

program*

* whatcha gonna do.

program dated: April 9, 2014

JEWISH FEDERATION OF ROCKLAND MISSION TO MOROCCO March 8 – 16, 2015

Day One: Sunday, March 8, 2015

DEPARTURE

- Depart the U.S.A.

Overnight: Flight

Day Two: Monday, March 9, 2015

ARRIVAL IN CASABLANCA

- Arrive at Casablanca International Airport.
- Welcome by our representative and assistance with arrival formalities.
- Panoramic tour of Casablanca and its diverse neighborhoods.
- *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.
- **Lunch** at a restaurant.
- Visit the **OSE (Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants) clinic**, which provides general and emergency medical care and medicines to the poor, elderly and those who cannot afford private medical care within the Jewish community.
- Visit the **Jewish home for the aged** that provides full residential care, medical care, dental care and social facilities to some of the community's most impoverished and isolated people.
- Visit the **Beth – El Synagogue**, which is considered the "main" synagogue of Casablanca and is still very active.
- Relax, unpack and settle in.
- *An Inside Look into the Moroccan Jewish Community – Past, Present, Future* **Opening dinner** with staff of the **Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)**.

Overnight: Casablanca

Day Three: Tuesday, March 10, 2015

CASABLANCA TO FES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out and depart the hotel for a visit of the famous **Mosque of Hassan II** (the third largest Mosque in the world).
- Continue to **Volubilis**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, founded in the 3rd century B.C., which became an important outpost of the Roman Empire.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Depart for **Fes**, the most extensive medieval city in the Arab world and the place where Jewish scholars and Rabbi's walked the streets for hundreds of years.
- Check into your hotel.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Fes

Day Four: Wednesday, March 11, 2015

THE MYSTERIES OF FES

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Panoramic view of the Medina of Fes from Borj Sud.
- Guided visit through the **Mellah** (Jewish Quarter) of Fes and visit the **Iben Danan Synagogue** and the **El Fassiyin Synagogue**, two ancient synagogues that have been restored.
- Visit the famous Fes **Jewish cemetery**, where some of Fes's legendary rabbis are buried.
- Continue for a guided walk through the **Medina**, where the famous Jewish scholar Maimonides once lived, our visit will include:
 - A glimpse of local craftsman at work in their shops as they weave, embroider, carve and chisel today as they have done for centuries.
 - Tour the **Madrasa Bou Inania**, founded in AD 1351–56. The madrasa is one of the few religious places in Morocco that is accessible for non-Islamic visitors.
 - **Lunch** in the Medina.
 - Visit the **Museum of Wooden Arts** in the beautifully restored former Caravan Stop.
 - Peak into the **University of Al-Karaouine** or **Al-Qarawiyyin** (Arabic: جامعة القرويين), considered by the Guinness book, UNESCO and many historians as the oldest continuously operating academic degree-granting university in the world.
 - Discover the **Tanneries** of Fes, which give the Medina its unique flavor and smell.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Fes

Day Five: Thursday, March 12, 2015

ROYAL RABAT

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Depart Fes for **Meknes**, located on a fertile plain north of the Middle Atlas and the former residence of the Sultan.
- Upon arrival in Meknes, enter the **Mausoleum of Moulay Ismail**, who made Meknes his capital during his reign from 1672-1727.
- Visit the **Royal Stables**.
- Meet with a caretaker of the **Old Jewish Synagogue** for an introduction to what was and what remains of Jewish Life.
- **Lunch** at a restaurant.
- Depart for Rabat.
- Upon arrival in **Rabat**, tour the city, including a visit around the walls of the **Royal Palace** and the **Mausoleums of Mohammad V** and **Hassan II**, two kings who worked hand-in-hand with the Jewish Community.
- Guided walk through the Old Walled City and the marvelous **Kasbah des Oudayas**.
- Continue to your hotel for check-in.
- **Dinner** at the hotel.

Overnight: Rabat

Day Six: Friday, March 13, 2015

RABAT TO MARRAKECH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Check out of the hotel.
- Drive to **Marrakech**.
- Upon arrival in Marrakech, panoramic tour of the city.
- Visit the **Majorelle Garden**, the famous garden created by the orientalist painter Jacques Majorelle.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Guided tour in the **Medina** of Marrakech, including:
 - **Bab Agnaou**, one of the gates of the Medina.
 - The **Saadian Tombs**, built in the 16th century as a mausoleum to bury many Saadian rulers and entertainers.
 - The **Slat El Azama Synagogue**, the synagogue of the **Mellah**.
- Check into the hotel.
- Time to freshen up and prepare for Shabbat.
- **Shabbat services** at the **Bet-El Synagogue**.
- **Festive Shabbat dinner** at the hotel **OR home hospitality dinner** with the local Jewish community.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Seven: Saturday, March 14, 2015

SHABBAT IN MARRAKECH

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- *Optional* Shabbat services at the **Slat El Azama Synagogue**, OR morning at leisure.
- **Lunch** at a restaurant.
- Walking tour in the Medina of Marrakech, including visits to:
 - The **Bahia Palace**, dating from the 19th century.
 - The **Dar Si Said Museum of Moroccan Arts**.
- Explore Marrakech's enormous **marketplace**.
- Experience the **Djma El Fna Square**, one of the most colorful and mysterious sites in all of Africa with its snake charmers, street vendors, musicians, jugglers, fortunetellers and storytellers.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Eight: Sunday, March 15, 2014

THE OURIKA VALLEY

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Marrakech for a half-day tour to the **Ourika Valley**.
- Drive through the beautiful, lush green valley and visit a Berber village.
- Visit the tomb of **Rabbi Shlomo bel Hansh**, a place of pilgrimage for many Moroccan Jews.
- Lunch on your own, en route.
- Return to Marrakech.
- Return to the **marketplace** for last-minute shopping.
- **Farewell Dinner** at a modern local restaurant offering a modern interpretation of traditional Moroccan cuisine.

Overnight: Marrakech

Day Nine: Monday, March 16, 2015

RETURN TO THE USA

- 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.