

FRJC
The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities
presents

INDIA

My 2nd Home™

January 31 ~ February 13, 2018

A 13-day deluxe kosher tour visiting Mumbai, Kochi, Kolkata, New Delhi and Agra

Escorted by Prof. Nathan Katz & Ellen Goldberg



India is known for its antiquity and modern high-tech. Spirituality and Bollywood swagger. Bustling cities and bucolic villages. A cultural kaleidoscope that's the world's largest democracy. But what's typically not known is India's long history as one of the most hospitable homes in the Jewish diaspora. For centuries, Jews have found a haven in which their traditions flourished. So too, they've been among India's great mystics, taken center stage in Bollywood, served as mayors of major cities, and produced the country's greatest military hero, as well as its most celebrated English-language poet. Tour this fascinating land with the world's leading authority on Indian Jewish life. Visit many "must-see" sights. Get to know Indian Jews and their neighbors: Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, Muslims. Delight in cultural performances. Savor tastes you've never tried before. Be transported back in time to a place that's out of this world. Join us for a trip of a lifetime. Experience the magic that is India!

Nathan & Ellen

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Jan. 31, Wed Arrival in Mumbai

Arrival this evening. Meet and transfer to the [Taj Mahal Tower](#). *Namaste*: Welcome to India!

Feb. 1, Thu Elephanta Island B,D

Your first morning in India! After a welcome brunch and orientation, travel by chartered boat from the Gateway of India to Elephanta Island where you'll learn the origins of Hinduism and Hindu mythology embodied by rock-cut temples at this 5th century UNESCO World Heritage Site. This evening, dinner at the Joint Distribution Committee/Evelyn Peters JCC, where you'll have the opportunity to meet the staff and volunteers and learn about Mumbai's Jewish community.

Feb. 2, Fri Mumbai B,L,D

See Mumbai's Jewish life - both the historic, at the 19th-century Indian synagogues Magen David and Tiphereth Israel - and the heroic at Chabad House, recently reopened after the tragic events of 2008. Our city tour will include major sights such as Flora Fountain, Rajabai Clock Tower, Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Station), Malabar Hill, one of the world's poshest neighborhoods, and the unique Mahalaxmi Dhobi Ghat, the world's largest open-air laundry. This evening, Shabbat services and dinner nearby at the 19th-century Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue. *Shabbat Shalom!*

Feb. 3, Sat Shabbat in Mumbai B, L

Shabbat services and lunch at Keneseth Eliyahoo. This afternoon, optional walking tour to visit the historic David Sassoon Library and fabulous Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum), boasting a world-class art and history collection. Sample the marvelous cuisines of Mumbai on your own for dinner.

Feb. 4, Sun Fly to Kochi B,L,D

Fly to the southwest coastal city of Kochi, one of the happiest chapters of the Jewish Diaspora. Kochi is history! After lunch on a banana leaf, check-in to the [Taj Malabar Hotel](#). We will then travel by boat to Fort Cochin to see India's oldest Catholic church, c.a. 1503, that was visited by explorer Vasco da Gama. See the iconic Chinese fishing nets, and Koder House, where local Jewish 'royalty' lived. Dinner at our hotel.



Feb. 5, Mon Rural Kerala B,L,D

Go back in time to explore Muziris, the name the ancient Romans gave to this area, on a heritage tour of the villages where Jewish life once thrived. Their synagogues are among the oldest in the region and recently restored to their former glory. You will visit the splendid 18th-century residence of the Hindu prime ministers where women ruled. After a homestay lunch, we'll cruise on Kerala's scenic backwaters to see fishermen, cargo boats transporting goods as they have for centuries, and traditional village life. We will then walk through the 16th-century Palace of the Raja of Kochi who granted Jews land next to his Hindu temple on which to build their synagogue. The beautiful Paradesi Synagogue, built in 1568, boasts a Hebrew clock tower, a jewel-encrusted gold Torah crown, a gift from the maharajah, and the original copper plates, establishing Jewish autonomy in the early 11th century. Be sure to mail a postcard from JewTown - the stamp will be cancelled with a Star of David imprint! Dinner followed by Kathakali dance, unique to this part of India.

