



## **A CJP Project Inspire & JDC Entwine Trip: Inside India December 18-27, 2018**

*Participants must stay together as a group at all times and cannot travel around unaccompanied.*

During our trip to India, we will focus on connecting with and learning about the Bene Israel Indian Jewish community; a geographically isolated, ancient Jewish people primarily based in Mumbai, which traces its roots back to 586 B.C.E. We will travel the Mumbai region together, learn about programs initiated by JDC, and engage in cultural exchange with Indian Jewish young adults. This will allow us to gain a glimpse into different Jewish Indian perspectives and understand a little bit more about this historical community. India has a rich history of religious tolerance, and Jews have been able to practice their faith freely here for over 2,000 years.

India's huge population, extensive levels of poverty, and limited government-run social services have created significant social challenges. This has led to a collaboration between the Jewish community and JDC in which they created a community-based social welfare system.

We'll learn how Israel's work is interwoven throughout this hustling and bustling Indian metropolitan and the different ways in which Israel has become involved in humanitarian aid work and development across this region. Israel and India established full diplomatic relations in 1992. However, even before that, Israel had a Consulate in Mumbai, operating since 1953. Today, India is an important partner to Israel in the areas of politics, commerce, science and culture. MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, was established in 1958 as a manifestation of the Jewish concept of tikkun olam – repairing the world. In 2006, India and Israel renewed a strategic agricultural partnership that focuses on introducing crop diversity, increasing productivity & increasing water efficiency by utilizing Israeli technologies and know-how tailored to local Indian conditions. In addition to MASHAV, other Israeli non-profits have independently developed innovative programming that provides sustainable assistance to the people of Mumbai.



**Day One: Tuesday, December 18**

5:00 PM Depart Edward L. Logan Boston Airport

**Day Two: Wednesday, December 19**

9:40 PM Arrive Mumbai Airport

11:00 PM Travel to Hotel

1:00 AM Check in to Hotel Fariyas

*Overnight in Mumbai:*

*Hotel Fariyas*

*25, Off Arthur Bunder Road*

*Colaba, Colaba, 400005 Mumbai, India*

**Day Three: Thursday, December 20**

9:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel

10:00 AM Welcome to India! Introductions, icebreakers and security briefing

11:00 AM Depart Hotel

History & Insight into the Community: Visit to Key Mumbai Sites & Jewish Landmarks

*We'll witness the Indian Jewish community's impact in Mumbai and explore its famous sites, including the Sassoon Library, Magen David Synagogue, and Tiphereth Israel Synagogue.*

1:30 PM Arrive at the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center & Lunch with Staff

*Established in 1999, the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center hosts activities for the community including: Hebrew classes; weekend retreats; the Kol India, a community publication; youth leadership seminars; and community-wide holiday celebrations.*

2:00 PM Overview of JDC's Work in India and the Jewish Community with Elijah Jacob, Director of JDC India

*Elijah Jacob was born in Bombay, India to a Jewish family deeply committed to Jewish communal life. His grandfather was the Cantor of the oldest synagogue in Bombay, the Gate of Mercy Synagogue, established in 1796. In the course of his work, Elijah utilizes his unique and profoundly personal understanding of the Indian Jewish community to develop and implement*



*programs. He has helped establish a Home for the Elderly in Manpada, Thane and the founding of the Evelyn Peters Jewish Community Center in Mumbai (Bombay). The JCC currently serves as the center for Jewish community activities in the Mumbai/Thane region.*

2:45 PM Return to Hotel to Relax & Freshen Up

4:00 PM Arrive at Hotel

6:00 PM Group Discussion

7:30 PM Depart for Dinner

8:00 PM Dinner at Samarat

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Four: Friday, December 21**

7:30 AM Breakfast at the Hotel

8:30 AM Depart Hotel for Consulate

9:30 AM Presentation about MASHAV and Israel's Humanitarian Aid Work in India with Nimrod Kalmar Deputy Chief of Missions in Mumbai

*Nimrod is an Israeli Diplomat and Deputy Chief of Missions at Israel's Consulate General in Mumbai. He holds a B.A and a M.A in Political Science from the Hebrew University and he served in the IDF as part of the Israeli Intelligence Corps. His professional experience includes public sector posts in the Security and Environmental Protection domains and years as a Media Consultant for big scale clients in the financial field. He has a strong interest in National Security and completed an internship program at the Institute for National Security Studies.*

10:30 AM Depart Consulate

11:30 AM Visit to Kherwadi Municipal School and Triratna Prerana Mandal

*The Kherwadi Municipal School is supported by the Israeli Consulate in Mumbai and MASHAV. While they are self-funded, the Israeli consulate provides consulting and training for the staff.*

*Triratna Prerana Mandal (TPM) is one of the leading NGOs in Mumbai. It has been contributing to the betterment of society through various projects. The sanitation project that has recently been established has almost 1,300 beneficiaries. The toilets of TPM are clean and well-maintained allowing individuals to practice good hygiene leading to healthy living. TPM operates a computer class for slum children on top of the toilet block. Additionally, there is a class for women that offers support and lessons on becoming financially independent. Many Israelis find their way to this NGO*



through an NGO called "Heroes for Life," that connects backpacking Israelis with volunteer opportunities.

