



# Jewish Journeys 2016

## A year of Jerusalems

### Salonika, Jerusalem of the Balkans

October 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>

With Jeremy Leigh

...or as it was known by many, 'the mother of Israel.' In so many ways, it is to Sephardi Jewry what Vilna is to the Ashkenazim. The port city of Salonika, which rose to prominence in the post-1492 era, has a Jewish story that is all about the twin themes of exile and home. Despite the destructions of the twentieth century and the complex politics of memory (Greece has never been that fond of glorifying the Turkish presence), Salonika has always been centre stage in the Jewish imagination. It has become a metaphor for rootedness and the highest achievements of diaspora living, at least under the Muslim Ottomans if not the Christian Greeks.

The destructive forces of the twentieth century may have significantly reduced the community but that does not change the enormity of the story - site of one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Europe; a city that half spoke Ladino (the non-Jews as well as the Jews!); a city that saw some of the great battles between traditionalists and modernisers; and a city with a prominent and well documented diaspora. Today, the community is fighting to survive – in spite of the combined challenges of economic crisis and resurgent antisemitism; all the more reason for us to visit.

On our journey we will explore all that there is to see of Jewish Salonika: the famous port; the splendid villas of the great and the good of Jewish society; the remaining shards of the Jewish city, and of course the contemporary community with its museum and small cluster of institutions. We also hope to include a day excursion to one other Jewish centre further afield.

Price will be £565 for double occupancy with a single supplement of £115. The price excludes flights and is based on a minimum of 30 participants. We reserve the right to add a surcharge if there is a significant devaluation of the pound against the destination currency. A non-refundable deposit of £75 per person is payable with your booking form. Final payment will be required by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016. To book please contact Debbi Arnold or Kirsty Pegg at Colletts Travel on 020 8202 2233 or [kirsty@collettstravel.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@collettstravel.co.uk)