Feb. 6, Tue Fly to Kolkata B,L

We fly to the east coast city of Kolkata, once the capital of British India and filled with Raj-era architecture, lovely parks, and rich intellectual and artistic traditions. Transfer to the [Oberoi Grand Hotel](#). From the late 18th to the mid-20th century, Kolkata had a thriving Jewish community that played a key role in the city's development, built synagogues and schools, and thoroughly integrated into the fabric of society. We will be given a tour of the recently renovated Maghen Abraham Synagogue by its president. After a look at Idol Makers' Street and Chinatown, we will have a vegetarian lunch at the stunning Jain Temple and meet a Calcutta University Jainism expert.



Feb. 7, Wed Kolkata B,L,D

We will tour landmark sights: Victoria Memorial set amid lovely gardens, a boat ride along the Hooghly River, and a visit to Belur Math, one of the city's most important Hindu temples. After lunch, time for shopping or a rest. This evening, we will learn about the Jewish community, now reduced to about two dozen members, from historian Dr. Jael Silliman, who has invited us to her home for dinner prepared under the exacting direction of her mother, Flower. Following dinner, a recital of classical Indian music!

Feb. 8, Thu Fly to Delhi B,L

Early flight to the political and administrative center of the world's largest democracy. Delhi is steeped in history with millennia-old architecture, temples and monuments, while also exuding a 'New India' vibe with its modern metro system and mega-malls. You will take a city tour of Old and New Delhi that includes the Gandhi memorial, a Tibetan Buddhist temple where Prof. Katz will speak about the Dalai Lama's "Jewish secret," and an up-close visit to the old markets by rickshaw, starting from the Red Fort and ending up at the tomb of the Jewish saint Sarmad. Check-in to the Taj Mahal Hotel. You will have an opportunity to sample the city's fine restaurants, on your own, or just kick back at our lovely hotel.

Feb. 9, Fri Delhi B,L,D

New Delhi was built in the first part of the 20th century as the capital of British India and houses many fine examples of Raj-era architecture. We will drive by such superb examples as India Gate, Parliament House, the Secretariat Complex, the Rajpath (also known as King's Way), and the former Viceroy's House, now the President's residence. We will tour and meet the swami of the lavish Akshardham Hindu Temple on which more than 11,000 artisans worked. We will tour other sites, as time permits, ending up at Delhi's leading Sikh temple, Bangla Sahib Gurudwara. Shabbat services and dinner at the nearby Judah Hyam Synagogue.

Feb. 10, Sat Delhi B,L,D

Shabbat Shalom! Optional walking tour through Lodi Gardens with lush grounds dotted by ancient Mughal mausoleums and mosques that make this a walk in the park like no other. Lunch at nearby Gulati's Restaurant. This evening, we'll go to the popular Khan Market for a vegetarian dinner at Turtle Café.

Feb. 11, Sun To Agra B,L,D

Board the new Express train to Agra this morning. We'll visit one of India's "must-see" sights, the 16th-century Fatehpur Sikri, a ghost city of palaces boasting magnificent desert architecture. From there, drive to Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) to catch a sunset view of the Taj Mahal. Time for a bit of shopping before dinner at the popular Dasaprakash vegetarian restaurant. Overnight at ITC Mughal Hotel.

Feb. 12, Mon Agra - New Delhi - Departure B,L,D

We begin our last day in India with a sunrise visit to the magical Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jahan in the 17th century. From there, we'll visit fantastic Agra Fort, a fortress built of red sandstone in the 16th century by Emperor Akbar. Late afternoon return to Delhi for a festive farewell dinner where Prof. Katz will summarize our whirlwind Jewish experience in India. After dinner, transfer to the airport terminal.

