Summer 2020 Itinerary

The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry

Tour of Jewish Greece

July 8 - 20, 2020

Includes Athens, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Rhodes, and 3-day Cruise to Mykonos, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, and Santorini

Fully Escorted Tour of Greece

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Itinerary

Day 1 – Wednesday July 8. Arrive in Athens, Greece

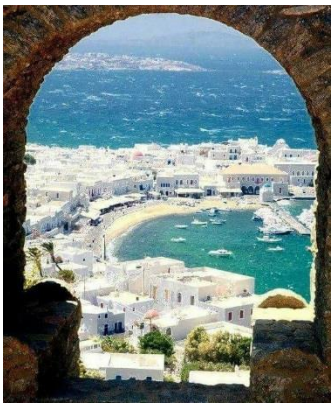
We start our tour in the heart of Greece, the capital city. Our hotel, the **Arethusa**, is located in **Plaka**, the oldest residential neighborhood in Athens, at the foot of the Acropolis. Our hotel is central to all major sites in Athens and a short walk to the Jewish sites of the city. **Welcome dinner. Overnight at the Arethusa.**

Day 2 – Thursday July 9. Athens

Tour of Jewish Athens. Visit to the **Jewish Museum of Greece,** the two synagogues (Beth Shalom and Etz Haim) and remains of a former synagogue in the Agora. **Overnight at the Arethusa**.

Day 3 – Friday July 10. Cruise on the Aegean – Mykonos

Today we depart from Athens for a three-day cruise through the Aegean Sea. Our first stop is **Mykonos,** one of the most iconic islands of Greece. We pull into the port in the evening, have a complementary shuttle to town, and plenty of time to catch an awe-inspiring sunset. Walk through the maze of streets with Bougainvillea cascading down from the white-washed houses. Shop at the unique boutiques and enjoy the ambience of one of the "must see" islands of Greece.



Day 4 – Saturday July 11. Cruise on the Aegean – Ephesus and Patmos

In the morning our ship docks at **Kusadasi** in Turkey, our gateway to the ancient Greek city of **Ephesus**. Walk through the ruins dating back to the 10th century B.C.E. Ephesus is one of the most fascinating archeological sites in the world. In the afternoon, we dock in the port of **Patmos**, the legendary island of the Monastery of St. John.

Day 5 – Sunday July 12. Cruise on the Aegean – Crete and Santorini

In the morning we pull into the Port of Heraklion, on the Island of Crete. Heraklion is the site of the **Ancient City of Knossos**, commercial center of the Minoan civilization. In the afternoon, we visit the magic island of **Santorini,** according to legend the ancient city of Atlantis. Be sure to catch a sunset along the caldera.

Day 6 – Monday July 13. Travel to Thessaloniki

Our cruise ends in the Port city of Pireaus, where our transfer will be waiting for us to take us to the airport for a flight to **Thessaloniki** (Salonika). Salonika was the most populous city of Sephardic Jews in the world for over 400 years. It was also the home of our tour guide's family. Marcia Haddad-Ikonomopoulos has a strong tie to this city and our group will benefit from her connections. Our hotel in Salonika is the **Electra Palace,** located in the center of the city on Plateia Aristotelous, with a rooftop bar and swimming pool. Tonight we will enjoy dinner at Yialos, sitting outside along the sea, watching the sunset. Overnight at the **Electra Palace. Dinner Included.**

Day 7 – Tuesday July 14. Thessaloniki

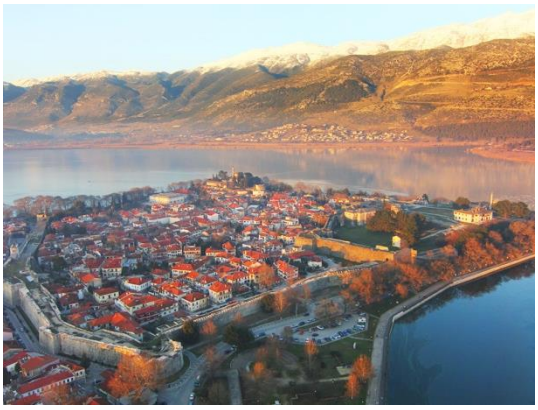
Today we will start the day with an amazing breakfast on the roof of the Electra Palace, looking down on the center of the city. Then we will enjoy a full day **tour of Jewish Salonika,** with our special tour guide, the daughter of a Holocaust survivor. We will visit the Jewish cemetery, the two synagogues, the Jewish Museum of Thessaloniki, the Holocaust Memorial, the Memorial at the former Jewish cemetery (now located on the grounds of the Aristotle University), have a bus ride past the villas once owned by prominent Jewish citizens, and go up to the Upper City for iconic photo ops. Overnight at the **Electra Palace**.

Day 8 – Wednesday July 15. Metsovo and Ioannina

Our private bus will take us from Salonika to **Ioannina**, stopping in **Metsovo** for lunch. Metsovo is a traditional village located in the Pindos Mountains, known for many things, not the least of which is its traditional leek pie. We will be treated to this delicacy at lunch. Because we have our own bus, we can stop at these places that most tours never include. Because our tour guide (Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos) has made connections among the locals in these small towns, we are welcomed like family. In Ioannina, our home away from home is the beautiful **DuLac Hotel**, located on iconic **Lake Pamviotis**. The Lake in Ioannina holds a nostalgic spot in the hearts of all Yanniotes. Our dear friends at the Hotel DuLac know this and ensure that our group gets the best rooms in the hotel. **Dinner included. Overnight at the DuLac Hotel.**

Day 9 – Thursday July 16. 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. See former Jewish homes and the still present Hebrew inscriptions on some of the buildings. Our tour guide is Allegra Matsas, a member of the Board of the Jewish Community of Ioannina. **Lunch on the Island in the Lake included. Overnight in Ioannina at the DuLac Hotel.**



Day 10 – Friday July 17. Travel to Rhodes

Today we take a morning flight to Athens with a connecting flight to Rhodes, arriving in time to attend Friday night services at the historic Kahal Shalom Synagogue, the oldest functioning synagogue in Greece, dedicated in 1577. Our hotel in Rhodes is the Semiramis, located close to the sea (and beach) and a short walk to the Old City. **Dinner included. Overnight at the Semiramis.**

Day 11 – Saturday July 18. Rhodes

Shabbat morning services, Shabbat lunch included. No planned activities on Shabbat. This is a perfect time to take a leisurely walk through the historic Old City, up the street of the Knights of St. John or return to our hotel for a leisurely walk along the beach. **Overnight at the Semiramis.**

Day 12 – Sunday July 19. Rhodes

Today we will be treated to a morning **tour of Jewish Rhodes**. The afternoon is free for shopping, enjoying the facilities of our hotel, a swim in the Aegean Sea or anything else you wish. **Farewell Dinner included. Overnight Semiramis.**

Day 13 – Monday July 20. Return to USA

Flight to Athens to make connecting flight back to the USA.

See below for Tour Details and Pricing.

Tour Details and Cost

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 (12 full days plus 1 travel day) includes all flights within Greece, all hotels, all transfers, private buses, all taxes, all breakfasts, 8 dinners, 5 lunches, all entrance fees to attractions included in tour, and the cost of the 3-day cruise.

Double (per person in double room): $4,238
Single: $4,848

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 by November 15, 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