



Ayelet
Tours, Ltd.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**American Conference of Cantors
Musical Jewish Adventure in Morocco**

PRE-TOURS

Tangier/Chefchaouen OR Agadir

February 11-15, 2027



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as of 2/12/26

Pre-Tour to Tangier & Chefchaouen

PRE 1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2027
OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to Tangier.

PRE 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2027
WELCOME TO MOROCCO!

- We land in Casablanca and transfer to our afternoon **train to Tangier**.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and have a chance to refresh after a long journey.
- This evening, we join together for a delicious **Shabbat welcome dinner** and our first taste of Moroccan cuisine.

Overnight in Tangier (D)

PRE 3

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2027
TOURING TANGIER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Tangier Jewish Heritage Tour & Community:** The first Jews migrated to Tangier (once known as Tanja or Tingus) after the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem and settled among the Berbers. A second wave of migration from the Jews living in the Iberian Peninsula began with the 1492 Alhambra Decree and expulsion. This second wave of immigration changed Moroccan Jewry, as they largely embraced the Andalusia Sephardic liturgy, creating a population of Moroccan Jews that gained a primarily Sephardic identity. The Moors and the Jews intermixed in Tangier, living peacefully side by side. In 1856, Tangier had become the largest port in Morocco. During this time, the Jewish community of Tangier flourished and established schools, hospitals, charitable works and businesses.

- By 1925, Jews were assigned three out of the twenty-six seats on the Legislative Assembly offering them significant political power. After World War II, the Jews of Tangier enjoyed prosperous and cosmopolitan lives as they were minimally impacted by the war and offered protection by Mohammed V who referred to them as “Moroccans and not only Jews.” At its peak in the 1940s, there were 22,000 Jews in Tangier and Morocco’s Jewish population exceeded 350,000. Immigration after the foundation of the state of Israel has diminished the numbers, but today there remains a small but vibrant community in Morocco which counts approximately 2,000 – 2,500 Jews.
- On our **Tangier Jewish heritage tour**, we start our morning by visiting Tangier’s Jewish sacred sites and then continue seeing the highlights of old Tangier. The synagogues, cemeteries, monuments and communal institutions of Tangier show how important the city has been to the Jewish community over the centuries.
- Behind a non-descript door, located on Rue Synagogue in Tangier is the **Moshe Nahon Synagogue**. This last remaining operating synagogue in Tangier is monumental and lavish, ranking among one of the most beautiful synagogues in Morocco. Built in the 1870’s, the Nahon Synagogue remained as a working place for Jewish prayer until it fell into despair in the late 20th century. Then in 1994, it was renovated revealing intricately covered carvings that are illuminated by stunning hanging synagogue lamps and Jewish artifacts. At one time, there were over 20 synagogues in Tangier. On Rue des Synagogues, there are many former synagogues. One of them, **Temple Benatar**, has been restored and is superbly decorated.
- We continue to **Chaar Rafael**, one of the last surviving synagogues and remnants of Jewish heritage in Tangier. This Jewish owned villa was built in 1919 and it was converted to a synagogue in 1954 when the owner, Raphaël Bendriahm died. Located in the center of the European city, Chaar Rafael is nearby the ocean cliffs where we can see the stone outlines of the tombs of the Phoenicians who came to Tangier almost three thousand years ago.



- Historically unlike Morocco's other Imperial cities, Tangier did not have a formal Jewish mellah. Instead, it had an **unprotected Jewish quarter** that we will stop by for a short visit.
- We continue to the **Jewish cemetery ("the old cemetery")** in Tangier, featuring more than one thousand graves, some of which date back to the 16th century. There are many important individuals buried here. Owned by the Tangier municipality, the Jewish cemetery is open to the public and has caretakers who oversee it. While the cemetery has somewhat fallen to ruins with a combination of erosion and water issues, the tombstones have been digitized to offer those interested the opportunity to search the remains there online. The tombstones are in Hebrew, Portuguese and French.
- We stop for a **"jam session" in Le Fils du Detroit with local musicians** plus some hot tea and cookies.
- We enjoy the vantage point of the **Colline de Bella-Vista**, then drive to see the **Grand Socco**, a popular nighttime square close to the Mosque of Sidi Bou Abib and the link between Ville Nouvelle and the medina.
- **Optional:** Visit the **American Legation Museum** located in the oldest American consulate in continuous use. Since 1829/1923 when Tangier was established as an international city, there were many Moroccan Jews that served as American proteges, placing them beyond the law of the Sultan.
- Next, we enter the **old medina at Rue Es-Siaghinie**, the busiest part of this Roman medina, lined with cafes and bazaars, a Spanish church, jewelers' shops and an arts center displaying works depicting Tangier's social history.
- We walk **Petit Socco**, which was once the heart of the medina where businessmen and bankers frequented cafes, hotels, casinos and cabarets that have since relocated to Ville Nouvelle.
- We move on to visit the **Grand Mosque**, built on the site of a Portuguese cathedral, then stop to enjoy **lunch in the Jewish cercle Chez Rica**.

