Wednesday, October 30, 2013 – Istanbul, Turkey

A center of Sephardic Jewry with early roots that go back to the 4th century (and some say even before that,) the Jewish community of Turkey is today the only significant Jewish community (numbering some 25,000 Jews) living in a Moslem country of 75 million people.

Arrival at different times.

Participants are requested to get a taxi from airport to the Richmound hotel - hotel is on a pedestrian mall on Istaklil road. Taxis usually stop in front of Marmara Pera Hotel and there is a 5 minute walk to hotel. If you need help with luggage, please call the hotel on your way and ask them to send a bell boy.

Arrival, check in, lunch on your own

1:00 p.m. Tour of Istanbul departing from Richmound hotel, including tour of Ottoman sites: Blue Mosque and Ayasofya Mosque

5:00 p.m. Return to hotel

8:00 p.m. Opening dinner at Ortakoy synagogue with the senior leadership of the Jewish community of Turkey- overview of
Jewish community, past, present and future. Greetings by Ishak Ibrahimzadeh, President of the Jewish Community.

Overnight: Richmound Hotel, Istanbul

Thursday, October 31, 2013- Istanbul, Turkey

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
9:15 a.m. Walking tour of Neve Şalom Synagogue (which was attacked in 1986 and 2003), the Jewish Museum and other Jewish sites with Mr. Mois Gabay.

Neve Shalom Synagogue.

11:30 a.m. Meet with the Chief Rabbi of Turkey, Mr. Isak Haleva and an overview of the political and economic situation with a scholar presentation by Deniz Saporta.

1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Jewish School. Adnan Saygun Cad.
1:45 p.m. Meet with members of the board or directors of the school

2:30 p.m. Coffee break at the European side JCC
4:00 p.m. Bosporus cruise from Ortakoy to Beylerbeyi
7:30 p.m. Dinner with Madrichim (counselors) at the Asiatic side Goztepe JCC, including a dance show of the Karmiel Dance Troupe

Overnight: Richmound Hotel, Istanbul

Friday, November 1, 2013- Istanbul, Turkey

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel
9:30 a.m. Depart for a visit to the Ahrida ancient synagogue and the Grand Bazar
10.00 a.m. Visit the Ahrida Synagogue.
1:30 p.m. Lunch at Or Haim Jewish hospital, meet with the volunteer women commission.
2:30 p.m. Free time
4:45 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat at AŞKENAZ synagogue. Address: (5:52 candle lighting time)
7:30 p.m. Shabbat dinner with "Generation Next" young adults group at Barinyurt Jewish Old Age Home.

Overnight: Richmound Hotel, Istanbul
Shabbat, November 2, 2013- Istanbul, Turkey

7:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
8:00 a.m. Optional Shabbat services - Neve Shalom Synagogue.
9:00 a.m. Optional tour of Istanbul (especially for those who missed the tour on Wednesday but everyone is welcome) the tour will include a visit to Topkapi Palace (entrance to be paid on own)

1:30 p.m. Lunch on own and free time
7:21 p.m. Havdalla time
8:30 p.m. Attend the cocktail opening of Limmud Turkey with 1200 participants and special overseas guest speakers- Ilana Mitrani, Prof. Fania Oz Salzberger and Prof. Eli Salzberger.

9:00 p.m. Return to hotel - with an option for late night dinner on own at a Fish restaurant

Overnight: Richmound Hotel, Istanbul

Sunday, November 3, 2013- Sofia, Bulgaria

7:50 a.m. Turkish Airlines flight to Sofia

2013 marks the 70 year celebration of the rescue of Bulgarian Jews during WWII and the commemoration of the deportation of the Jews of Macedonia, Trakia and South Serbia. It also marks 20 years of the revival of the Jewish community and the thriving JCC.

10:00 a.m. Arrival in Sofia and check in hotel

11:30 a.m. Short visit to Shalom JCC and overview of general and Jewish situation with Mrs. Julia Dandolova, JDC Director followed by a visit to the Great Synagogue of Sofia.

