

FRJC  
The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities  
*presents*

# 2018 SOUTHEAST ASIA *through Jewish eyes™*

**15 days visiting Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar & Vietnam**  
***Escorted by Rabbi Rachel Safman & Rabbi Marcia Tilchin***



Dear Fellow Travellers,

For the past 35 years, I have been lecturing on the Jewish experience in the Far East, and each year, I have organized unique tours *through Jewish eyes* to explore the Jewish communities on the periphery of the Diaspora.

During this period, I have met and worked with some of the most fascinating and knowledgeable minds who share my passion for discovery and love of the cultures of the Far East. I am pleased to introduce Rabbi Marcia Tilchin, who has traveled with me to Southeast Asia, and Rabbi Rachel Safman, who lived and taught in Thailand and Singapore, and whose husband contributes to the prestigious Lonely Planet guides of Southeast Asia.

In January 2018, they will lead a tour to Southeast Asia to visit historic and sophisticated Singapore, exotic Myanmar (Burma) including Yangon (Rangoon) and the ancient city of Bagan (photo above). The Jewish experience in Burma is an amazing secret and its synagogue, which contained some 126 Torah scrolls, will welcome you. There is bustling Bangkok, the fabulous archaeological site at Ayutthya and vibrant Saigon, in Vietnam.

If you have any questions, please email Rabbi Safman ([rsafman@bethel-nl.org](mailto:rsafman@bethel-nl.org)) or Rabbi Tilchin ([marciatilchin@gmail.com](mailto:marciatilchin@gmail.com)) You may also contact Lotus / Pacific Delight at (212)267-5414 or [pdtd@pacificdelighttours.com](mailto:pdtd@pacificdelighttours.com). If you wish to reserve space, please complete the reservation form inside and mail to FRJC (The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities). A portion of the tour cost is tax deductible. Since 2003, we have distributed over \$1 Million to these communities. [www.frjc.org](http://www.frjc.org)

**~ Special EARLY BIRD OFFER ~**  
**We would like to extend a discount of \$180 per person, to the first 25 persons to register by Oct 3, 2017 as our way of saying 'thank you'.**

Best wishes,

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer

# SOUTHEAST ASIA through Jewish Eyes™ 2018

**Jan 2, Tue**      **Check-in at Los Angeles**      **B,L,D**  
Evening check-in at JFK or LAX at Cathay Pacific.

**Jan 3, Wed**      **Departure to Lotusland**  
Board your widebody flight. Cross the International Dateline and lose one day.

**Jan 4, Thu**      **Arrival in Singapore**      **D**  
You'll be met and transferred to the Carlton Hotel (or similar), within close walking distance of the synagogue. Free time to adjust to the time change. Afternoon orientation tour including the Cricket Club and Little India with its fragrant spices and joss sticks. Dinner at the historic Magen Aboth Synagogue where you'll meet a special guest. Rabbi Safman will discuss her experiences as rabbi of the Jewish Community of Singapore. You'll learn of the first Prime Minister of Singapore, David Marshall, who was also president of the Jewish Community.

**Jan 5, Fri**      **Singapore**      **B,L,D**  
Visit Parliament House, the world famous marina incl. a boat ride on the river to the spectacular Gardens by the Bay, and Synagogue Chesed El, built by Sir Menasseh Meyer, patriarch of the Community. You will also meet a local rabbi who is unique in being Sephardic and also a follower of Chabad. Services and dinner at Magen Aboth.



*Gardens by the Bay, Singapore*

**Jan 6, Sat**      **Shabbat in Singapore**      **B,L,D**  
Shabbat Shalom. Afternoon visit to the home of a local member of the Jewish Community. This evening enjoy a night safari to see the exotic nocturnal creatures unique to Asia.

**Jan 7, Sun**      **Botanic Gardens ~ to Bangkok**      **B,(L),D**  
Visit the exotic gardens where you will see a spectacular variety of orchids and other tropical flora. This afternoon, fly to Bangkok. Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to the Rembrandt Hotel (or similar).