- Walking north, we visit the **Kasbah**, decorated with mosaics, ornamental stucco and woodcarvings.
- We continue to the **Cave of Hercules**, the point of intersection of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and enjoy the 4km of sandy beach bordering Tangier. To enjoy the tranquility of the coastline, we suggest the East side of the bay.
- The evening is at leisure for exploring and dinner on own.

Overnight in Tangier (B)

PRE 4

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2027
CHEFCHAOUEN - THE BLUE CITY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we drive to **Chefchaouen** to experience the old town's famous Jewish-inspired, blue-washed buildings. Originally built as a fortress in the 15th century, the town is picturesquely nestled in the Rif Mountains.
- We see the **octagonal mosque** and **Spanish ruins**, then explore the **medina** and the winding alleys of this charming village, reminiscent of an Andalusian village in Spain.
- Next, we visit the **Plaza Uta el Hammam** the **Ras el-Maa** and the **wash houses**, where locals hand wash their laundry.
- We return to Tangier and have a chance to freshen up before a fun **farewell dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Tangier (B, D)

**PRE 5/
DAY 1**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2027
MAIN TOUR BEGINS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We board our **train to Casablanca** to meet the main tour group arriving today.

(B)



Pre-Tour to Agadir

PRE 1

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2027
OUR JOURNEY BEGINS

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to Agadir.

PRE 2

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2027
WELCOME TO MOROCCO!

- We arrive in Casablanca, Morocco's modern economic capital and connect to your domestic **flight south to Agadir**. Nestled between the Atlantic Ocean and the Anti-Atlas Mountains, Agadir offers a unique blend of coastal beauty and layered history.
- Upon arrival in **Agadir**, we meet our local guide and transfer to our hotel for check-in and time to freshen up. This afternoon, we enjoy an **orientation tour** of Agadir, providing insight into the city's reconstruction following the devastating 1960 earthquake and its emergence as one of Morocco's premier seaside destinations. We stroll along the oceanfront promenade, take in sweeping coastal views and begin to immerse ourselves in the atmosphere of southern Morocco.
- This evening, we gather for a **Shabbat welcome dinner**, an opportunity to connect, meet fellow travelers and set the tone for the meaningful days ahead.

Overnight in Agadir (D)

PRE 3

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2027
JEWISH HERITAGE IN AGADIR

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- After breakfast, we formally begin our journey with an **opening program led by Rafi**, who will frame our exploration of Morocco's rich and centuries-old Jewish legacy.
- We set out to explore the historic **Jewish community of Agadir** and its surrounding region. While much of the original Jewish quarter was lost in the 1960 earthquake, we will learn about the vibrant life that once flourished here — merchants, artisans, scholars and families who were integral to the city's social and economic fabric. Through storytelling, archival materials, and visits to key sites, we gain insight into the resilience and enduring legacy of Moroccan Jewry in the Souss region.
- The afternoon is at leisure to relax by the Atlantic, explore independently or enjoy the hotel amenities.
- Dinner this evening is on your own, allowing you to sample Agadir's fresh seafood and Moroccan cuisine.

Overnight in Agadir (B)



PRE 4

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2027
TAROUDANT & TALIOUINE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we depart with Rafi for a remarkable journey inland to the historic town of **Taroudant**. Often referred to as “Little Marrakech,” Taroudant is encircled by impressive 16th-century ramparts and once hosted a thriving Jewish mellah. Here, we will visit **synagogues and communal structures** that Rafi himself helped rediscover and restore — powerful testimony to the enduring spiritual and cultural imprint of Jewish life in southern Morocco.
- Continuing onward to **Taliouine**, known today for its saffron production, we uncover another chapter of hidden Jewish heritage. Visits to **restored synagogues** offer an intimate look at rural Jewish communities that once played an essential role in regional trade and cultural exchange.
- Throughout the day, Rafi shares personal stories of discovery, restoration efforts, and the emotional impact of reconnecting lost heritage with descendants around the world.
- We return to Agadir in the late afternoon and enjoy a leisure evening and dinner on our own.

