of Rabbi David Benmidan, “The Patron of Meknes” is located. The crowded old Mellah, known for its historic Jewish street names is not to be missed. There is also the new Mellah, which harbours eleven Synagogues, eight of which are still in use. Highlights will also include Bab El Mansour, the Hedim square and the mosque of Moulay Ismail.

Continue to Fes via Volubilis, with its imposing Roman ruins, capital of the Roman Province of Mauritania and home of Sylene, daughter of Antony and Cleopatra who married the Berber King Juba II, visit the Olive press, the House of Orpheus, the Basilica, the Baths of Gallienus, the Forum, the Triumphal Arch of Caracalla, the House of Venus.

Dinner and Overnight: Marriott Jnan Palace

### Day 4: Wednesday, May 22nd, 2024 - Fes guided Tour of The Medina

Breakfast at your hotel.

This morning, start with a visit to the stunning gates of the Royal Palace of the Alaouite sultan in the city of Fez. The palace is located in the Fes el Jdid quarter. It has an area size of 80 hectares, and known for the brass gate ornamented with zellige tilework and carved cedar woods. The palace is not

open to the public. Continue by foot to the Jewish Cemetery and enjoy a walking tour through the Mellah of Fes (Historic Jewish Quarters). You will visit the historic 17th century Ibn Danan Synagogue. The oldest existing synagogue in the city, Ibn Danan underwent a restoration as part of a UNESCO project in 1999.

You will cross through an area known for its goldsmithing, and continue across the street to Fes Jadid, passing ancient homes to the entry called Bab Semmarine. The entryway was built by the Marinid Dynasty in the late 13th century. Continue through the famous public Jnane Sbil Gardens to the Blue Gates of the old city (known as Bab Bou Jeloud). Follow a different route back to enjoy the scenery. Then we stop for lunch.

After lunch, take a tour of the Medersa Bou Inania, founded in the years 1351-56. The Medersa is one of the few religious places in Morocco accessible to non-Muslim visitors. The Medersa was part seminary and part dormitory. It is a splendid example of Moroccan architecture's three core elements: intricate tile mosaics, carved plaster and painted cedar.

Then visit the Dar Batha Museum, which has a particularly impressive pottery collection that dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Then we will make a special stop to visit one of the famous ceramic factories of Fes. Moroccan ceramics and tile production are, and have been, world famous for centuries. See the entire production and creative process in creating the famous traditional Fes ceramic designs.

Return to the hotel, rest & refresh and enjoy the facilities before dinner.

Overnight: Marriott Jnan Palace

#### Day 5: Thursday, May 23rd, 2024 - Fes...Beni Mellal...Marrakech

This morning we set out southwards into the Middle Atlas range of mountains, passing through Imouzzar-du-Kandar, the Swiss Alpine-like town of Ifrane, through the Cedar Forest to Azrou to continue south southwest through Khenifra and Kasbah Tadla and into the town of Beni Mellal, situated between the Plain of Tadla and Jbels (mountains) of Tassemit (2248m) and R'Nim (2411m) where we stop for lunch.

We now enter into the region of the High Atlas Mountain Ranges, with Jbels Azourki (3690m) and Irhil M'Goun (at 4071m the second-highest peak in North Africa) to our left, thence to pass alongside the low hills of the Jbilet into Imperial City of Marrakech, the Pink City for our three nights' stay.

Overnight: Hotel Kenzi Rose Garden

## Day 6: Friday, May 24th, 2024 - Ourika Valley at the Atlas mountains - Marrakech guided tour of the Medina

The road runs for about 19 miles across the Haouz Plain and then turns off toward the site of ancient Aghmat, an abandoned village founded by the Haoura Berbers before the arrival of Islam. By the late 10th century it was a rich regional capital but the town was subsequently captured by the Almoravids and gradually declined in importance, as Marrakech grew. All that remains of the original buildings is the mausoleum of Moatamid Ben Abbad, an Andalousian poet-prince who was taken prisoner during the conquest of Seville in 1091. A visit to a berber house to enjoy a cup of tea and home-made bread Tanourt with olive oil and black olives, and the sanctuary of Rabbi Salomon Bel Hens.

Back to Marrakech at 1pm.

After lunch, visit Dar el Bacha Confluences Museum in Marrakech – Once the home for the famous Pacha Glaoui. Located in the medina of Marrakech, it is one of the most beautiful palaces of the red city. It was built at the beginning of the 20th century. Then, head to the Mellah – Jewish quarter of Marrakesh. Share, understand and appreciate the potential of the coexistence of the two religions and cultures. In Morocco, Jews and Muslims have coexisted in harmony for hundreds of years. Marrakesh, at the foot of the Atlas mountain range was home to more than 50,000 Jews, according to a 1947 census. Visit the Jewish Cemetery & the historic Synagogue of Marrakech.

Late afternoon, return to your hotel, rest & refresh before Shabbat Dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Kenzi Rose Garden

## Day 7: Saturday, May 25th, 2024 - Marrakech at Leisure

This is your free day at leisure.

Today, you may prefer to stay at the hotel's swimming pool to relax, or you take the last opportunity to stroll around the area of the hotel, either to go to the old Medina for your last chance of shopping or walk to the modern city of Marrakech near the Gueliz area to enjoy one of the café terraces or enjoy a meal in one of the outdoor restaurants.

You have a late check-out before the late evening departure transfer to Marrakech Menara airport.

Departing on flight - LY ( EL-AL ) 554 Marrakech / Tel Aviv Dep 10:45pm  
Arr 6:20am.

#### Day 8 : Sunday, May 26 2024

Upon arrival at the airport you will be met and assisted through passport control and luggage claim ,you will than be escorted to the awaiting bus. Check into the Carlton hotel, enjoy breakfast and have free time until 2 :30pm .

Pick up from hotel at 3 :00pm and visit the Anu Museum, continue to Sarona before dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv

#### Day 9 : Monday, May 27 2024

After breakfast start your day with a visit to the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation where you will learn about the life of Shimon Peres and how he influenced the Start-Up Nation. Continue to Sderot for lunch with Mayor Alon Davidi. Following lunch visit how JNF Canada is impacting life in a city that is constantly under the threat of missiles from Gaza.

Return to Tel Aviv for dinner.

Overnight: Carlton hotel

#### Day 10 : Tuesday, May 28 2024

After breakfast and checkout, we will drive north to Caesarea to explore the Roman ruins and then to Haifa to learn about JNF's project at the Shabtai Levi Home. We will then proceed to have lunch at a winery and then drive south to the golden city of Jerusalem. We will enter Jerusalem and visit the newest JNF project, the Gateway to Jerusalem where we will discover Jerusalem's history and how Jews have been present in the city for millennia.

We will then check-in to the hotel, rest and refresh followed by dinner at the City of David.

Overnight: Inbal Hotel, Jerusalem.

#### Day 11 : Wedensday, May 29 2024

This day will include planting a tree with your own hands in the land of Israel, a visit to the Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centre, and a special program on Arab-Jewish coexistence.

Overnight Jerusalem Inbal hotel.

## Day 12 : Thursday, May 30 2024

We will begin the day at the Western Wall where we will have a VIP tour of the new Bridge Tour in the Western Wall tunnels and a brief tour of the Old City.

Lunch at leisure and free time in Machane Yehuda or Ben Yehuda street.

Farewell Dinner at a special location

Overnight Jerusalem Inbal hotel.

## Day 13 : Friday, May 31, 2024 - Departure

After breakfast , transfer to the airport for those not extending their stay,.