

The Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities

presents

SOUTHEAST ASIA through Jewish Eyes™ 2009

17 days visiting Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia & Burma

Fully escorted by Rabbi Marvin Tokayer



Rangoon, Burma

Dear Fellow Travellers,

For the past 25 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 February 2009, I will host my 4th annual tour to Southeast Asia, to visit unbelievable Angkor Wat in Cambodia and tour Ho Chi Minh City's magnificent monuments. We'll spend a memorable Shabbat in Hanoi and visit the infamous prison for American POWs called the "Hanoi Hilton." Bangkok is a treasure-trove of rich art and history, and you'll experience an exceptional and historic Shabbat in Myanmar (Burma), an intensely spiritual country with a haunting history. The Jewish experience in Burma is an amazing secret and its synagogue (which contains more than 120 Torah scrolls!) will welcome you warmly.

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 inside and, along 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(208)202-7934 or email valierb@hotmail.com.

~ Special 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 off your final payment, as
our way of saying 'thank you' for your support.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marvin Tokayer".

Southeast Asia through Jewish Eyes™

Feb 8, Sun **Departure for Singapore**
Evening departure from JFK via Singapore Airlines.

Feb 9, Mon **Enroute to Lotusland**

Feb 10, Tue **Arrival in Singapore**
You'll be met and transferred to the Shangri-La Hotel (or similar). Afternoon sightseeing and welcome dinner with the Jewish Community of Singapore.

Feb 11, Wed **Fly to Vietnam**
Flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Check-in at the New World Hotel (or similar). From the rooftop, you can look over the entire city and the Saigon River meandering through the bustling metropolis. City tour will feature the Reunification Palace, Cholon (a unique Chinatown), Jade Emperor Pagoda, and the bustling Ben Thanh Market. Dinner at Thai Nhan Vegetarian restaurant where you will have a chance to meet Israeli doctors who have been working in Saigon for nearly 20 years.

Feb 12, Thu **Saigon, Cu Chi** **B,L,D**
Visit the synagogue for a fascinating talk with the Chief Rabbi of Ho Chi Minh City. With box lunch in hand, drive past lush rice fields, rubber plantations, and bamboo bridges over the Saigon River to Cu Chi to explore the ingenious honeycomb of tunnels that hid an army of Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. This evening, enjoy a delightful performance of the famous water puppets, a unique Vietnamese artform

Feb 13, Fri **Fly to Hanoi** **B,L,D**
After a very brief flight to Hanoi, check-in at the Metropole Hotel (or similar). This afternoon, visit Ba Dinh Square, the fascinating Ethnic Museum, One Pillar Pagoda and other sites. Shabbat services and dinner at the hotel. Rabbi Tokayer will also discuss his experiences as USAF Chaplain in Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

Feb 14, Sat **Shabbat in Hanoi** **B,L,D**
Shabbat services and lunch at the hotel. Optional afternoon walking tour of the Old Town.

Feb 15, Sun **Fly to Cambodia** **B,L,D**
Morning visit to the Temple of Literature, dating back over 1000 years, and the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison where John McCain and other American POWs were housed during the Vietnam War. Afternoon flight to Cambodia. You'll be met and transferred to the Victoria Angkor Resort Hotel (or similar).



Angkor Wat

Feb 16, 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 growing out of the very rocks. Continue to magnificent Angkor Wat, one of the wonders of the 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. This evening, ride an elephant to the top of Phnom Bakheng Hill for a memorable sunset view over the fabulous lost cities of Angkor.

Feb 17, Tue **Fly to Bangkok** **B,L,D**
Morning at leisure. You'll visit an artisans workshop before boarding your flight to Bangkok. Transfer to the Grand Hyatt Erawan Hotel (or similar), a landmark hotel in the Thai capital. *Sawasdee* (welcome). Evening visit to the unique night market.

Feb 18, Wed **The King & You** **B,L,D**
A full day of sightseeing in this fascinating city of Buddhism. 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. At dinner, you will meet Ruth Gerson, a long-standing resident of Bangkok and author of "The History of The Jews of Thailand", and the classic text, "Traditional Festivals in Thailand."

Feb 19, Thu **Bangkok** **B,L,D**
Day at leisure. You may wish to join the optional excursion to Ayuthya, ancient capital of Siam. Or visit the home and museum of Jim Thompson, pioneer of the Thai silk industry.

Feb 20, Fri **Bangkok ~ Burma** **B,L,D**
Fly to Burma (Myanmar). Upon arrival in Yangon (formerly British Rangoon), check-in at Park Royal Hotel (or similar). Your afternoon tour features the shimmering Shwedagon Pagoda - gilded with 8 tons of gold - a landmark that has dominated the skyline for 2500 years, and the 130 year-old Jewish cemetery. Services at the historic Musmeah Yeshua Synagogue, with its soaring ceiling and graceful columns, within close walking distance of the hotel.

Feb 21, Sat Shabbat in Yangon B,L,D

Rabbi Tokayer will discuss a fascinating chapter of his forthcoming book, and why more than 120 locally written Torah scrolls are in the Ark of a remote synagogue in this remote Jewish community in Asia. You'll also learn of the escape of the Jewish community from Japanese occupation in WWII. You will never forget this Shabbat in Burma.

Feb 22, 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. Fly to remote Bagan, the cradle of Myanmar culture and visit the timeless plains with hundreds of religious temples as far as the eye can see. In the afternoon, return to Rangoon. At the farewell dinner, with cultural performance, hosted by the local Jewish community, Rabbi Tokayer will summarize the Jewish experience in Southeast Asia.

Feb 23, Mon Return Home B,L(D)

Morning at leisure to explore or try your bargaining skills in bustling Scott Market for priceless tzatchkas and souvenirs, before your return flight to the USA.

Feb 24, Tue Arrive USA

With fond memories of a unique experience, you'll arrive home this day. ~ *Bon voyage* ~

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer and Lotus Tours (US), Ltd. established the Foundation for Remote Jewish Communities, a 501(c)3 not-for-profit educational & cultural charity, as an opportunity for participants to contribute to programs that preserve and promote the Jewish communities on the periphery of the Diaspora. Since its inception, the Foundation has contributed nearly \$200,000 to communities in China, India, Japan, Myanmar and others.

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, an additional \$500 charge will apply; between 120 and 90 days, an additional \$1,000 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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Ancient city, Bagan, Burma