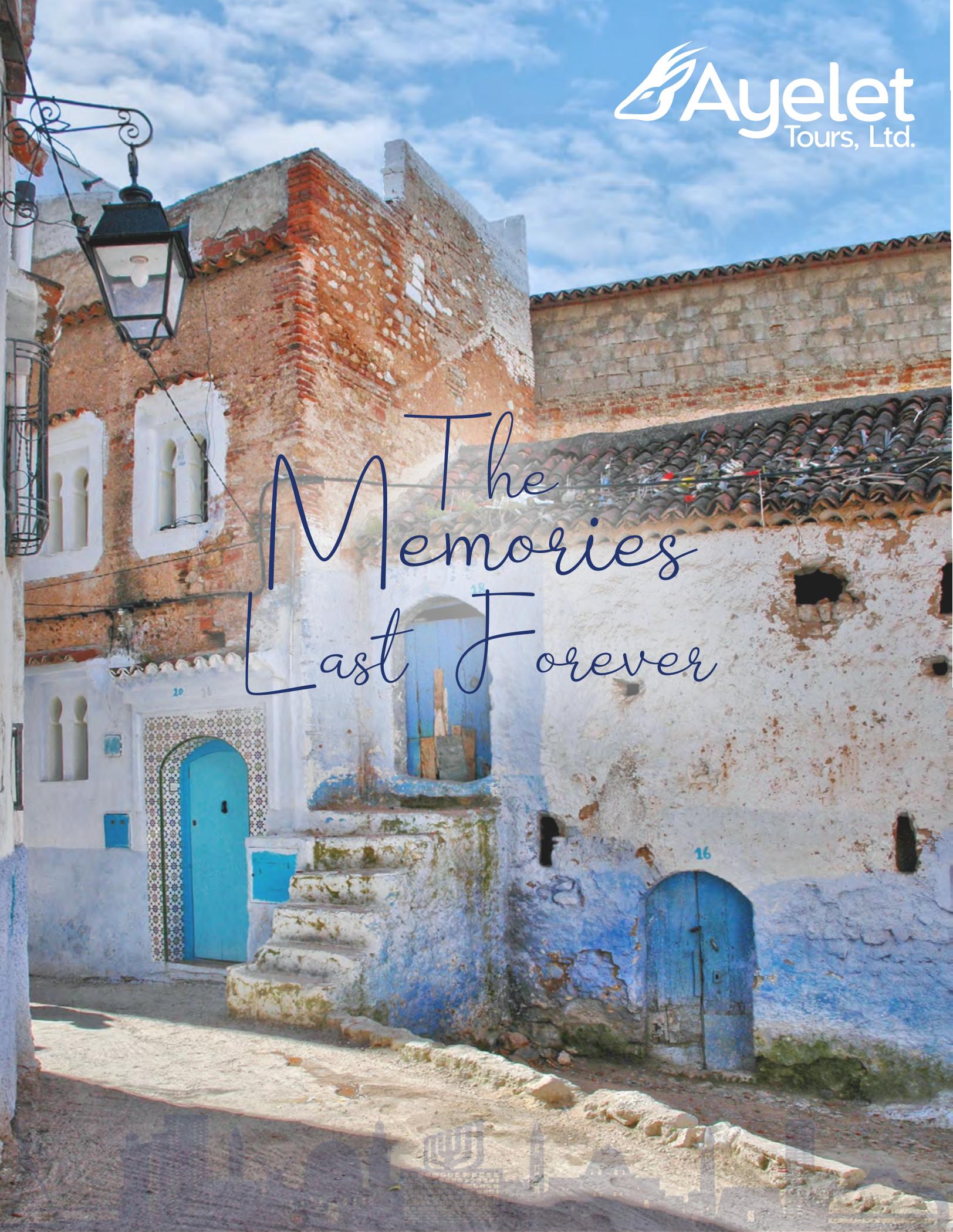
Overnight in Agadir (B)

PRE 5/ DAY 1

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The
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Last Forever