**Jan 8, Mon**      **The King & You**      **B,L,D**  
Travel by boat on "the River of Kings" to the Temple of Dawn and the shimmering Grand Palace, royal court of the kings of Siam. Lunch at "the backpacker's shul". Then visit the museum of Jim Thompson, who made "Thai silk" a household name. A private reception at Bangkok's leading fine arts gallery where you will meet special invited guests including Ruth Gerson, a long-standing resident of Bangkok and author of the classic text, *Traditional Festivals in Thailand*.

**Jan 9, Tue**      **Ancient capital of Siam**      **B,L,D**  
Morning tour of ancient Ayutthya, capital of the kingdom of Siam and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The sheer number and size of the ancient temples attest to the former magnificence of the ancient city including the much photographed Ban Pa-In, the "Summer Palace" of the king.

**Jan 10, Wed**      **Fly to Northern Thailand**      **B,L,D**  
A brief flight to Chiangmai in Thailand's mountainous north. Check-in at Imperial Mae Ping Hotel (or similar). Evening tour of the 'old town' where internet cafés coexist with sacred temples.

**Jan 11, Thu**      **In Chiangmai**      **B,L,D**  
See the countryside of dense rainforest interspersed with waterfalls, on your hilltribe tour including rice paddies, Wat Doi Suthep and San Kamphaeng.

**Jan 12, Fri**      **Fly to Myanmar (Burma)**      **B,L,D**  
Early afternoon arrival in Yangon where you will visit the historic and spectacular Shwedagon Pagoda covered in solid gold. Check-in at the Park Royal Hotel (or similar). Shabbat at the historic Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, with its soaring ceiling and beautiful columns, within close walking distance of the hotel. Rabbi Safman will discuss her unique experiences in Southeast Asia and reveal why more than 120 Torah scrolls were in a remote synagogue in Burma.

**Jan 13, Sat**      **Shabbat in Yangon**      **B,L,D**  
Shabbat Shalom. You'll meet the families of the small Jewish community and learn of the escape of the Jewish community from Japanese occupation in WWII. A Shabbat to remember. This evening, visit Bogyoke Market and other sights.

**Jan 14, Sun**      **Bagan excursion**      **B,L,D**  
Rudyard Kipling called Burma "the pearl of Asia" and having been isolated for so many years, it is one of the few untouched, unspoiled destinations in the world today. This morning, fly to Bagan, the cradle of Myanmar culture and known as "the city of 4 million pagodas" incl. famous Khay Min Ga Temple. Return to Yangon in the evening.

**Jan 15, Mon**      **Flight to Vietnam**      **B,(L),D**  
Morning at leisure. Midday flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Check-in at the historic Rex Hotel (or similar). From the rooftop, you look over the entire city and the Saigon River meandering through the bustling metropolis. This evening, enjoy a cruise on the Saigon River.

**Jan 16, Tue**      **Don't "Miss Saigon"**      **B,L,D**  
City tour including Independence Square and famous Rue Catinat. Ride a cyclo through the marketplace for a unique experience. Stroll through exotic Ben Thanh Market and visit the synagogue for a fascinating talk with the Chief Rabbi of Vietnam.

**Jan 17, Wed**      **Cu Chi & Rice Paddies**      **B,L,D**  
See the lush rice fields and bamboo bridges enroute to Cu Chi to explore the incredible honeycomb of tunnels that housed an army of Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Farewell dinner this evening where Rabbi Safman will summarize the unique Jewish experience in Southeast Asia.

