

The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities

presents

Southeast Asia through Jewish Eyes™ ~ 2011

Nov 28 – Dec 13: 16 days visiting Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma & Singapore

Escorted by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer



Dear Fellow Travellers,

For the past 30 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.

In November 2011, I will travel to Southeast Asia to visit the fabulous archaeological site of Angkor Wat, be charmed by Hanoi's elegant boulevards and learn why Ho Chi Minh offered Hanoi to David Ben Gurion to establish a Jewish government in exile if Israel was not created. There is bustling Bangkok and sophisticated Singapore, and a historic Shabbat in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) as well as in Myanmar (Burma) visiting Yangon (formerly British Rangoon) and its fabulous gilded temples (photo above). The Jewish experience in Burma is an amazing secret and you'll learn why its historic synagogue contains 126 Torah scrolls! In Singapore, the "father of independence", the president of the stock exchange and the father of medicine were Jews and we will meet their descendents at a gala farewell dinner.

If you have any questions, please call me at (516)829-8595 or email marvintokayer@gmail.com. You may also contact Lotus Tours at (800)267-5414. If you wish to reserve space, please complete the reservation form and, together with your deposit, mail to [FRJC](http://www.frjc.org) (The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities) c/o Lotus Tours, Ltd., 2 Mott Street, 4/F, New York, NY 10013. In the EU, please contact Bernard Valier-Grossman, 44(20)8202-7934 or email valierb@hotmail.com.

~ **EARLY BIRD OFFER** ~

We would like to extend a special discount of \$100 per person, to the first 25 persons to register, to be deducted from your final payment, as our way of saying thank you for your participation

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin Tokayer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Complete cost incl. group airfare, deluxe accommodations, all meals, tours & cultural events, and all planes, boats and elephants ~ fully escorted throughout

\$7,288 p.p. double occ. from JFK to Hanoi and return from Yangon with Singapore stopover (plus taxes, fuel and pfcs) Single supplement; \$1,487 Land only: \$5,988 p.p. double occ.

~ Included Features ~

- round-trip group economy airfare from JFK or LAX via Singapore Airlines
 - all internal transportation in Southeast Asia, per itinerary
- accommodations in Deluxe 5-Star air-conditioned hotels with private bath, double occupancy
 - all meals kosher or vegetarian (hotel buffet breakfast plus lunch and dinner daily)
- exclusive programs with the Jewish Communities of Saigon, Rangoon, Bangkok and Singapore
 - memorable Shabbat in Saigon and Rangoon
 - fascinating cultural events and get-togethers in each city
- sightseeing via chartered air conditioned coach with English-speaking guides incl. all entrance fees
 - chartered sightseeing boats in Bangkok • elephant ride in Angkor Wat
 - transfers between airports, hotels and piers by private coach
 - all tips to guides, drivers and restaurant staff, all hotel taxes and services charges
- portage of 2 bags per person (limit 44lbs p.p.) • Vietnam and Burma visa processing (fee add'l)
 - guidebook, passport wallet and luggage tags

(not included: passport fee; Vietnam consular visa fee; Cambodia visa fee payable on arrival in Siem Reap, currently \$25; items not on the table d'hote menus; phone, fax and internet charges; purchases from hotel mini-bars; laundry and dry cleaning charges; and items of a purely personal nature).

Reservations: a deposit of \$800 per person is due on application; a 2nd deposit of \$1,200 is due April 28th ; balance due Aug 28th. Visa applications, travel insurance and additional information will be sent with your confirmation.



Southeast Asia through Jewish Eyes™ ~ Nov 2011

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: yes no I/We wish to upgrade to Business Class: yes no

I/We enclose \$_____ (min. \$800 p.p.) deposit payable to **FRJC**. You will be invoiced by Lotus Tours for the 2nd deposit and the balance. Visa application forms and travel insurance application will be provided with confirmation.

Southeast Asia through Jewish Eyes™ ~ November 2011

Nov 28, Mon **Departure for Lotusland**

Evening departure via Singapore Airlines.

Nov 29, Tue **Enroute**

Cross the International Dateline.