Feb. 13, Tue Arrive Home or Onward Destination



Complete land cost incl. deluxe accommodations, tours & cultural events, most meals, all gratuities to guides & drivers, all local planes, trains & boats within India ~ fully escorted throughout

\$7,195 p.p. double occ. (single supplement \$2,788)

~ Included Features ~

- all internal flights, train and boat transportation inside India
- deluxe accommodations in air-conditioned rooms with private bath, double occupancy (listed hotels, or similar)
- most meals, kosher or vegetarian including special buffet breakfasts at the hotels plus most lunches and dinners (B = breakfast, L = lunch or box lunch, D = dinner, () = inflight)
- exclusive programs with the Jewish Communities of Mumbai, Kochi, Kolkata and New Delhi
- memorable visit to historic Jewtown and Ernakulum
- fascinating cultural events and get-togethers in each city
- sightseeing via chartered air conditioned coach with English-speaking guides incl. entrance fees
- chartered sightseeing boats in Mumbai and Kochi
- group transfers between airports and hotels by private coach
- all tips to guides, drivers and restaurant staff, all hotel taxes and services charges
- portorage of 1 bag per person
- tour kit incl. India guidebook, name badge and luggage tags

Not included: international airfare to Mumbai and return from Delhi; passport and visa fees; items not on the table d'hote menus; purchases from hotel mini-bars; phone, fax and internet charges, if any; laundry and dry cleaning; and items of a personal nature.

Requires Travel Documents passport valid for at least 6 months beyond end of the tour and an e-visa for India.

Reservations

Mail a photocopy of your passport together with 2 checks: \$900 p.p. tax deductible donation payable to FRJC and \$900 p.p. payable to Your Travel Agent or Pacific Delight Tours. You will receive a confirmation kit including visa instructions, travel insurance application and a tax receipt. A 2nd deposit of \$1,100 p.p. is due July 31st and the balance is due Oct 31st.

*For reservations & information,
see Your Travel Agent or:*

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Prof Nathan Katz

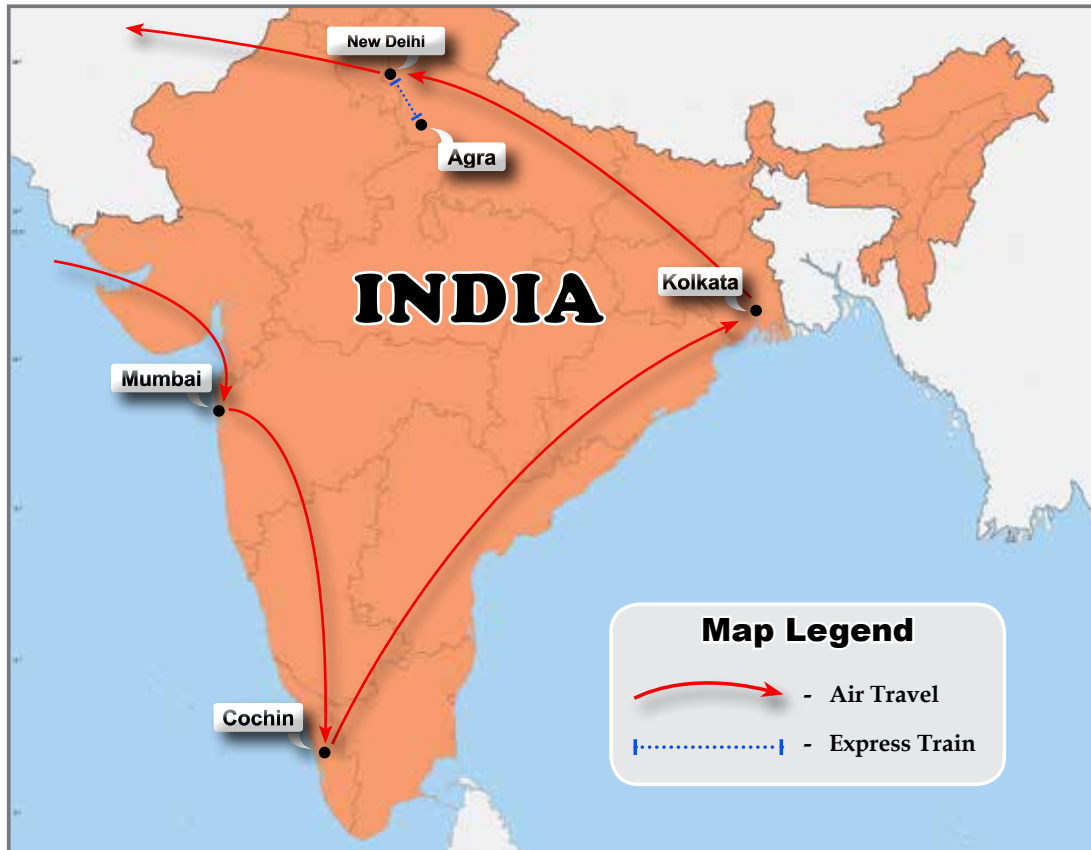
Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, at Florida Int'l University, author of 15 books including The Last Jews of Cochin, and winner of four Fulbright awards for his research and teaching in South Asia where he has lived for 7 years.