- 1:30 PM Lunch
- 2:45 PM Return to Hotel to Relax & Prepare for Shabbat
- 3:30 PM Arrive at Hotel
- 5:00 PM Pre-Shabbat Group Gathering & Reflection Session
- 5:30 PM Depart Hotel
- 6:06 PM Kabbalat Shabbat with the Community at the Magen David Synagogue
- 7:15 PM Dinner at Magen David Synagogue with the Community

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Five: Saturday, December 22**

- Breakfast at the Hotel
- Optional Shabbat Morning Services at Knesset Eliyahoo Synagogue or Free Time or Shopping
- 12:00 PM Lunch at Chabad
- 2:00 PM Heritage Walking Tour & Insight into the Baghdadi Jewish Community

*The Sassoon family was an Indian family of Iraqi Jewish descent and international renown, based in Mumbai, India. The family descended from the famous Ibn Shoshans, one of the richest families of medieval Spain. From the late-18th century, the Sassoons were one of the wealthiest families in the world, with a merchant empire spanning the continent of Asia. David Sassoon, born in 1792, was a leader in the Mumbai Jewish community after immigrating to India from Baghdad. He built the international business called David S. Sassoon, with the policy of staffing it with people brought over from Baghdad.*

- 4:00 PM Return to Hotel to Rest & Freshen Up
- 6:00 PM Group Discussion
- 7:00 PM Havdalah by the Pool



- 7:30 PM Depart Hotel for Dinner at Chetna Restaurant with Local Peers from the Community
- 8:15 PM Dinner with Local Peers at Chetna Restaurant
- 9:45 PM Evening Out with Local Peers at Irish Pub

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Six: Sunday, December 23**

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel
- 9:00 AM Depart for visit to Ban Ganga
- 10:00 AM Explore the Ban Ganga Neighborhood

*Banganga or Banganga Tank is an ancient water tank, which is part of the Walkeshwar Temple Complex in Malabar Hill area.*

- 12:00 PM Depart for Lunch
- 1:00 PM Lunch near Hotel
- 2:00 PM Arrive at Hotel to Relax & Freshen Up for the Wedding
- 3:15 PM Depart Hotel for Wedding Ceremony
- 4:00 PM Attend the Wedding Ceremony
- 7:00 PM Reception & Dinner

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Seven: Monday, December 24**

*Gabriel Project Mumbai (GPM) is an innovative and compassionate response to the problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy, malnutrition and child labor. In the Mumbai slums, children as young as four years old, faced with acute poverty, are often sent to work as rag pickers and sewage cleaners rather than attend school in order to receive a few rupees to pay for food. The GPM solution is powerful and simple: eat to learn. By providing daily nutritious meals to children attending class, GPM ensures that children receive hunger relief and literacy. GPM thus addresses both the immediate and long-term needs of vulnerable children, alleviating hunger while facilitating the path towards education, which is a key factor in changing their lives*



*JDC works in partnership with Gabriel Project Mumbai (GPM) to bring young Jewish adults to help break the cycle of poverty and hunger by volunteering in food distribution and literacy programs among the children of the Mumbai slums.*

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel
- 8:00 AM Depart Hotel for the Kalwa Slums
- 9:30 AM Visit the GPM School
- 10:30 AM Visit the Slums and GPMs Various Projects

*We will walk through the slums, join a classroom, see the health clinic, visit the Masala Mama kitchen, learn about the NAYA initiative for recycling paper and the Sundara Soap recycling project.*

- 1:00 PM Lunch at GPM
- 2:00 PM Discussion with GPM Director
- 3:00 PM Return to Hotel to Relax & Freshen Up
- 5:00 PM Arrive at Hotel
- 6:30 PM Depart for Restaurant
- 7:00 PM Group Discussion & Dinner

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Eight: Tuesday, December 25**

*Around 175 B.C.E., a boat of Jews fleeing persecution was shipwrecked on the west coast on India, a few kilometers from Alibag. Legend says that the seven Jewish couples who survived founded a Jewish community that was sustained throughout the century.*

- 7:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel
- 8:00 AM Depart Hotel for the Boat to the Villages
- 8:30 AM Boat to the Villages
- 9:15 AM Arrive at Jetty and Take Rickshaw to Cemetery



10:00 AM Sustaining Memory & Community: Visit to the Navgaon Memorial Cemetery

*Around 175 B.C.E., a boat of Jews fleeing persecution was shipwrecked on the west coast on India, a few kilometers from Alibag. The Navgoan Cemetery where the victims of the shipwreck were buried in massive graves, is still standing today. The survivors of this shipwreck are the ancestors of the Bene Israel Jewish Community.*

11:30 AM Sustaining a Small Community: Visit to the Ali Baug Synagogue

12:15 PM Depart Ali Baug Synagogue

1:15 PM Lunch at Moshe Shek Place

3:30 PM Depart for Mumbai

5:00 PM Arrive at Hotel Rest and Freshen Up

7:00 PM Dinner

*Overnight in Mumbai*

**Day Nine: Wednesday: December 26**

8:00 AM Breakfast at Hotel

10:45 AM Depart to Visit Om Creations

*Om Creation is a trust that works to provide employment and a life of dignity to young adults with different cognitive disabilities. They promote a culture of inclusiveness and aim for independence and self-reliance through knowledge, empowerment and a traditional ethos. Om Creations in collaboration with the JDC started the "Challah Baking Project", brainchild of Kimberly Duenas a JSC fellow in Mumbai in the years 2013 & 2014. Young adults bake Challah which is then sold to members of the community.*

11:00 AM Visit Om Creations & Lunch

1:15 PM Shopping at Colaba Market & Free Time

3:15 PM Return to Hotel to Relax & Freshen up for Final Dinner

4:30 PM Group Discussion



- 6:00 PM Depart for Dinner
- 6:15 PM Festive Closing Dinner
- 7:00 PM Depart for Airport

**Day Ten: December 27**

- 12:10 AM Depart Mumbai Airport
- 8:00 PM Arrive Edward L. Logan Boston Airport, UA Flight #2320