

# Jewish Architecture, History & Art journey & seminar in Greece

## *A unique experience in the sites and stories of the Jews of Greece*

**Date: October 1-8, 2023**

### Day 1 : Athens

- Arrival in Athens and transfer to hotel for check in.
- **Orientation seminar on Jewish history and architecture in Greece.**
- Welcome cocktail and overnight.



*The Acropolis and Odeon of Herodes Atticus in Athens*

### Day 2 : Athens

- Hotel breakfast and optional walk in National Garden.
- Visits to points of Architectural, historical and Jewish interest in Athens.
- Includes Beth Shalom synagogue, Etz Hayim synagogue, the Jewish Museum of Greece, Holocaust monument, and Metroon in Agora of Athens.
- Organized dinner in local traditional restaurant and overnight.



*The historic synagogues Beth Shalom (1935) and Etz Hayim (1905) in Athens*

## Day 3 : Trikala

- Hotel breakfast and check out.
- Departure for Trikala. Visit with the restoration architect to restored the restored Yavanim synagogue (1931 - restored in 2019), cemetery and Holocaust memorial.
- Arrival in Ioannina, hotel dinner and overnight.



*Interior and exterior of Yavanim Synagogue in Trikala (1931 – restored 2019)*

## Day 4 : Ioannina

- Hotel breakfast and optional walk around the Lake of Ioannina.
- Visits to points of Architectural, historical and Jewish interest in Ioannina.
- Includes the synagogue Kahal Kadosh Yashan (1826), the Jewish quarter, Holocaust memorial, and cemetery.
- ***Seminar on Jewish architecture and history in Greece: The Romaniote tradition.***
- Dinner in local tavern and overnight.



*Ioannina: the synagogue Kahal Kadosh Yashan (1826) and views of the Lake*

## Day 5 : Corfu

- Hotel breakfast.
- Early departure for the port of Igoumenitsa and Ferry to Corfu Island.
- Visit to the synagogue Scuola Greca (c.17<sup>th</sup>), the Jewish quarter, Holocaust memorial and cemetery.
- Free time and lunch in Corfu.
- Late evening return to Ioannina, hotel dinner and overnight.



*Corfu: The old city and synagogue Scuola Greca (c.17<sup>th</sup>).*

## Day 6 : Veroia

- Hotel breakfast and check out.
- Departure for Veroia. Visit to the *Barbouta* historic quarter (former Jewish quarter).
- Visit to the synagogue (prior to 1850) and former Jewish cemetery site.
- Arrival in Thessaloniki.
- Check in at hotel and free time.
- Dinner in a local restaurant and overnight.



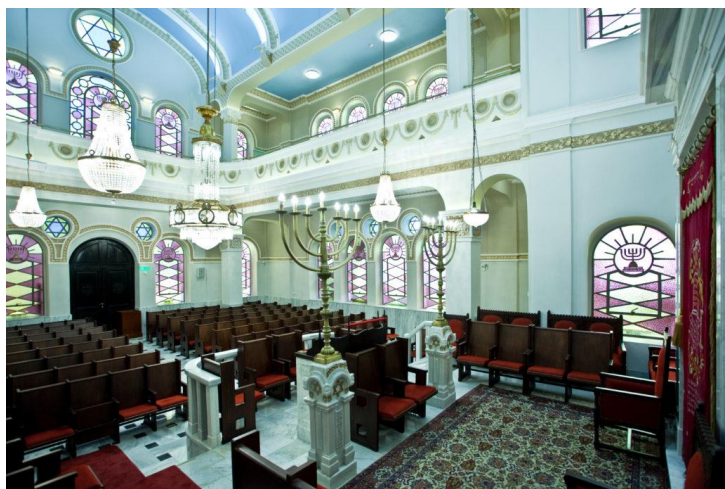
*The synagogue of Veroia (prior to 1850) and the former Jewish cemetery in Veroia.*



*Thessaloniki: Aristotelous Square by Ernest Hebrard (after 1918) and the White Tower (1430)*

## Day 7 : Thessaloniki

- Hotel breakfast and optional walk at the seafront promenade (restored in 2008 by Nikiforidis-Cuomo Architects).
- Visits with the restoration architect to the restored Monastirioton synagogue (1927 - restored 2016) and Yad LeZikaron (1984 - restored 2017), the Jewish Museum, visit the site with the architects of the future Holocaust Museum, and other sites of Jewish interest.
- ***Seminar on Jewish architecture and history in Greece: The Sephardi tradition.***
- Hotel dinner and overnight.



