



STEPHEN WISE TEMPLE A JEWISH JOURNEY TO MOROCCO

LED BY RABBI YOSHI ZWEIBACK, RABBI RON STERN & CANTOR EMMA LUTZ

Jan 26, 2025 - Feb 4, 2025



DESTINATION
MOROCCO



WHO'S GOING
OUR COMMUNITY



TRIP TYPE
CONGREGATIONAL



DURATION
10 DAYS



GROUP SIZE
30+



PRICE
FROM \$6,175

PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**

EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.

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REGISTRATION DATES

JAN 24, 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 5:00 p.m. EST.

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

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PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVE

Sun. Jan 26, 2025

- Depart the US.

🌙 Overnight: Flight

DAY 2

THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY

Mon. Jan 27, 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 Neve Shalom Jewish day school and meet with the school's Rabbi, Jacky Sebbag.
- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

🌙 Overnight: Casablanca, Morocco 🍽️ Meals: Dinner

DAY 3

GIANT MOSQUES AND JEWISH LIFE

Tue. Jan 28, 2025

- Check out of the hotel.
- Visit the famous Mosque of Hassan II, one of the largest mosques in the world.
- 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.
- Guided visit through the Museum of the Jews of Morocco.
- Lunch at a Jewish Club.
- 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 29, 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 30, 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.
 - Visit 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 local restaurant.

 Overnight: Rabat, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6

THE ROAD TO MARRAKECH

Fri. Jan 31, 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.
- 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, Dinner

DAY 7

SHABBAT IN MARRAKECH

Sat. Feb 1, 2025

- Optional Shabbat services.
- 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.
- Free time to explore Marrakech's enormous marketplace on your own.
- Discover Djemaa El Fna Square and enjoy the marketplace's snake-charmers, street vendors, musicians, storytellers, and acrobats.
- At nightfall, we will mark the end of a special Shabbat with a communal Havdallah ceremony.

 Overnight: Marrakech, Morocco  Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8

THE MANY LAYERS OF MARRAKECH

Sun. Feb 2, 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. Feb 3, 2025

- Enjoy a spectacularly different view of Morocco in the lush and dramatic Atlas landscapes of the Ourika Valley for an unforgettable Berber experience and an eye-opening, hands-on adventure.
- Experience the world of the Berbers, an indigenous people of North Africa, in the village of Agounsane. Explore this remote village and visit the charity pre-school center where the local children are educated.
- Find out about the local economy and learn about changes and continuity in the Berber way of life as you walk through the farmed terraces to see the ancient irrigation system and the subsistence farming methods.
- Get your hands stuck into wet clay in a ceramics workshop and try weaving a colorful kilim with the local women.
- See the traditional method of baking bread and try your own hand at this ancient skill. Afterward, sit down for a Berber lunch including tajine dishes, the slow-cooked savory stews that for centuries has been the taste of North Africa.
- 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."
- Return to Marrakech after a stunning day in the Atlas Mountains.
- Closing conversation over dinner.

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

DAY 10

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Tue. Feb 4, 2025

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

🌙 Overnight: Flight 🍽️ 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.





RATES & LODGING

PARTICIPANTS
30+

COST P/P IN DOUBLE ROOM
\$6,175

COST P/P IN SINGLE ROOM
\$7,715

CASABLANCA: HYATT REGENCY

🕒 Nights: 1

🏠 Room Category: Standard Room

FES: MARRIOTT HOTEL JNAN PALACE

🕒 Nights: 2

🏠 Room Category: Deluxe Room

RABAT: FAIRMONT LA MARINA RABAT-SALÉ

🕒 Nights: 1

🏠 Room Category: Fairmont Room

MARRAKECH: SOFITEL

🕒 Nights: 4

🏠 Room Category: Deluxe Room



WHAT TO EXPECT

🌟 Included

- 8 nights' accommodations.
- 8 days of touring with a J² Expert Educator and a local guide, in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- Airport transfers on arrival and departure.
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches & 6 dinners.
- The J² adventures App available on the App Store & on Google Play (active 7 days before your departure and throughout your trip).
- Water & snacks on the bus.
- Porterage at the hotels.
- All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.

⚙️ Excluded

- Credit card fees.
- Flights to & from Morocco.
- Gratuities are excluded. For groups of 20 and more participants traveling to Morocco: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Jewish Tour Educator: \$12 | Local Moroccan Guide: \$10 | Main Driver: \$5 | Driver's assistant \$2. Amounts are per day per person.
- COVID related expenses, including tests.
- Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc. are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.

📄 The small print

- Please review our terms & conditions (T&C's) or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:
- Validity | All prices quoted are based on exchange rates as of the proposal date and are subject to change without notice. Rates are per person and are based on shared twin room occupancy.
- How to Make a Reservation | The quickest way to make a reservation is to register online or contact us by email. We accept VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards. A \$500 per person non-refundable deposit is required in order to complete the registration process.
- For any assistance with this registration process or other trip-related queries, please email Customer Care: customercare@j2adventures.com.
- Payments | The balance of your payment is due 90 days before your trip begins, or as specified in your invoice. You will receive an email reminder 2 weeks before this date. Various payment options are available as follows:
- Credit card | We accept Visa, Mastercard and American Express. Please check with your credit card provider regarding international processing fees. We are unable to process payments of over \$1,000 over the phone. Please submit payment online via a credit card or by wiring funds via your bank.
- Domestic bank wire transfer | Payment should be wired in the same currency that is listed on your invoice. Please add the name of your group or invoice number as a reference and forward a copy of the transfer receipt by email. The bank transfer should clearly state the beneficiary's name on the wire transfer.

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- J² Adventures reserves the right to automatically cancel your reservation on that date and it may be subject to reconfirmation should the final payment not be received.
- Cancellation Policy | All cancellations need to be made in writing. The cancellation fee depends on the date when we receive written notification of your request to cancel your booking. Please note that the deposit is non-refundable.
- Cancellation fees | Cancellations made 90 or more days prior to departure incur the loss of the deposit. Cancellations made 89 to 46 days prior to departure incur the loss of 50% of the full trip cost. Cancellations made 45 days or less prior to the departure incur the loss of 100% of the full trip cost.
- Cancellation fees may also include: Hotel or supplier cancellation fees. J² Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits.

Terms

Please click here to view our full terms (T&C's). These T&C's apply to all reservations created within J² Adventures.

DISCOVER NEW WORLDS.

JEWISH JOURNEYS.

A family vacation to Israel. An adventure of a lifetime traveling with friends to Morocco. A trip to Poland or Portugal with your community. What do these trips have in common? No matter where you go, you will come back with a fresh perspective and appreciation of the place you visited as well as a heightened awareness of your identity as part of the global Jewish community.



START EXPLORING

Just like you we're concerned for the future. And like you, J² stands for equality, tolerance, pluralism, and true democracy.

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