Nov 30, Wed **Arrival in Hanoi** **S,D**

Upon arrival in Hanoi, check-in at the Sheraton Hanoi (or similar), a French colonial style hotel in the heart of the city. There will be an orientation of the unique and unknown Jewish experience in Southeast Asia. This evening, enjoy a drive enroute to dinner at Tib, one of Hanoi's popular restaurants.

Dec 1, Thu **Hanoi** **B,L,D**

Good morning Vietnam. Tour the colorful Old Quarter on a cyclo. Visit Ba Dinh Square, the fascinating Ethnic Museum and the unique One Pillar Pagoda. Also visit the Temple of Literature, an ancient university dating back 1000 years, and the infamous "Hanoi Hilton." Enjoy some free time to stroll through the unique shopping streets of the old city. Evening performance of the colorful water puppet show, a unique Vietnamese artform.

Dec 2, Fri **Fly to Saigon** **B,L,D**

Fly to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Check-in at the Sofitel Plaza Hotel (or similar). From the rooftop, you look over the charming colonial buildings and the Saigon River meandering through the bustling metropolis. Our city tour will feature the major sites including Cholon (the unique Chinatown) and the bustling Ben Thanh Market. Shabbat services and dinner at the Chabad synagogue where you will have a chance to meet Israeli doctors who have been working in Saigon for nearly 25 years.

Dec 3, Sat **Shabbat in Saigon** **B,L,D**

A memorable and restful Shabbat in Saigon. Services and lunch at the synagogue. Afternoon walking tour on historic Rue Catinat and Independence Square. Rabbi Tokayer will also discuss his experiences as USAF Chaplain in Saigon during the Vietnam War.

Dec 4, Sun **Cu Chi ~ Fly to Cambodia** **B,L,D**

See the lush rice fields, rubber plantations, and bamboo bridges over the Saigon River enroute to Cu Chi to explore the ingenious 3-level honeycomb of tunnels that hid an army of Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. An educational and unbelievable experience. Late this afternoon, a brief flight to Siem Reap where you'll be met and transferred to the Sofitel Royal d'Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar).

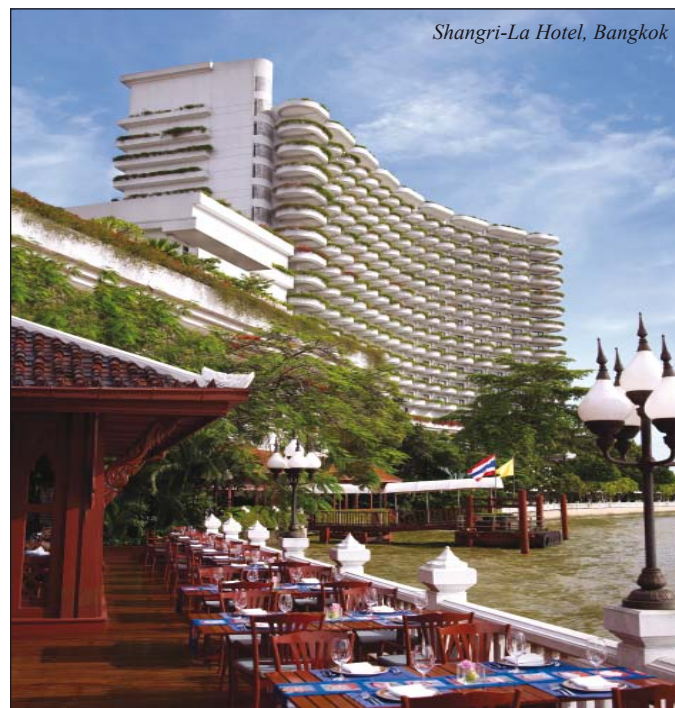
Dec 5, Mon **Temples of Angkor** **B,L,D**

Visit the astonishing ruins of Ta Prohm where the jungle that claimed a civilization may still be seen literally growing out of the rocks. At magnificent Angkor Wat, a UNESCO heritage site and one of the wonders of the ancient world, Rabbi Tokayer will discuss evidence that points to the existence of lost Jews in this area for almost 1500 years. It will be a day of history and a

photographer's paradise. This evening, ride an elephant to the top of Phnom Bakheng Hill for a memorable sunset view over the fabulous lost cities of Angkor.