**Jan 18, Thu**      **Return Home**      **B**  
Transfer for your return flight to the USA. In re-crossing the Dateline, you'll arrive this same day. *Bon voyage.* #

**Cost incl. round-trip group economy airfare from New York or Los Angeles, deluxe accommodations, all meals, tours & cultural events, all gratuities, all planes and boats ~ fully escorted throughout**

**\$6,988\*** p.p. double occ. plus tax & fuel surcharge (*currently \$201.46 but subj. to change*)  
\$1,550 Upgrade to Premium Economy (*subj. to availability*) Single supplement: \$1,055

Land only: \$5,898 p.p. double occ (flight to Singapore, Singapore to Bangkok, and return from Ho Chi Minh City *not included*)



**~ Inclusive Tour Features ~**

- round-trip group economy airfare from New York (JFK) or Los Angeles (LAX)
  - all internal transportation in Southeast Asia, per itinerary
- deluxe 4 & 5-star accommodations in air-conditioned rooms with private bath, double occupancy
  - all meals, kosher or vegetarian (special buffet breakfast plus lunch and dinner daily)
- exclusive programs with the Jewish Communities of Singapore, Yangon, Bangkok and Saigon
  - memorable Shabbat in Singapore & Yangon
  - fascinating cultural events and get-togethers in each city
- sightseeing via chartered air conditioned coach with English-speaking guides incl. all entrance fees
  - sightseeing boats in Singapore, Bangkok and Saigon
  - transfers between airports, hotels and piers by private coach
- all tips to guides, drivers and restaurant staff, all hotel taxes and services charges
  - porterage of 1 piece of luggage per person (44lbs per person)
  - Southeast Asia guidebook, name badge and luggage tags

(not included: Myanmar and Vietnam visa fees & processing; items not on the table d'hote menus; air taxes, fuel surcharge and pfc's; phone, fax and internet charges purchases from hotel mini-bars; laundry and dry cleaning charges; and items of a purely personal nature).

**Reservations:** deposit of \$900 p.p. is due on application; a 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit of \$900 p.p. will be invoiced; balance is due Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Visa application, travel insurance application and additional information will be sent to you with your confirmation.

*For reservations and information:* Lotus/Pacific Delight, 136-18 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 1102, Flushing, NY 11354. (212)267-5414

**SOUTHEAST ASIA through Jewish Eyes™ ~ January 2018**

**RESERVATION FORM** (*please print*)

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ spaces on this program for:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (*enclose copy of your passport*)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (*enclose copy of your passport*)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (fax) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will join the group flight:  Los Angeles  New York  I/We will arrange our own flights

I/We enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (min. \$900 p.p.) deposit payable to **FRJC**. The 2<sup>nd</sup> deposit and the balance will be invoiced.

### About Rabbi Rachel Safman

Rabbi Rachel Safman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El in New London, Connecticut. A graduate of the Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies, Rabbi Safman was synagogue president of Singapore 2006-8, assistant professor of sociology at the National University of Singapore, and one-time lay leader of several kehillot in Southeast Asia including Thailand. Rabbi Safman is committed to extending Jewish resources to remote and under-served constituencies around the world. This will be her pioneering tour with the Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities (FRJC) founded by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserve and promote endangered Jewish communities on the periphery of the Diaspora.

### About Rabbi Marcia Tilcin

A graduate of both The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Rabbi Marcia Tilcin served Conservative synagogues in Upper Nyack, New York and Tustin, California from 1998 to 2015 prior to founding the Jewish Collaborative of Orange County (JCoOC). Rabbi Tilcin sits on the board of the Orange County Interfaith Network (OCIN) and is the Executive Director of the Orange County Alliance for Just Change (OCAJC). Her travels with Rabbi Marvin Tokayer to India and Southeast Asia opened her eyes to this precious and unknown aspect of Jewish history and she is delighted to be partnering with former classmate and dear friend, Rabbi Rachel Safman, to lead this tour.

#### 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 prior to departure, \$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 will be provided with confirmation.

**Responsibility:** The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities (FRJC), Lotus / 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 exchange 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. [7/17]



### FRJC

c/o Lotus / Pacific Delight  
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Flushing, NY 11354



Royal Palace Bangkok

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○ — See Early Bird Offer Inside — ○