



Journeys out of the Ark

Mondays, 22nd March – 26th April 2021*

We may not be quite there yet, but the signs are there that the 'waters' are subsiding, and we can start imagining a time when we will leave the ark. For some, the Biblical 'ark' may seem a slightly dramatic metaphor for this time of pandemic, lockdowns, and restrictions, but the idea is there - when we emerge, vaccinated and hopefully slightly less fearful, we will be in the company of generations of people who traveled on similar journeys of fear and reached safety

In this new JJ Virtual travel series, we will follow an eclectic assortment of journeys, in the company of Jews past and present, whose lives were defined by this transition from fear to hope. (Descriptions of sessions can be found below, but we plan to be in all hemispheres, and at least 4 continents!)

* Except for session 2., all sessions will be on Mondays at 12.00-13.30, UK time.

Price p/p for the course £50 / 220NIS

NB. We would certainly not want anyone to miss out for financial reasons - this is, after all, not the easiest of times. So, if the cost is prohibitive, just drop us a line.

If you would like to join us, please email us at jane@jewishjourneys.info and make payment via PayPal to https://www.paypal.me/jewishjourneysJL?locale.x=en_US

The sessions:

1. (22.3.2021) Post plague Jews. Hard to imagine, but the very first JJ virtual event, exactly a year ago was entitled "On Jews, Plagues and Places". Now, a year later, we revisit some of those sites and stories (and a few more too), but with a different angle – how did Jews of former times understand their lives when it was safe to return to a new normal?

2. (30.3.2021) Many times leaving Egypt: Frankly, it is about time we had a proper JJ during Pesach, the festival of the ultimate Jewish Journey! In this session we join five iconic historic

seders in different parts of the world in the company of Jews tasting freedom for the first time.

3. (5.4.2021) *Pidyon Shvuim* (freeing captives): What lengths will Jews go to rescue their fellow Jews, and what perilous journeys will they undertake on their behalf? Acknowledged as one of the most highly regarded *mitzvot*, the redemption of captives (*pidyon shvuim*), has taken Jews on journeys crisscrossing the globe. We join them with a view to digging a bit deeper into the world of rescuers and redeemers.

4. (12.4.2021) *Atzmaut* (Independence): Neatly timed to coincide with Israel's forthcoming 73rd Independence Day, we revisit some of the less well-known journeys of Jews that brought them to this country (Israel). And from the other side, a glance at some of the sites and stories representing more challenging and unsettling moments in the struggle for freedom that we are only coming to appreciate now, and yet rarely feature on Israel journeys

5. (19.4.2021) *When the Wall Fell*: It may have been in our lifetime, but most of the stories of Jews whose lives were transformed by the end of the Cold War have gone largely untold. The story of post 1989 / 91 Jews from across the vast territory of the USSR and satellite countries represents one of the largest and most international of contemporary Jewish journeys. In this session, we retrace some of their steps to offer an intriguing and nuanced view of Jews in the shadow of the wall.

6. (26.4.2021) *Being at leisure*! Remarkable though it may be to imagine, but for some Jews, journeys are not defined by the search for meaning and strangely, when they travel, they choose NOT to dwell on lofty matters, but rather they just want to relax. In this final session, we join those Jews for whom the journey to freedom and safety is over.