



The World Mizrachi Organization

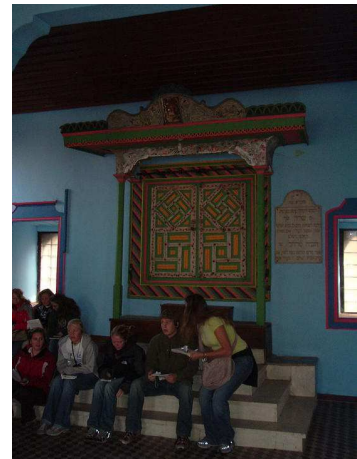
proudly invites you to join us on our
11th Jewish Heritage Tour
GRΣΣCΣ



Yad Lezikaron Synagogue, Thessaloniki



Acropolis, Athens



Pella Synagogue

ATHENS * DELPHI * THESSALONIKI * OLYMPOS * PELLA

4th – 13th June 2012

ABOUT GREECE

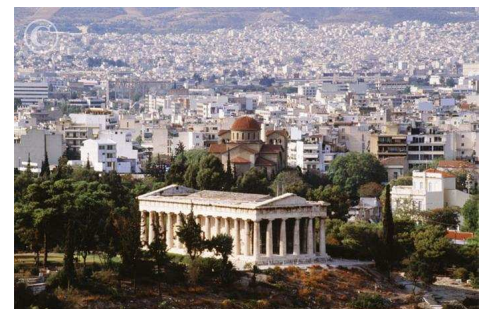
Greece, officially the Hellenic Republic, and historically or the Republic of Greece in English, is a country in the southern portion of Europe. It is in the southeastern corner of the European Union, and it is generally included in Western Europe.

Greece has land borders with Albania, the Republic of Macedonia and Bulgaria to the north, and Turkey to the east. The Aegean Sea lies to the east of mainland Greece, the Ionian Sea to the west, and the Mediterranean Sea to the south. Greece has the twelfth longest coastline in the world at 13,676 km (8,498 mi) in length, featuring a vast number of islands (approximately 1,400, of which 227 are inhabited), including Crete, the Dodecanese, the Cyclades, and the Ionian Islands among others. Eighty percent of Greece consists of mountains, of which Mount Olympus is the highest at 2,917 m (9,570 ft).



Modern Greece traces its roots to the civilization of ancient Greece, generally considered the cradle of Western civilization. As such, it is the birthplace of democracy, Western philosophy, the Olympic Games, Western literature and historiography, political science, major scientific and mathematical principles, Geography, Biology, university education, coinage, and Western drama, including both tragedy and comedy. This legacy is partly reflected in the seventeen UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in Greece, ranking Greece 7th in Europe and 13th in the world. The modern Greek state was established in 1830, following the Greek War of Independence.

Athens – Athens is the capital and largest city of Greece. Athens dominates the Attica region and is one of the world's oldest cities, as its recorded history spans around 3,400 years. Classical Athens was a powerful city-state. A centre for the arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum, it is widely referred to as the cradle of Western civilization and the birthplace of democracy, largely due to the impact of its cultural and political achievements during the 5th and 4th centuries BC on the rest of the then known European continent. Today a cosmopolitan metropolis, modern Athens is central to economic, financial, industrial, political and cultural life in Greece and it is rated as an Alpha world city. In 2008, Athens was ranked the world's 32nd richest city by purchasing power and the 25th most expensive in a UBS study.



The heritage of the classical era is still evident in the city, represented by a number of ancient monuments and works of art, the most famous of all being the Parthenon, widely considered a key landmark of early Western civilization. The city also retains a vast variety of Roman and Byzantine monuments, as well as a smaller number of remaining Ottoman monuments projecting the city's long history across the centuries. Athens is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Acropolis of Athens and the medieval Daphni Monastery. Landmarks of the modern era, dating back to the establishment of Athens as the capital of the independent Greek state in 1833, include the Hellenic Parliament (19th century) and the Athens Trilogy consisting of the National Library of Greece, the Athens University and the Academy of Athens. Athens was the host city of the first modern-day Olympic Games in 1896, and 108 years later it welcomed home the 2004 Summer Olympics. Athens is home to the National Archeological Museum, featuring the world's largest collection of ancient Greek antiquities, as well as the new Acropolis Museum.

