



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOUR OF JEWISH GREECE & THE BALKANS

July 7-17, 2024

INCLUDES SOFIA, PLOVDIV, BITOLA (MONASTIR), SKOPJE,
THESSALONIKI, VERIA, IOANNINA, & CORFU
WITH OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO RHODES

REDISCOVER YOUR HERITAGE AND CONNECT WITH OTHER YOUNG
SEPHARDIC JEWS ON THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

To register and learn more email
Ethan@SephardicBrotherhood.com





Day 1 - Sunday July 7

Arrive in Sofia, Bulgaria. Overnight in Sofia at the Central Hotel Sofia.



Day 2 - Monday July 8

Our first full day in Sofia exploring the city center. We'll visit the Jewish neighborhood, the Sofia Synagogue, the city's Jewish memorials, and admire traditional Sephardic handiwork by the women of "Bendichas Manos" (Blessed Hands). We will also visit several major city landmarks including the imposing Alexander Nevski Cathedral, the fourth-century Roman Rotunda, and newly excavated Roman ruins. Free time in the afternoon to continue exploring Sofia on your own. Overnight in Sofia at the Central Hotel Sofia.



Day 3 - Tuesday July 9

Our morning drive through the Thracian Valley will take us toward Plovdiv, Bulgaria's second-largest city. As we walk the cobble streets of the Old Town, we'll see some of the most impressive examples of opulent nineteenth century, Roman, and Ottoman architecture. We'll also learn about Plovdiv's vibrant Jewish community, walk through the historic Jewish neighborhood, and visit the city's lovely synagogue, the only other active one in Bulgaria. Overnight in Sofia at the Central Hotel Sofia.





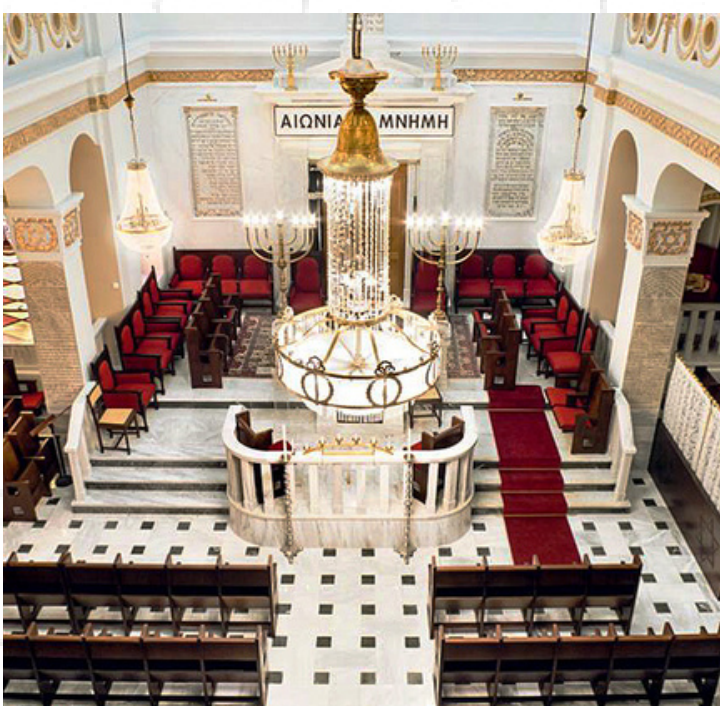
Day 4 - Wednesday July 10

Today we leave Sofia and head west towards Kyustendil. We then cross the border into North Macedonia, arriving in the nation's capital, Skopje. We will visit the new Holocaust Memorial Center and learn about the tragic fate of North Macedonia's Jews, visit the Bet Yaakov Synagogue, and explore the rejuvenated Skopje downtown area where Ottoman past and modern times blend harmoniously. Skopje boasts the Kale Fortress, the renowned Old Bazaar and Stone Bridge, the Double Hamam, the Clock Tower and more. Overnight in Skopje at the Hotel Senigallia.



Day 5 - Thursday July 11

Our morning drive through North Macedonia takes us by Stobi, an archaeological complex where remains of a Roman-era synagogue were discovered. Once we cross the border into Greece, we continue our drive toward Vergina (Aigai), one of the country's most spectacular archaeological sites. We then make a special stop in Veria, a quaint mountain town with a beautiful landscape and historic Jewish quarter, and continue to Thessaloniki (Salonika), Greece's second largest city. Overnight in Thessaloniki at the Hotel Astoria.



Day 6 - Friday July 12

We have a busy day to explore much of what Jewish Thessaloniki has to offer. Salonika's thriving Sephardic community earned the city the name "Madre de Israel." We'll visit the two synagogues and the Jewish Museum, explore the Upper City with its lavish villas and Byzantine Walls, and take in fabulous views of the harbor. The evening will include Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by Shabbat Dinner. Overnight in Thessaloniki at the Hotel Astoria.





