CONGREGATION BETH EL’S
JEWISH JOURNEY TO MOROCCO
LED BY RABBI AARON & HELENE KRUPNICK
February 12 – 23, 2017

Day One: Sunday, February 12, 2017
DEPARTURE
 Depart the U.S.A.
Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, February 13, 2017
ARRIVAL IN CASABLANCA
 Arrive at Casablanca International Airport.
 Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
 Begin your journey with a panoramic tour of Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco, its diverse neighborhoods, markets and alleyways.
 The Glory of Moroccan Jewry: Guided visit through the Museum of the Jews of Morocco, for a glimpse into the rich and colorful world of Moroccan Jewry.
 Visit the Beth – El Synagogue, which is considered the "main" synagogue of Casablanca and is still very active.
 Check into the hotel.
 LaDa’at Focus An Inside Look at Moroccan Culture: Welcome dinner and orientation with your tour educator. Overview of the group journey; including reviewing the itinerary, the group themes, the different narratives. Share group and personal goals.

Overnight: Casablanca
Day Three: Tuesday, February 14, 2017
GIANT MOSQUES AND ANCIENT RUINS - ON THE ROAD TO FES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out and depart the hotel.
- Visit the famous Mosque of Hassan II, one of the largest Mosques in the world. With hand-carved marble walls, retractable roof, room for 100,000 worshipers and the tallest minaret in the world, at almost 700-feet, this mosque is an incredible example of devotion and construction.
- Depart Casablanca and stop for lunch on your own en route.
- Continue to the ruins of Volubilis, a city whose archeological remains bare testimony to the ten centuries of human existence here. First established in the 3rd century BCE as a Phoenician town, it was during the early Roman period that the city really began to make its mark. Walking through this south western ancient outpost of the Roman Empire, one can absorb the many cultural and historic layers that break through the surface.
- Depart 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.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Fes

Day Four: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
THE MYSTERIES OF FES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- LaDa'at Focus Sifting through the Sands of Time: A Historic Journey with your tour educator.
- Bird’s Eye View: Allow the ancient city to reveal itself in all its 1200 years of grandeur from one of two towers/fortresses overlooking the city. Take in a panoramic view of the Medina of Fes from Borj Sud (South Tower), a prominent fortress built in the 16th century high above its surroundings.
- Through our Own Footsteps: Enjoy a guided visit through the Mellah (Jewish Quarter) of Fes. This was a walled quarter, created for the Jews as both a place of confinement and protection. Once a sign of prestige and security from the rulers, over time, the Mellah became a place of poverty and squalor.
- Visit the Ibn Danan Synagogue, dating from the 17th century.
- The Life that Was: Visit the famous Fes Jewish cemetery, where some of the city’s legendary rabbis are buried, some, more than 400 years ago.
- In the Footsteps of the Rambam: Continue on a guided walk through the Medina, where the renowned Jewish scholar Maimonides once lived. Our visit includes:
  - A glimpse of local craftsmen at work in their shops as they weave, embroider, carve and chisel today as they have done for centuries.
  - A tour of the Madrasa Bou Inania, founded in the years 1351-56. The madrasa is one of the few religious places in Morocco accessible to non-Muslim visitors.
- Lunch en route and continue with:
  - A visit to the Museum of Wooden Arts in the beautifully restored former Caravan Stop.
  - A look into the University of Al-Karaouine or Al-Qarawiyin (Arabic: القدْرُوْقِاَيّن) considered by the Guinness Book of Records, UNESCO and many historians as the oldest continuously operating, academic degree-granting university in the world.
  - Visit the Tanneries of Fes, which give the Medina its unique flavor and smell.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Fes
Day Five: Thursday, February 16, 2017

ROYAL RABAT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and depart Fes for Meknes, located on a fertile plain north of the Middle Atlas, and former residence of the Sultan.
- **LaDa’at Focus** Finding Life where Life can be Found: Urban versus Rural with your tour educator.
- Arrive in Meknes, once the home of the Sultan of Morocco, and visit the **Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail**, who established his royal capital here during his long reign from the final decades of the 17th century through the first few decades of the 18th century. Moulay Ismail was a sultan who was particularly known as being a ruthless, megalomaniac leader, which always leaves room for good sites left behind.
- Continue with a visit to the **Royal Stables**. These stables were massive, built to hold 12,000 horses. While today, evidence of the great earthquake of the 18th century, that ruined much of the stables, is clear. What is also clear is that the Sultan Ismail sure loved his horses. Each one was waited on, hand and foot (or rather hoof and hoof), each with their own groom and slave.
- **Lunch** at a restaurant.
- Depart for Rabat.
- **Friends in High Places**: Begin your visit with a city tour that includes a drive around the walls of the **Royal Palace** and a visit to the **Mausoleums of Mohammad V and Hassan II**, two rulers who worked hand-in-hand with the Jewish community.
- Enjoy a guided walk through the Old Walled City and the marvelous **Kasbah des Oudayas**. The oldest part of the city, dating back to the 12th century, sits high about the river and the ocean. Massive gates, whitewashed homes and vistas of rolling waves pave the way for a culturally unique experience.
- Continue to the hotel for check-in.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Rabat