Thessaloniki – Thessaloniki historically also known as Thessalonica, Salonika or Salonica, is the second-largest city in Greece and the capital of the region of Central Macedonia as well as the capital of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace.

Thessaloniki is Greece's second major economic, industrial, commercial and political centre, and a major transportation hub for the rest of southeastern Europe; its commercial port is also of great importance for Greece and the southeastern European hinterland. The city is renowned for its festivals, events and vibrant cultural life in general, and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital. Events such as the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair and the Thessaloniki International Film Festival are held annually, while the city also hosts the largest bi-annual meeting of the Greek diaspora. In 2014 Thessaloniki will be the European Youth Capital.

Thessaloniki is home to numerous notable Byzantine monuments, including the Paleochristian and Byzantine monuments of Thessaloniki, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as several Roman, Ottoman and Sephardic Jewish structures. With a history of over 2,300 years, it is one of Europe's oldest cities. The city's main university, Aristotle University, is the largest in Greece and in the Balkans.



Jewish Greece – There have been organized Jewish communities in Greece for more than two thousand years. The oldest and the most characteristic Jewish group that has inhabited Greece are the Romaniotes, also known as "Greek Jews". However, the term "Greek Jew" is predominantly used for any person of Jewish faith that lives in or originates from, or has lived in and originated from the modern region of Greece.

Aside from the Romaniotes, Greece is the home of a historical centre of Sephardic life; the city of Thessaloniki, called the "Mother of Israel" by Samuel Usque. Greek Jews played an important role in the early development of Christianity, and became a source of education and commerce for the Byzantine Empire and throughout the period of Ottoman Greece, until suffering devastation in the Holocaust after Greece was conquered and occupied by the Axis powers in spite of efforts by Greeks to protect them.

The Jewish community in Greece currently amounts to roughly 5000 people, concentrated mainly in Athens, Thessaloniki, Larissa, Volos, Chalkis, Ioannina, Trikala and Corfu, while very few remain in Kavala and Rhodes. Greek Jews today largely "live side by side in harmony" with Christian Greeks, according to Giorgio Romaio, president of the Greek Committee for the Jewish Museum of Greece, while nevertheless continuing to work with other Greeks, and Jews worldwide, to combat any rise of anti-Semitism in Greece.

World War II and the Holocaust – During World War II, Greece was conquered by Nazi Germany and occupied by the Axis powers. 12,898 Greek Jews fought in the Greek army, one of the best-known amongst them being Colonel Mordechai Frizis, in a force which first successfully repelled the Italian Army, but was later overwhelmed by German forces. 86% of the Greek Jews, especially those in the areas occupied by Nazi Germany and Bulgaria, were murdered despite efforts by the Greek Orthodox

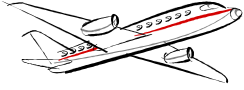
Church hierarchy and many individual Christian Greeks to shelter Jews. Although the Germans and Bulgarians deported a great number of Greek Jews, others were successfully hidden by their Greek neighbours. Entire villages and towns of Greek Orthodox Christians were killed by the Nazis including the village of Distomo and the town of Kalavryta as punishment for their resistance in WWII.



On July 11, 1942, the Jews of Thessaloniki were rounded up in preparation for slave labour. The community paid a fee of 2.5 billion drachmas for their freedom, the effect of which was only to delay deportation until the following March. 46,091 people were sent to Auschwitz. 1,950 returned to find most of their sixty synagogues and schools destroyed. Many survivors emigrated to Israel and the United States. Today the Jewish population of Thessaloniki numbers roughly 1,000, and maintains two synagogues.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 4TH JUNE



→ Group flight: Tel Aviv – Athens →

Meet at **Hotel Acropolis Select** in Athens (meeting point of all the different arrivals).

Visit the **Acropolis Hill**, including the **Parthenon** and the Sanctuary of Zeus, which represent the ancient world who gave us the political framework in which we live today, namely democracy. We will then visit the ancient **Synagogue in the Agora**. During an excavation in the summer of 1977, a piece of Pentelic marble apparently once part of a curvilinear preize over a doorway or niche was discovered. The marble fragment is incised with the images of a seven-branched Menorah and a Lulav. We will also visit the new **Acropolis Museum**. Continue to restaurant for lunch. After lunch drive to the village of **Arachova** with free time for walking around the village. Continue to **Itea** village. Dinner in hotel.