Day 7 - Saturday July 13

Today is a free day to rest and celebrate Shabbat, with services at the Yad LeZikaron synagogue a short walk from our hotel (optional). The rest of the day you're free to explore the city, visit museums and sites, or enjoy our time with the Jewish community. We'll come back together in the evening for a group Havdalah, followed by a night out with Sephardic young professionals from Thessaloniki. Our hotel is steps away from the Ladadika and Valaoritou districts which house some of the city's best taverns, restaurants, and nightlife. Overnight in Thessaloniki at the Hotel Astoria.



Day 8 - Sunday July 14

Today we travel west through the lovely mountain village of Metsovo, known for its gorgeous views. We continue to Ioannina, the historic home of the Romaniote Jewish community. Visit the historic Jewish cemetery, walk the streets of the fortified old town and the Jewish neighborhood, and enjoy the lovely scenery of the Pamvotis lake. We continue west and take a scenic ferry ride to the island of Corfu. Overnight in Corfu at the Corfu Mare Boutique Hotel.



Day 9 - Monday July 15

The town of Corfu is flanked by two Venetian fortresses, and you will also recognize the Venetian influence in the local architecture, street layout, and general atmosphere. Our walking tour of Corfu includes the lively Liston promenade, the Old Fortress, the Campiello quarter, the Jewish ghetto, the Holocaust Memorial, and the La Scuola Greca Synagogue. Free time in the afternoon to enjoy the bazaar alleyways and the island's great nightlife. Overnight in Corfu at the Corfu Mare Boutique Hotel.





Day 10 - Tuesday July 16

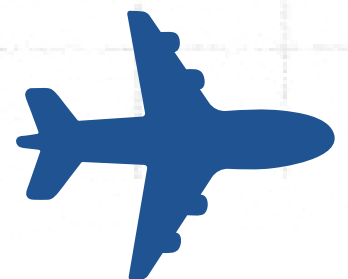
We spend our last full day in Greece relaxing at one of the beautiful Corfu beaches and swimming in the warm turquoise waters of the Ionian Sea. In the evening we'll have a festive farewell dinner. Overnight in Corfu at the Corfu Mare Boutique Hotel.



Day 11 - Wednesday July 17

Free time and departure for airport transfer.

Optional extension to the island of Rhodes for a special international commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of Rhodes during the Holocaust.



Tour Details & Cost

This specially priced Young Professionals Tour of Jewish Greece & the Balkans includes all hotels, all transfers, all taxes, all breakfasts, 5 dinners, 1 lunch, all entrance fees to attractions included in the tour, 1 domestic ferry from mainland Greece to Corfu, and private bus throughout the tour. This tour is organized by the Greek Jewish & Sephardic Cultural Foundation and is subsidized by the Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network to keep the cost at a level our members can afford, so that they can meet and network with other young Sephardic Jews in Greece and the Balkans.

Double (per person in double room): \$2,500

Single Supplement: \$840

Note: International airfare is not included in the prices above. We recommend the following arrival flight to align with our itinerary:

US to Bulgaria:

- Turkish Airlines - Depart NYC JFK Airport Sunday July 7 at 12:20am ET. Arrive in Istanbul Airport (IST) the same day Sunday July 7 at 5:20pm.
- Turkish Airlines - Depart Istanbul Airport (IST) Sunday July 7 at 7pm Istanbul Time. Arrive in Sofia (SOF) same day at 8:20pm.

Registered Greek, Bulgarian, and North Macedonian tour guides will accompany the tour and will be with you 24/7. This tour is specially designed by Dr. Joseph Benatov of the University of Pennsylvania and Sephardic Balkans LLC, and Dr. Benatov will lead the tour in Bulgaria. Kashrut accommodation is available. We try to make your travel as stress-free as possible.

Space is limited. This notice is only going out to young adults in their 20s or 30s who are part of the Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network. If you wish to reserve your place, please contact Ethan Marcus at Ethan@SephardicBrotherhood.com. Upon confirmation, you will need to send in your \$750 deposit per person by February 15, 2024. We must pay a deposit by this date to finalize hotel reservations.

Note: The price of this tour is already subsidized, but if you are a student or face severe financial difficulties, we may be able to provide limited additional financial assistance. Email Ethan@SephardicBrotherhood.com to learn more.



If you have any questions, contact Ethan Marcus via email at Ethan@SephardicBrotherhood.com

Information to submit with deposit by February 15, 2024:

Name (exactly as it appears on your passport): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Passport Number: _____

Number of People in Your Party: _____

Number of Single Rooms: _____ Number of Double Rooms: _____

Please submit a copy of your passport via email to Ethan@sephardicbrotherhood.com



"The trip was special because it was surreal to witness as my new friends found a part of themselves that they had not known existed. I met friends as they set foot in the same synagogue where their ancestors had prayed and left their marks, and we all had an unforgettable time exploring beautiful beaches and vibrant city nightlife. Thank you for the rare opportunity to partake in this journey."

"This trip was absolutely incredible. It was special, met many great people, and made many great memories. I would very strongly recommend this trip to any and all of my friends. It was epic."

- Past Tour Participants