*Monastirioton Synagogue by architect Ernst Loewy (1927 – restored 2016) and Jewish Museum (restored 2018) in Thessaloniki*

## Day 8 : Departure

- Hotel breakfast and check out.
- Transfer to the airport for departure.

**\*\* Optional addition to the trip:** Visit to the island of Kos, and visit to the recently restored synagogue (2023) with the restoration architect or site visit to Komotini and visit to the remains of the synagogue Beth El (c. 19<sup>th</sup>) and the recently discovered marble tombstones of the former Jewish cemetery.



*The synagogue Kahal Shalom (1935) by architects Armando Barnabiti and Rodolfo Petracco in Kos in the Italian Colonial style (interior restored in 2023) and the remains of the synagogue Beth El (c.19<sup>th</sup>) in Komotini.*

## The experts guiding the group

- **Dr. Elias V. Messinas** former member of the AIA Continental Europe and organizer of the 2008 AIACE Conference in Athens, Greece, he is a Greek-Israeli architect, expert in Greek synagogues architecture and history for over 30 years, leading educational and professional workshops and site visits for 20 years, and head-architect of Greek synagogues restorations. Design Faculty member at HIT, Israel. Author of numerous books on the synagogues of Greece. Will accompany the group and present the historic and architectural aspects of Greek synagogues and their restoration process. His work includes the historic restoration of the synagogues in Thessaloniki, *Yavanim* synagogue in Trikala and the interior of *Kahal Shalom* synagogue on the island of Kos, dating from 1935 in the Italian Colonial style. Will share his research on Greek synagogues, especially with regard to the prevalent traditions of Romaniote, and Sephardic and the influence of the Reform synagogue in late Greek synagogues. Will share stories on the architects and the Jewish communities. [more](#)
- **Dr. Samuel D. Gruber** an internationally recognized art and architectural historian, President of the International Survey of Jewish Monuments. [more](#)
- **Dr. Vladimir Levin** is the Director of the Center for Jewish Art at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Holds a Ph.D. from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. [more](#)
- **Additional experts from Greece** will join the group in the organized seminars locally.

## The organizers of the group

The trip is organized by an experienced travel office in Greece:

**HIMALAYA TRAVEL** Corporate and Cultural tours around the world

4, Filellinon str., Athens 10557 Greece

Tel.: +30 210 322 5159 | [www.himalayatravel.gr](http://www.himalayatravel.gr) | [info@himalayatravel.gr](mailto:info@himalayatravel.gr)

## More details on the trip

- Program language is English.
- The welcome package will include Elias' books in English on the architecture and history of the synagogues of Greece and the synagogue in Veroia ([more](#) | [more](#)).
- The seminars and site visits will be enriched with the participation of local experts in the field of Jewish Art, history and Holocaust in Greece.
  
- Cost: 1,899 euro (excluding international flight and travel insurance).
- Additional cost for single room: 500 euro.
- Additional cost for trip extension to Kos or Komotini: 300 euro.
- Hotels in Athens Titania 4\* or similar, in Ioannina Grand Serai 5\* or similar and in Thessaloniki Capsis Hotel 4\* or similar.
- Includes all local travel of group, breakfast and dinner at hotel, boat trip to Corfu, tour guides and experts, welcome package and two publications on the synagogues of Greece, VAT.
- Includes participation in expert seminars, lectures and presentations.
- Does not include entrance fees to sites and museums, taxis and entertainment outside the program, dinners outside hotel, minibar in hotels.
  
- [Link to book](#) on the Synagogues of Greece for further reading.
- For inquiries please contact: [greeksynagogues@gmail.com](mailto:greeksynagogues@gmail.com)
- [Please sign up in online form](#) to express interest in participating.
- Min. group 35 prs. Max. 45.