Prof. Katz & wife, Ellen Goldberg, in India

About FRJC

The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit public charity founded in 2003, dedicated to preserving and promoting the endangered Jewish communities on the periphery of the Diaspora. Your tax deductible donation (included in the tour cost) will join the more than \$1 Million in support of the Jewish communities in Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Myanmar, Siberia, Southern Africa, Thailand and Vietnam. www.frjc.org



Terms & Conditions

Air transportation via scheduled IATA airlines, on round-trip economy-class group fare basis.


Accommodations in deluxe hotels as indicated, or similar, including all hotel taxes and service charges, double occupancy basis.

Meals are buffet breakfast at the hotels; lunches and dinners at the synagogues or vegetarian restaurants, on table d'hote group menu basis.

Sightseeing and special events via chartered air-conditioned coach with English-speaking guides, including all entrance fees.

Group transfers between airports and hotels, via chartered air-conditioned coach with local guide to meet and assist.

Tour costs are based on 'cash' prices; the use of charge cards will incur a 4% credit card bank service charge.

Cancellations and refunds: the deposit is non-refundable; for cancellations received between 180 and 90 days, \$1,100 charge will apply; within 90 days, the land portion is not refundable; within 60 days, there may be a penalty on the air portion, as well. Cancellation charges cover non-refundable expenses incurred on behalf of the participant and the group, and help protect tour fares for the remaining participants. No refund or credit for early withdrawal. **Cancellation insurance is highly recommended.**  Application for comprehensive low-cost group insurance Travel Insured International will be provided with confirmation.

Responsibility: The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities, Ltd. (FRJC), Lotus Tours, Ltd., Pacific Delight Travel and/or associated companies (The Organizers) give notice that all tickets issued by them and all arrangements for transport, accommodations and meals, are made by them as agents for the tour participant upon the express condition that they shall not be held liable for any injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect of any vehicle or through the acts of any company or person engaged in conveying the passengers herewith, or of any hotel/ship proprietor or employees. Itineraries and fares may be affected by changes in air services of the various countries. The right is reserved to withdraw any feature announced in this program and to make such alterations in the itinerary as may be found desirable for the convenience and proper carrying out of the tour. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. Guest speakers are subject to professional commitments. The Organizers accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or changes in schedules, sickness, weather, strikes, war, quarantine or other causes. Tour costs shown are cash prices based on tariffs, taxes and exchanges rates in effect at time of printing and subject to change. The carriers are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on their respective conveyances. The passenger ticket shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchaser or passenger.