---

Day Six: Friday, February 17, 2017

THE ROAD TO MARRAKECH - ONE SENSE AT A TIME

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel and drive to Marrakech.
- **LaDa’at Focus** Marrakech – An Oasis with your tour educator.
- **Tantalize the Senses with Sights, Sounds and Smells**: Begin your visit in Marrakech with a panoramic tour of the city.
- Lunch on own, en route.
- Enjoy a guided tour of the **Medina** of Marrakech, including:
  - **Bab Agnaou**, one of the gates of the Medina.
  - The **Slat el Azama Synagogue**, the synagogue of the Mellah.
  - The 19th-century **Bahia Palace**.
- Check into the hotel with time to freshen up and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Shabbat services** at the **Bet-El Synagogue**.
- **Shabbat home hospitality dinner** with members of the local Jewish community.

Overnight: Marrakech
Day Seven: Saturday, February 18, 2017

SHABBAT IN MARRAKECH | walking tour

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Optional Shabbat services at Slat el Azama Synagogue, the synagogue of the Mellah.
- Shabbat lunch in the Medina of Marrakech.
- Continue with a walking tour in the Medina.
- Visit the Saadian Tombs, built in the 16th century as a mausoleum for many Saadian rulers and entertainers.
- Visit the Dar Si Said Museum of Moroccan Arts.
- Explore Marrakech’s enormous marketplace, and experience the Djemaa El Fna Square, one of the most colorful and mysterious sites in all of Africa, with its snake-charmers, street vendors, musicians, jugglers, fortune-tellers and storytellers.
- Return to the hotel.
- Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Eight: Sunday, February 19, 2017

EXCURSION TO ESSAOUIRA

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Marrakech and drive to Essaouira, a charming fishing port on the Atlantic coast.
- Along the way, stop at a women’s cooperative producing Argan oil and cosmetics.
- Arrive in Essaouira and view the impressive town fortifications, consisting of a mixture of Portuguese and Berber architecture.
- Explore the souks and carpentry workshops devoted to ceder and thuya wood carving.
- Lunch at a restaurant.
- Visit art galleries dotted in the city.
- Visit the harbor and its stalls of freshly caught fish.
- Return to Marrakech.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Nine: Monday, February 20, 2017

MYSTICAL LANDSCAPES

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Visit the famous Majorelle Garden, created by the orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle, and the Berber Museum housed inside the garden. This mystical garden took 40 years to create, and all one needs is to walk along its paths, in the shade of the trees, and exotic plants, in sight of the lotus and Lilly, by the sparkling pools and springs, to understand why it took so long.
- Depart Marrakech and drive to the Ourika Valley. Enjoy the lush greens of the high Atlas foothills, local gorges and beautiful scenery.
- LaDa’at Focus Who are Our Hosts: Berber Civilization and Culture with your tour educator.
- Lunch at a restaurant.
- Drive through the beautiful, lush, green valley and visit a Berber village.
- Continue to Tahanaout, a village in the Atlas Mountains.
- Check into the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Tahanaout (Atlas Mountains)
Day Ten: Monday, February 21, 2017

MYSTICAL LANDSCAPES

- Breakfast at the hotel and check out.
- Drive to the National park of Toubkal, the highest peak in North Africa.
- Drive along the valley of Asni and the gorges of Moulay Brahim up a scenic road to the village of Imlil.
- Hike (or ride a mule) up to the village of Armed at 6000 ft to enjoy a spectacular view walking up the hills overlooking the valley of Imlil, dominated by the 14,000 ft high Toubkal Mountain.
- Discover these remote villages and their Berber community who will welcome us in one of the houses for a traditional mint tea.
- Enjoy a demonstration of local bread making and enjoy a traditional lunch.
- Walk down the valley from the village.
- Return to Marrakech.
- Check into the hotel and free time for last minute packing, shopping or to relax.
- Final Thoughts and Feelings: Festive farewell dinner and group reflection.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Eleven: Monday, February 22, 2017

RETURN HOME

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Transfer to Casablanca International Airport.
- Departure flight to the U.S.A., arriving the same day.