



TORAH IN MOTION JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR IN GLORIOUS

GREECE

WITH DR. MARC SHAPIRO
AUGUST 1 - 10, 2023
ITINERARY *(subject to change)*

TUESDAY: ARRIVAL IN ATHENS

Travel via suspension bridge to Chalkis, capital of the island of Evia, where the oldest registered Jewish community of Europe still exists today! Enjoy a lovely promenade along the sea and the Evripos "sliding" bridge, Walk to the beautiful Romaniote Synagogue built in 1855 for a guided tour. Dinner.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **The Grand Hyatt Athens**

WEDNESDAY: ATHENS - TRIKKALA - METEORA - IOANNINA

This morning, travel to Trikkala. Visit the "Kahal Kadosh Yevanim" Romaniote Synagogue, then transfer to Kalampaka, at the footsteps of the magnificent Meteora rocks. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the Meteora rocks, amidst spectacular scenery, considered among the most inspiring in the world! Travel to Ioannina, a beautiful lakeside town, the capital of Epirus prefecture. Dinner at the hotel, situated opposite the Pamvotis Lake.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hotel du Lac Congress Centre & Spa**

THURSDAY: EXCURSION TO THE GORGEOUS ISLAND OF CORFU

Travel to Igoumenitsa's port to take the ferry to Corfu. Visit the Holocaust Monument, the old Jewish ghetto and the beautiful Romaniote Synagogue "Scuola Greca," followed by lunch. Visit the city center, the famous Spianada Square (biggest square in Greece) and make a stop in front of the Venetian fortress where the local Jews were imprisoned before their deportation to Auschwitz in June 1944. Return by ferry to the port of Igoumenitsa (mainland). Transfer from the port of Igoumenitsa to Hotel du Lac in Ioannina, where dinner will be served.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hotel du Lac Congress Centre & Spa**

FRIDAY: VISIT IOANNINA - BOAT TOUR TO THE ISLET - ZAGORI BRIDGES

Guided walking tour of the old Jewish Quarter, the Holocaust Memorial and the magnificent Romaniote Synagogue "Kahal Kadosh Yashan" inside the Ottoman fortress, built in 1829. Transfer by private boat to the picturesque islet in the middle of the lake, with lunch to follow. Return to Ioannina by private boat, then a quick trip to the Zagori mountains. Visit the beautiful bridges, built in the late 18th century, which connect the isolated mountainous villages of Zagori. Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hotel du Lac Congress Centre & Spa**

SATURDAY: SHABBAT IN IOANNINA

Davening in hotel, with Shabbat lunch and free time to walk along the lake or rest and relaxation. A fascinating shiur will be offered by Dr. Marc Shapiro, followed by Seuda Shlishit.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hotel du Lac Congress Centre & Spa**

SUNDAY: IOANNINA - METSOVO - VERIA - SALONIKA

Travel to the traditional mountain village of Metsovo, and stroll around the village and the colorful souvenir shops. Afterwards, we will visit the green city of Veria, which lies on the slopes of Mount Vermion in a landscape of incomparable beauty. Lunch by the Tripotamos River at the entrance of the pre-war Jewish quarter. Enjoy a guided walking tour of the old Jewish quarter and the recently restored synagogue. Transfer to Salonika (Thessaloniki), capital of the region of Central Macedonia and second-largest city in Greece. Salonika was the most populous Sephardic city for over 400 years, called “Madre de Israel” and “Jerusalem of the Balkans”.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hyatt Regency Hotel**

MONDAY: SALONIKA

Travel to the Monastirli Synagogue, built in 1927 by Jews originating from Monastir (former Yugoslavia), today called Bitola. There will be a guided tour of the Sephardic Synagogue, the only one that survived World War II of the more than 50 functioning Synagogues in 1940. Afterwards, we will walk through the market to the Yad Lezikaron Synagogue, dedicated to the memory of the 55,000 Salonikan Jews who were victims of the Holocaust, where we will enjoy a guided tour. From there, we walk to meet our guide for the Jewish Museum. Then we take a stroll to Plateia Eleftherias, where the persecutions of the Jewish population of Thessaloniki started in July 1942, where we will visit the Holocaust Memorial. This is followed by a panoramic city tour, highlighting formerly Jewish-owned villas and the old, walled Upper City (Ano Poli). Return to the hotel via Mediterranean Cosmos Shopping Mall. After dinner, travel to the White Tower, the most famous landmark of Salonika. Finish the day with a “By Night” tour by boat of the Thermaic Gulf of Salonika.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Hyatt Regency Hotel**

TUESDAY: SALONIKA - VOLOS - ATHENS

Travel to Volos, capital of Magnesia Prefecture, which is surrounded by beautiful mountains and a charming bay. Visit the Holocaust Museum, then visit the Romaniote Synagogue. From Volos we journey to Athens.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel**

WEDNESDAY: PANORAMIC CITY TOUR OF ATHENS - THE FAMOUS CANAL OF CORINTH

Enjoy a guided tour of the Acropolis, which includes the Parthenon. We will then take a trip via the coastal highway to the famous Isthmus (Canal) of Corinth. Visit the submersible bridge, cross the impressive canal and visit the canal’s “high bridge” for pedestrians.

ACCOMMODATIONS: **Athenaeum Intercontinental Hotel**

THURSDAY: RETURN TO AIRPORT FOR FLIGHTS HOME

Following breakfast there will be transfers to the airport for departure.