



Ayelet
Tours, Ltd.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

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

EXTENSIONS

Tangier/Chefchaouen OR Sahara Desert

February 24-27, 2027



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as of 2/12/26

Extension to Tangier & Chefchaouen

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2027
ONWARDS TO TANGIER

- After our farewell dinner, we transfer to the Rabat train station **for our non-stop train to Tangier.**
- Upon arrival, we are met at the train station and transferred to our hotel to check in.

Overnight in Tangier

DAY 12

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2027
TAKING IN 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-Siaghine**, 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, L)

DAY 13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 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 Shabbat dinner** together this evening.

Overnight in Tangier (B, D)

DAY 14

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2027
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the Tangier Airport on own for our return flights home, landing later today.

(B)



Extension to the Sahara Desert

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2027
TO THE SAHARA

- After our farewell dinner, we transfer to the airport for our **late-night flight to Errachidia**.
- Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel to check in.

Overnight in Errachidia

DAY 12

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2027
ERFOUD & ERG CHEBBI

- Breakfast and leisurely morning at our hotel before check out.
- Early this afternoon, we set out on our **2-hour drive to Erfoud**, known as the “**Gate of the Sahara**.” This oasis town with its red sand buildings in the Sahara Desert was developed by the French around the 1920s and has been the location of a variety of film shoots. The majority of the area is home to Arab residents, however Berbers began to populate the city in the 1990s.
- Upon our arrival, we enjoy a taste of local cuisine with **lunch at one of the oriental bazaars**.
- Following lunch, we drive to **Luxury Camp Chebbi** for a “**glamping**” experience in the desert, offering a combination of a nomadic lifestyle and the accoutrement of a luxury hotel. Here, we will enjoy tranquility, **traditional Berber hospitality** and a **camel ride** through the desert scenery to watch the sunset.
- As day turns to night, we enjoy a delicious **Berber style dinner** in the large restaurant tent, followed by Berber music, a campfire and an unforgettable evening under the stars.

Overnight in the Sahara (B, L, D)

DAY 13

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2027
DESERT ADVENTURES

- Breakfast at our luxury camp.
- **Desert Adventures:** We spend the day filled with more desert adventures. We begin with a **4x4 ride through the sand dunes** with an experienced guide, stopping to visit the **village of Gnawa nomadic families**, the **mine deposit** and the **palm gardens** to see the ancient irrigation system.
- We stop for a **picnic lunch** in the desert.
- **An Ocean Made of Sand:** For those who are daring, try **sand boarding** (sand surfing) just like snowboarding, but on sand or choose a “**sand bath**” and be covered from chest to toes in sand by a curist. This treatment has been used since antiquity to relieve rheumatism (on own; additional cost).
- We return to our luxury camp for a relaxed evening and a festive **farewell desert Shabbat dinner** together.

Overnight in the Sahara (B, L, D)

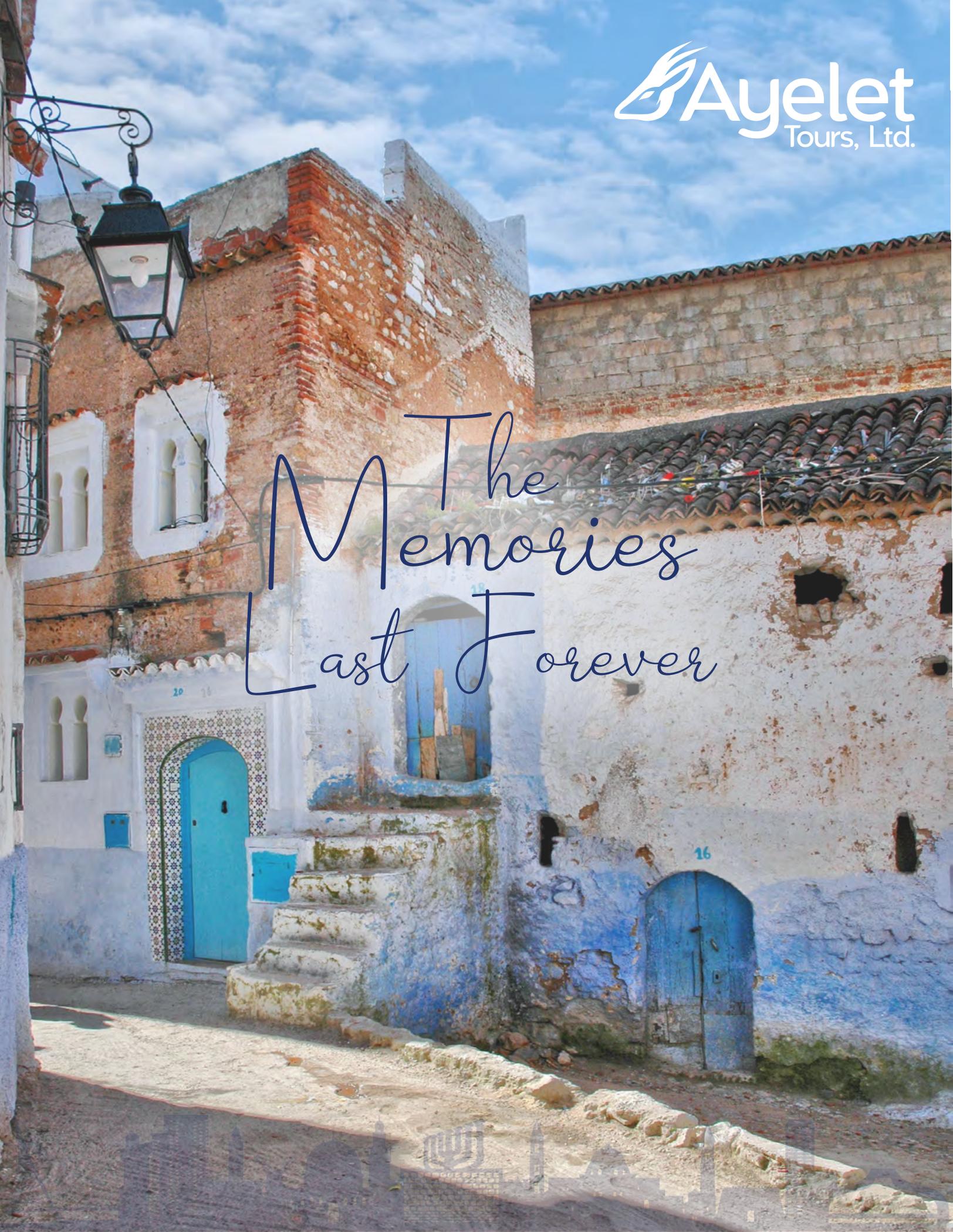
DAY 14

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2027
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our camp.
- We transfer back to Errachidia, then board our **flight to Casablanca** to connect to our flights to the United States, landing later today.

(B)





The
Memories
Last Forever