12:30 p.m. Lunch followed by a consultation/working session with community leaders

a. Jointly analyzing future scenarios of Bulgarian Jewish revival- where have they been five years ago, where are they today and what is their vision for tomorrow?
b. How do these scenarios fit into the global Jewish agenda and planning?
c. Identify how JCC Global and Shalom Sofia can continue their strong collaboration?

3:00 p.m.  Short break at hotel or short tour of city for first timers  
Attend **Sunday afternoon family programs**

7:00 p.m.  **Dinner with young adults;** Find out how their Jewish identity was shaped by the community; what are their paths for future involvement and how do they foresee their European Jewish connections.

Overnight:  Grand Hotel, Sofia

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**Monday, November 4, 2013- Thessaloniki, Greece**

A cosmopolitan city that for generations was home to a prosperous Jewish community, known as “Jerusalem of the Balkan”, where even the city port was closed on Shabbat. It was tragically wiped out during WWII and today only a small remnant of Jews keep the flame alive.

7:30 a.m.  bus ride to Thessaloniki

11:30 a.m.  Arrival and welcome by **Mrs. Nelly Arouch**, Executive Director of the Jewish Community.

1:00 p.m.  **Visit and lunch at the Community/JCC** with members and board members.

Presentation: What does it mean to be a Jew in Thessaloniki in the 21st century?

Consultation/sharing discussion with delegation to learn about worldwide JCCs.

3:00 p.m.  **Tour of Jewish Thessaloniki and possible visit to the Jewish Museum**

Short tour of city and port en route to the airport

Dinner on your own

8:30 p.m.  Depart on Aegean flights to Athens

9:20 p.m.  Arrive in Athens, transfer to hotel with a charted bus
Tuesday, November 5, 2013 - Athens

Wrapping up the study seminar is a visit to the Jewish community of Athens- a microcosm of the Jewish Balkan experience. A Jewish community that is keen on continuing Jewish revival in the midst of a deep financial and social national crisis.

9:30 a.m.  Taly Mair, Director of the Jewish Community of Athens welcomes delegation and we depart by foot to the Jewish Community Head offices

10:00 a.m. Overview of the political and economic situation in Greece with Mr. Minos Moissis, President of the Jewish Community of Athens and Board Members

11:30 a.m. Visit the synagogues followed by a visit to the Holocaust Memorial with Mrs. Mathilda Beraha, an architect and former member of the Board who was part of the team initiating its inauguration.

12:30 a.m. Tour of the Jewish Museum with Mrs. Zanette Batinou, Director of the Museum

2:00 p.m. Lunch at the Greek Yacht Club at Pireaus with the President of the JCC Committee and other members of the community.

Free time and dinner

8:00 p.m. An evening program at the JCC, with light refreshments and local entertainment.

Meet the senior leadership of the JCC together with members of the youth club. Among the guests: Mr. Solomon Hallegoua, President of the JCC committee, Mr. Sakis Negrin, Executive Director, Senior Board Member, Mrs. Kelly Namia, President of Youth Department and others.

Overnight: Hotel N.J.V. Athens Plaza
**Wednesday, November 6, 2013 - Athens**

**9:30 a.m.** Depart for a visit to the Jewish School. Meet with the head of School Committee, **Mr. Alberto Taraboulous**, and members of the board.

**11:30 a.m.** Wrap up discussion of study seminar: What have we learned? How can JCC Global better connect with Balkan Jewish communities and what are realistic goals to be achieved followed by lunch at the school

**1:00 p.m.** A tour of Acropolis Museum and Acropolis

**4:00 p.m.** Official Farewell

Free time and dinner on your own with an option for late night entertainment at one of Athens’ many Taverns
Overnight: Hotel N.J.V. Athens Plaza

**Thursday, November 7th, 2013**

Departures to airport on your own

**10:00 a.m.** Optional walking tour of Athens, for those staying, with **Mr. Alberto Fortis**, former Director of the Jewish Community of Athens.