(L) Arachova (R) Acropolis



Overnight: *Nafsika Palace, Itea*

TUESDAY 5TH JUNE

Delphi



Breakfast at hotel and depart to **Delphi** town for sightseeing & **museum**. In the ancient world, if you had a problem or a question, you visited the **Delphi Oracle**. Around the temple that held the Oracle, the city-states of the ancient world built "treasuries" to hold these offerings and erected monuments. Eventually, a theatre and even a stadium were added. Today, the hillside where the Oracle spoke is covered with ruins of these buildings. Alongside is a museum that holds many precious treasures found at the site. Continue to **Thessaloniki**. Thessaloniki is a city that became famous for its Jewish community, beginning with the Romaniot Jews, through the expellees from Spain, and other immigrants, a tremendous and strong community which was almost entirely destroyed in the Holocaust. Stop on the way at **Lamia**, **Tempi Valley** and arrive in Thessaloniki for dinner.

Overnight: Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE

Breakfast at hotel and depart for a full day tour of **Ioannina & Metsovo**. The **Jewish Synagogue of Ioannina**: During the Ottoman period, the Jewish community, both Sephardi and Romaniote, experienced a flowering. The Jews of Ioannina were an active presence in the city's life until March 1944, when the German occupation troops arrested the entire population, 1,870 strong at the time, along with Jews from Preveza, Arta and Corfu, and deported them to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, where most perished. Today the community comprises about 60 persons and the synagogue lies inside the **Castle of Ioannina**. Another notable attraction of Ioannina is the **islet** on Lake Pamvotis. We will take a **boat ride** to the island is referred to as "Nisaki" (Greek for "little island", literally) by everyone, including its inhabitants. **Metsovo** is a small traditional town of exquisite beauty with grand mansions and stone-paved streets. We will return to Thessaloniki for dinner.

(L) Ioannina and islet (R) Synagogue in Ioannina



Overnight: Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

THURSDAY 7TH JUNE

Breakfast at hotel and depart for a full day tour of **Pella / Vergina / Veria / Edessa**. The tour begins with a morning drive to the ancient city of Pella (birthplace of Philip II and his son, Alexander the Great) to see the Hellenistic houses with their famous mosaic floors, as well as the ancient **Synagogue**. Continue to Vergina to visit the Royal Macedonian tombs of Philip II, and the modern museum housing recently-excavated fascinating golden treasures. Built on the foot of Vermio and crossed by Tripotamo river, **Veria** was the second most important city during the years of development of ancient Macedonians. Because of the many Byzantine monuments (nowadays more than 50 Byzantine and post Byzantine churches are preserved) it was also called "Mikri Ierousalim" ("Small Jerusalem"). We will return to Thessaloniki for dinner.

(L to R) Synagogue in Pella; Pella mosaics; Edessa waterfalls



Overnight: Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

FRIDAY 8TH JUNE

Breakfast at hotel and depart for a full day tour of **Litochoro & Olympus** mountain area. In Greek mythology, Olympus was regarded as the "home" of the Twelve Olympian gods of the ancient Greek world. It formed itself after the gods defeated the titans in the Titan War, and soon the palace was inhabited by the gods. It is the setting of many Greek mythical stories.

Mount Olympus as viewed from Litochoro



We will make our way back to Thessaloniki in the afternoon.

Free time and preparations for Shabbat.



Candle lighting – 20:39

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

SHABBAT 9TH JUNE

Parashat Behaalotcha פרשת בהעלותך



Full Shabbat program.

Relaxing day and walking tour in Thessaloniki, including a visit to the **Yad LeZikaron Synagogue** and the **Jewish Museum**. In the afternoon, we will meet in the hotel to hear about the **rise and fall of the Saloniki community**. Lunch & Seuda Shlishit at hotel.



(L) Yad LeZikaron Synagogue (R) Jewish Museum



Havdalah – 21:48

(OPTIONAL: Motzaei Shabbat – *Live Greek music! You can enjoy a live music band with singers of Greek songs and music and refreshments. Cost: €20*)

Overnight: Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

SUNDAY 10TH JUNE

Breakfast at hotel. Morning half day coach sightseeing of **Thessaloniki**, including the port which was closed on Shabbat because most of the workers were Jewish, the market and the Archaeological Museum. Lunch at hotel and depart to airport to catch your flight to Athens.

