Summer 2020
Itinerary

The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry

Tour of Jewish Greece & FYROM (North Macedonia)

June 8 - 21, 2020

Includes Thessaloniki, Kastoria, Metsovo, Ioannina, Bitola/Monastir, Skopje, and Ohrid
Fully Escorted Tour of Greece & North Macedonia

Includes Greece (Thessaloniki, Kastoria, Metsovo, and Ioannina) and North Macedonia (Bitola/Monastir, Skopje, and Ohrid)

June 8 – 21, 2020

Itinerary

Day 1 – Monday June 8. Arrive in Thessaloniki, Greece

We arrive in Athens with a connecting flight to Thessaloniki (Salonika). In Thessaloniki, our private bus will pick us up at the airport to take us to our hotel, the Electra Palace. Salonika was the most populous city of Sephardic presence for over 400 years, known as “La Madre de Israel” and the “Jerusalem of the Balkans,” and the city where the family of our tour guide, Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, once lived. When our group visits Salonika, it is always a very personal visit. Our hotel is always the Electra Palace, located overlooking Platea Aristotelos, within walking distance to the Modiano Market and all Jewish sites. Dinner included.

Day 2 – Tuesday June 9. Thessaloniki

Full day tour of Salonika with our person tour guide from the Jewish Community, Hella Kounio Matalon. We will visit the Jewish cemetery, both synagogues, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, tour the Jewish quarters, see the villas once inhabited by the famous wealthy families of Salonika, visit the memorials (the Holocaust memorial and the cemetery memorial at the University) and, finally, the Upper City. Overnight at the Electra Palace.
Day 3 – Wednesday June 10. Skopje

Our private bus will take us to Skopje, capital of North Macedonia. Skopje is a picturesque town with many sights reminiscent of its Ottoman Turkish past. Only a five-minute walk from our hotel (near Macedonian Square), and a short walk over the old Stone Bridge (a city landmark), is the old city of Skopje and the Old Turkish Bazaar, a great place to really sense the essence of the city. The Bazaar is lively, day and evening, and is a great place to stop and taste some of the local specialties. Today is a free day to explore. The group will meet for a traditional local meal at dinner (included). Overnight in Skopje at the Marriott.
Day 4 – Thursday June 11. Skopje

Half day bus tour to outskirts of Skopje with panoramic views looking down on the city. We will also visit the Holocaust Museum. **Overnight in Skopje at the Marriot.**

Day 5 – Friday June 12. Ohrid

Our private bus will take us to the beautiful city of Ohrid, located on a scenic lake and a great spot to wind down for the weekend. Our hotel is the Millennium Palace, located overlooking the Lake. **Dinner included at a local restaurant.**

Day 6 – Saturday June 13. Ohrid

We will enjoy a restful Shabbat alongside the Lake. Lake Ohrid was a traditional place for the Jews of the Former Yugoslavia to spend their weekends. Lunch included. **Overnight at Millennium Palace.**
Day 7 – Sunday June 14. Bitola (Monastir)

Once the home of a traditional Jewish community, there are still many Jewish sites to see including former homes still decorated with Judaic symbols and the former Jewish cemetery, now undergoing a restoration. Our hotel is the Hotel Millennium. Dinner included.

Day 8 – Monday June 15. Bitola and Heraclea

Half day trip to Heraclea, an archeological site right outside of Bitola. Afternoon free to visit the bazaars.
Day 9 – Tuesday June 16. Kastoria

Our private bus will take us back to Greece and the picturesque city of Kastoria. We will be staying at the Hotel Kastoria located close to the former Jewish quarter. While we have visited Kastoria before and made great connections in the city, this is the first time we will be staying over. It will give us the time to absorb the ambience and sights of this special city. Dinner included.

Day 10 – Wednesday June 17. Kastoria

Half day tour of Jewish Kastoria, visiting the former Jewish quarter and meeting the only Jew still living in the city. We will also take in the special sights of the city.

Day 11 – Thursday June 18. Metsovo and Ioannina

Leaving Kastoria in our private bus, we will stop at Metsovo, a traditional mountain village in Epirus, where we will visit the local shops and stop for lunch at our favorite place for the best Lakanopita (traditional Greek leek pie). Afterwards we will head to Ioannina. Our hotel in Ioannina is the DuLac. Lunch included.
Day 12 – Friday June 19. Ioannina

Ioannina, the heart of Romaniote life in Greece. Today we will tour Jewish Ioannina, the cemetery, the synagogue and Jewish sites in Ioannina. Morning visit to the Jewish cemetery, followed by a guided walking tour of Jewish Ioannina. Visit the Kastro (walled city) and walk the cobblestoned streets where, for centuries, the Jewish community of Ioannina lived. We will return to our hotel to freshen up for Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat services. Our group will arrive at the synagogue before the onset of Shabbat to give us time to take photos. Overnight in Ioannina at the DuLac. Dinner included.
Day 13 – Saturday June 20. Ioannina

Today we will be treated to a special celebration in Ioannina, a simcha, the celebration of a Bat Mitzvah from a member of the Naphtali family. It is always an honor to see the synagogue filled with joy. We will visit the Island on the Lake, an iconic site for the Jewish community of Ioannina. Lunch included. Overnight at the Hotel DuLac.

Day 14 – Sunday June 21. Athens

Scenic ride back to Athens, passing by Arta and the Corinthian Canal. Our tour ends in Athens on Sunday, June 21. If you wish to stay longer, either in Athens or elsewhere, we can help arrange this.

See below for Tour Details and Pricing.
Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos, Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, will accompany this tour and will be with you 24/7. **Due to airline policies, this tour is priced without international air.** We will gladly book your international air for you.

Unlike other tours there is no penalty if you wish to do part of the tour. Let us know what you want to do and we will price it for you. If you wish to extend your stay, we would be happy to help you with bookings.

Our 2020 Tour to Jewish Greece and North Macedonia (14 full days) includes all hotels, all transfers, all taxes, all breakfasts, 6 dinners, 2 lunches, domestic flights from Athens to Thessaloniki, all entrance fees to attractions included in tour, and private bus throughout the tour.

**Double (per person in double room): $4,086**  
**Single:** $4,588

**Note: international air is not included** in the prices above.

If you need help finding a roommate we will try to help you. So we can finalize the reservations for the hotels and book domestic flights before they book up, please send in $250 deposit (per person) as soon as possible. Deposits must be in before November 1, 2019 to assure a place on the tour. Space is limited. Make checks payable to “The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry” and mail to the same at One Hanson Place, Huntington, NY 11743.

Please submit the following information along with your $250 deposit:

**Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)** ________________________________

**Address** __________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________

**Email** ____________________________  **Phone** ____________________________

**Number in your party** ____________________________  **Ages** ____________________________

**Single rooms** __________  **Double rooms** __________  **Triple rooms** __________

**Date of Birth** (of each person) ____________________________

**Passport Number** (of each person) ____________________________

*Note: it is best to fill out a separate form for each person*
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If you have any questions, contact Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos at museum@kkjsm.org or 516-456-9336