

Young Professionals Tour of Greece Summer 2022



The Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network
in partnership with
The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry

Tour of Jewish Greece July 10 – 20, 2022

Includes Thessaloniki, Veroia, Kastoria, Ioannina, Athens, & Rhodes

Rediscover your heritage and connect with other young Greek Jews on this
once-in-a-lifetime experience

Fully Escorted Tour of Greece

July 10 – July 20, 2022

Itinerary

Day 1 – Sunday July 10. Travel to Greece

Leave New York and fly to Thessaloniki.

Day 2 – Monday July 11. Arrive in Thessaloniki.

In Thessaloniki our private bus will pick us up at the airport and take us to our hotel, the **Tobacco Hotel**. Welcome to Salonika – “La Madre de Israel, the Jerusalem of the Balkans.” Salonika was the most populous city of Sephardic presence for over 400 years, 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 owned by a member of the Jewish Community and is located in a former Jewish-owned property that was once used as a Tobacco factory. The site has now been transformed into modern hotel in the center of the city. **Dinner tonight is included in the tour. Overnight at the Tobacco Hotel.**



Day 3 – Tuesday July 12. Thessaloniki

Today we tour Jewish Salonika with **Hella Kounio Matalon**, a local member of the Jewish community who will be our private guide. We will see the **two synagogues of Salonika**, visit the **Jewish cemetery**, walk through the old Jewish quarters, tour the **Jewish Museum**, and visit Holocaust memorials and the train station where the Jews were deported to Auschwitz. In the afternoon we will see the villas where wealthy Jews in the city once lived and take in a panoramic view of the city from Ano Poli (the upper city where part of ancient fortifications remain). The rest of the evening is free to explore the nightlife of the city. **Overnight at the Tobacco Hotel.**



Day 4 – Wednesday July 13. Veroia, Kastoria, and Ioannina

We rise early today to first visit **Veroia**, then **Kastoria**, and finally **Ioannina**. Some members of our group have their roots in these three cities and, therefore, it gives us the opportunity to visit and learn about these “off-the-beaten-path” Greek cities where Jews once lived and one (Ioannina) which still has a small Jewish community. Both Veroia and Kastoria had close family and commercial ties to Salonika. In Veroia we will visit the former synagogue and the Barbouta (Jewish quarter). In Kastoria, we will be treated with a private tour of Jewish Kastoria by a local friend who is working with our Tour Leader to create a Jewish Museum in the city. Ioannina is always special to us since it is the traditional center of Romaniote Jewry and the sister city in Greece to Kehila Kedosha Janina Synagogue and Museum. **Lunch and Dinner included. Overnight at the beautiful Hotel DuLac.**



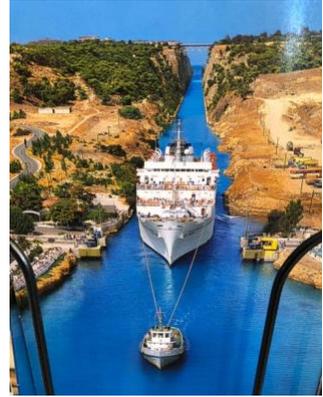
Day 5 – Thursday July 14. Ioannina

Today we have a full day in **Ioannina**, walking through the cobble-stoned streets inside the Kastro (walled fortress) and the picturesque town near the lake. A dear friend and local member of the Jewish community will give us an overview of the Jewish community of Ioannina in the historic synagogue of Ioannina, and then we will take a walking tour of Jewish Ioannina. We will also visit the island on the Lake for lunch. Take a dip in the pool at the DuLac before dinner. The evening is free to explore the nightlife of Ioannina (an old city with a very young presence due to the University of Ioannina). **Lunch included. Overnight at the Hotel DuLac.**



Day 6 – Friday July 15. Travel to Athens

Our private bus will take us on a picturesque drive to **Athens**, driving along the Corinthian Canal and stopping at the Isthmus of Corinth along the way, and arriving to Athens in time to freshen up before Shabbat. **Join us for Shabbat services Friday evening led by our dear friend Rabbi Gabriel Negrin, who is also a Greek Jewish young professional. Shabbat Dinner included.** We will also get to meet other young members of the Jewish community in Athens. Our hotel will be the **Jason Inn**, right across the street from the **Beth Shalom Synagogue** and the **Yanniotiki Synagogue (Etz Hayyim)**. Enjoy amazing views of the Acropolis and Athens from the hotel rooftop at night.