Dec 6, Tue **Fly to Bangkok** **B(L)D**

Morning at leisure to relax or explore on your own. Midday flight to Bangkok. Transfer to the Shangri-La Hotel (or similar), overlooking the River of Kings. *Sawasdee (welcome)*. At dinner, you'll meet Ruth Gerson, one of the pioneering Jewish families of Thailand and author of an award-winning Oxford University Press volume on the festivals of Bangkok. Tour of a unique night market after dinner.



Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok

Dec 7, Wed **The King & You** **B,L,D**

See the major sites of this colorful city. Rabbi Tokayer will introduce the world of Buddhism and discuss its attraction to Jewish intellectuals. Travel by boat on "the River of Kings" to the colorful Temple of Dawn and the impressive Grand Palace, royal court of the kings of Siam. Lunch at the JCC. Dinner at Even Chen Synagogue. Even Chen, which means "precious gem", was founded by the expatriate Jewish community of Bangkok.

Dec 8, Thu **Bangkok to Burma** **B,L,D**

Morning at leisure to shop or spa or explore Bangkok on your own. This afternoon, fly to Myanmar. Upon arrival in Yangon, check-in at the Traders Shangri-La (or similar). 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. Burma's exotic capital is filled with beautiful lakes, tree-lined boulevards and colorful bazaars. The small Jewish community will be your host and you'll visit the historic synagogue, with its soaring ceiling and graceful columns.

Dec 9, Fri **Yangon** **B,L,D**
Visit the 130 year-old Jewish cemetery, the old Jewish neighborhoods, Chinatown, Little India and all the must-see sites of Yangon. Nothing will prepare you for Shwedagon Pagoda, with its glittering gold stupa gilded with 8 tons of gold - a landmark that has dominated the skyline for 2500 years. At the pagoda, observe pilgrims and monks offering their devotions. Enjoy the amazing sunset view. Shabbat services at the synagogue.

Dec 10, Sat **Shabbat in Burma** **B,L,D**
Shabbat Shalom. You'll meet the Samuels family and learn of the escape of the tiny Jewish community from Japanese occupation during WWII. You'll be intrigued by the unrecorded conversations, in Yiddish, between David Ben Gurion and the leading Buddhist philosopher of Asia. Dinner with special invited guests. A Shabbat to remember!

Dec 11, Sun **Fly to Singapore** **B(L)D**
Morning flight to exotic Singapore, one of the Asian Tigers. Transfer to the Fullerton Hotel (or similar) on the famous

waterfront. Afternoon walking tour followed by dinner at the Magen Aboth Synagogue, built in 1878. Rabbi Tokayer will discuss his forthcoming chapter on the fascinating Jewish history in Singapore. You'll learn of the first Prime Minister of Singapore, David Marshall, who was also president of the Jewish Community, and his chair is adjacent to the bimah.

Dec 12, Mon **Singapore** **B,L,D**
Visit Parliament House, the Cricket Club, "Little India" with its fragrant spice market and lucky joss sticks, and Synagogue Chesed El, built by Sir Menasseh Meyer, patriarch of the Community. You will also meet the local rabbi who is unique in being Sephardic and also a follower of Chabad. You will have time to explore and do some last-minute shopping for priceless tzatchkas and souvenirs. Festive farewell dinner where Rabbi Tokayer will summarize the Jewish experience in Southeast Asia. After dinner, transfer for your late night flight.

Dec 13, Tue **Return Home** **B,L(D)**
Farewell to Lotusland. In recrossing the Dateline, arrive home this day. *Bon voyage.* # # #

Terms & Conditions

Air transportation via scheduled IATA airlines, on round-trip economy-class group fare basis. Accommodations including all hotel taxes and service charges, double occupancy basis. Meals are special buffet breakfast at the hotels, plus lunch and dinner daily - 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. Cancellations and refunds: the deposit is non-refundable; for cancellations received between 180 and 120 days prior to departure, an additional \$400 charge will apply; between 120 and 90 days, an additional \$400 charge applies; within 90 days, the land portion is not refundable; within 60 days, there may be a penalty on the air portion, as well. Cancellation insurance is highly recommended.

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FRJC
c/o Lotus Tours
2 Mott Street, 4/F
New York, NY 10013