Thessaloniki Archaeological Museum



→ Thessaloniki – Athens →

Upon arrival in Athens airport, continue for **Sounio** tour, where we drive along the seaside road from Athens to the south part of Attica peninsula where we visit Sounio and **Temple of Poseidon** for sightseeing and watch the **sunset**. Cape Sounion is noted as the site of ruins of an ancient Greek temple of Poseidon, the god of the sea in classical mythology. The remains are perched on the headland, surrounded on three sides by the sea. The ruins bear the deeply engraved name of English Romantic poet Lord Byron (1788–1824).



(L) Sunset at Cape Sounion (Sounio) (R) Temple of Poseidon

Return to Athens for dinner at restaurant.

Overnight: Divani Palace Acropolis, Athens

MONDAY 11TH JUNE

Breakfast at hotel and start your full day **Peloponnesus** tour of **Corinth**, **Mycenae** and **Epidaurus**. The **Corinth Canal** was mooted in classical times and an abortive effort was made to build it in the 1st century AD. The emperor Nero was the first to actually attempt to construct the canal, personally breaking the ground with a pickaxe and removing the first basket-load of soil in 67 AD, but the project was abandoned when he died shortly afterwards. The Roman workforce, consisting of 6000 Jewish prisoners of war, started digging 40–50 m (130–160 ft) wide trenches from both sides, while a third group at the ridge drilled deep shafts for probing the quality of the rock. In the second millennium BC **Mycenae** was one of the major centers of Greek civilization, a military stronghold which dominated much of southern Greece. **Epidaurus** is home to the world famous theater.



(L) Corinth Canal (R) Epidauros Theater

Return to Athens for dinner at restaurant.

Overnight: Divani Palace Acropolis, Athens

TUESDAY 12TH JUNE

Breakfast at the hotel and start your full day **Athens** sightseeing tour. We will pass through the famous squares in the city, such as **Syntagma Square**, visit the **Plaka** district, including the **Jewish Museum**, the pedestrian mall "**Aramo**". Dinner at restaurant.

Special cultural programme for our final evening: "Dora Stratou" dances. In an open theater style you will watch a program of different dances from all parts of Greece, performed by a large number of dancers dressed in traditional and colourful clothes with live music.



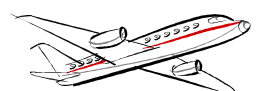
(L) Syntagma Square (R) Jewish Museum

Overnight: Divani Palace Acropolis, Athens

WEDNESDAY 13TH JUNE

Following breakfast, we will depart for our return flights.

→ Group flight: Athens - Tel Aviv →



HOTELS

4 JUNE – Nafsika Palace, Itea

Welcome to the Nafsika Palace, a four-star deluxe "boutique" style hotel, Fokis most exclusive address for demanding travellers.

The hotel is ideally located at the roots of the Delphi Oracle, within walking distance from the sea, in the heart of the business and shopping district of Itea, a quiet picturesque costal town on the Corinthian Gulf. Due to its favorable location, the hotel boost year round either of skiers who enjoy the slopes of Parnassos Ski Center (40 klm), visitors who choose to pay respect to the Temple of Apollo in Delphi, the ancient stadium and theatre and the archaeological site, or just stroll down the cosmopolitan streets of Arachova (20klm). Summer time, vacationers usually hang out on the beautiful beaches of Itea and Galaxidi (17klm).

<http://www.nafsikapalace.gr/en/>

Heroon str. 6
33200 Itea Fokidos – Hellas
+30 22650 33 300 – 4

5-10 JUNE – Hotel Astoria, Thessaloniki

Excellently situated in the heart of the city, the Astoria is ideal for access to the business district and stock exchange, the main shopping areas and the city's night life and cultural sites. Also close by is the quaint and traditional Ladadika (from the Greek word, Ladi, meaning oil). Here in the old days olives were brought and processed, and their fragrance, mixed with the appetizing aromas from the restaurants, still lingers in this picturesque area.

<http://www.astoriathessaloniki.com/index.asp?lang=>

Tsimiski & 9 Salaminos St.
54626 Thessaloniki, Hellas
+ 30 231 0 505500

10-13 JUNE – Divani Palace Acropolis, Athens

Divani Palace Acropolis is a testimony to a fascinating history. Entwining old and new, this simply irresistible luxury hotel, sits just below the shadow of Acropolis, moments away from the old quarter of Plaka, the brand new archaeological museum of Acropolis and the well know Herodion theatre.