Day 7 – Saturday July 16. Athens

Today we'll rest and celebrate Shabbat in Athens, with services at Beth Shalom synagogue and **Shabbat Lunch and Dinner included**. The rest of the day is free to walk around the city, visit the Acropolis, museums, see the changing of the guard in Syntagma Square, walk up Athinais to the open-air food market, walk through Monastiraki and the flea market, or stroll through Plaka, the oldest neighborhood in Athens. Our tour guide will give you all the information you need. Watch the sunset over the Acropolis and finish Shabbat with Havdalah services. **Overnight at the Jason Inn.**



Day 8 – Sunday July 17. Athens to Rhodes

Morning visit to the Jewish Museum of Greece. Afterwards we will head to the airport to fly to the beautiful island of Rhodes, once home to a thriving Sephardic community and still home to a small Jewish community. On arrival, our bus will pick us up at the airport and take us to our lovely hotel in Rhodes, the **Island Marisol Hotel**. The afternoon is free to swim in the beautiful Aegean Sea or swim in the hotel pool before dinner. **Dinner included**. The rest of the evening is free to walk to the Old City and explore the island nightlife. **Overnight at the Island Marisol Hotel.**



Day 9 – Monday July 18. Rhodes

Today we explore **Jewish Rhodes**, walking through the streets of the Medieval City of the Crusader Knights. Our special tour guide, who is a member of the local Jewish community, will tell us about **Kahal Shalom Synagogue**, the oldest functioning synagogue in Greece, and walk us through the Jewish quarter, the **Juderia**. The afternoon is free to shop, explore, or hit the beach again. **Overnight at the Island Marisol Hotel.**



Day 10 – Wednesday July 19. Rhodes

Another full day in Rhodes with a private bus trip to **Lindos**, a picturesque village down the coast of Rhodes. Lindos is the site of the Ancient Acropolis of Rhodes and a delightful small town on the water, lined with charming white-washed streets and local donkeys just waiting for a photo op. Bring your bathing suit - we will stop at a local beach on the way back to Rhodes town. **Farewell Dinner included. Overnight at the Island Marisol Hotel.**



Day 11 – Wednesday July 20. Return to USA

We say goodbye to Rhodes and Greece as we depart to connect with our flight back to the USA.

Tour Details and Cost

This specially priced tour for the Greek Jewish & Sephardic Young Professionals Network (9 full days in Greece) includes all hotels, all transfers, all taxes, all breakfasts, 6 dinners, 3 lunches, all entrance fees to attractions included in the tour, domestic flight from Athens to Rhodes, and private bus throughout the tour. **This tour is sponsored by the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry 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 Greek Jews in Greece.**

Double (per person in double room): **\$1,990**

Single Supplement: \$330

Note: international air is not included in the prices above. Due to airline policies, this tour is priced without international air. We will gladly book your international air for you or any connecting flights you may need when arriving to Thessaloniki or departing Rhodes. The prices for international flights change daily and the closer we get to the date of departure, the more expensive the flights will be.

You can charge your international flight on your credit card, but all other payments must be made by check (see info below).

Marcia Haddad Ikonopoulou, President of the Association of Friends of Greek Jewry and Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina, will accompany this tour and will be with you 24/7.

Kashrut accommodation is available. We try to make your travel as stress-free as possible. With that in mind, as of March 2022, visitors to Greece from USA must present either a certificate of vaccination or recovery, or a negative Covid-19 test result. Learn more here: <https://greecehealthfirst.gr/>

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, send in **\$500 deposit (per person) by April 7, 2022**. We must pay a deposit by this date to finalize hotel reservations and book domestic flights. Make checks payable to "The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry" and mail to the same at 418 Duncan Elder Drive, Greenlawn, NY 11740.

Please submit the following information along with your \$500 deposit:

Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) _____

Address _____

Email _____ **Phone** _____

Date of Birth (of each person) _____

Passport Number (of each person) _____

Number of People in your Party _____

Single Rooms _____ Double Rooms _____ Triple Rooms _____

*Note: it is best to fill out a separate form for each person

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If you have any questions, contact us at museum@kkjsm.org or 516-456-9336.

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"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. Efcharisto (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