The hotel offers 250 luxurious rooms including 60 brand new deluxe rooms and 10 suites. Everything from the elegant furnishings linens and flowers to the outstanding staff demonstrate the hotels close attention to detail and pride with which its services are delivered.

<http://www.divanis.com/acropolis/default-en.html>

19-25 Parthenonos,
P.C 117-42 Athens
+30 210 9280100

COST

Land Costs:

€1990* per person in a double room

Single Supplement: €590

Group flight from Israel on ELAL

Tel Aviv – Athens LY541: 4 June 0710-0925
Athens – Tel Aviv LY542: 13 June 1025-1220

Approx cost = \$300

***If you are interested in joining the group flight,
please contact us ASAP.***

Please note payment by credit card will incur a 4% charge

Cancellation fees**:

1. €550 per person deposit, non-refundable.
2. May 1 – 15: €900
3. May 16 – 28: €1200
4. From May 29: 100% of the applicable group fare.

**PLEASE NOTE: We must receive 50% payment by
22nd March 2012 and full payment by 22nd April 2012**

NB: [Visas](#) – For those travelling on Israeli, US, Canadian, Australian or UK passports, NO visa is required to enter Greece. South African passport holders should see [here](#) for visa requirements.

* Price based on tour with minimum of 25 participants

** Please ensure that you are covered by your insurance policy in the event of cancellation

NOTES

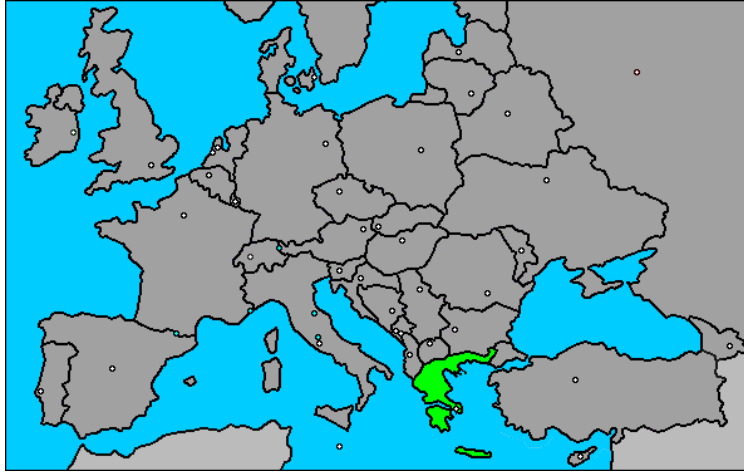
The above cost includes :

- 9 nights accommodation on twin sharing bed and breakfast basis (as per the details given above)
- Hotels as per itinerary
- Full board: Lunch and dinner on the arrival day + breakfast on the last day
- Full Shabbat meals
- All the meals will be prepared by Chabad Athens and by Chabad Thessaloniki.
- Transportation by DLX a/c coach.
- Sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Israeli English speaking professional tour guide
- Domestic flight - Thessaloniki-Athens on 10 June
- Tips for drivers and local guides, in the places where the law obliges. Paid directly by our guide.
- Entrance fees to all the museums, monuments or sights, as per the itinerary.
- Tips for waiters in restaurant.
- Porterage 1 piece per person in and out of each hotel.
- 1 bottle of water 0.5 liter per day per pax on the bus.

The above cost does not include:

- Flights to and from Greece
- Any expenses that arise due to change in itinerary because of natural forces like land slides, weather, roadblocks, flight cancellations, sickness etc.
- Expenses of personal nature like tips, laundry, phone calls, drink, taxis etc.
- Any medical, travel or evacuation insurance.
- Any other services or item which is not specified above.
- Taxes which may be adjusted by the Greek government.
- Any additional increase of fuel charge & taxes, per the airfare, over 10 January 2012.
- Transfer on arrival & departure days.
- As per all our previous tours, we will collect \$120 per person for tips and sundry expenses not included in the above.

Program and Hotels subject to change!



שלום ולהתראות!!! 😊

Shalom Ul'hitraot!!!

For more information and details, please contact

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Programs Director

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