

LSJS TOURS



Immersive Jewish Learning

Deepen your Jewish learning through archaeology, art and science, and follow the Jewish story through museums, art galleries and special collections.



BRITISH MUSEUM

Tours

The Pesach Tour

Who was the Pharaoh of the Haggadah?

What did it really mean to be 'slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt'?

We'll reveal the devastating blows dealt by God to Ancient Egypt in war, society and religion through understanding Ancient Egyptian customs, concepts and beliefs. With statues, tombs, frescoes and hieroglyphs, as well as Biblical text, this tour will transform your Seder night experience.

The Purim Tour

Have you ever seen Achashverosh sit on his throne?

Worked out where Shushan is actually located?

What was it like to live in a Persian palace?

This tour uncovers the Persian politics behind the Purim story and will provide you with fascinating insights into the intrigue and excesses related in Esther's Megillah.

Assyria & Ten Lost Tribes Tour

Have you ever seen a picture of a biblical king of Israel?

The Neo-Assyrian empire wiped out the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and proudly depicted this victory in stunning reliefs displayed here. But how did the ten lost tribes of Israel disappear? And will we ever find them again?

View key artefacts through the lens of Biblical texts to learn what really happened under Assyrian rule.





The Chanukah Tour

What were the Ancient Greeks doing in the Land of Israel and why did they pose an existential threat to Judaism?

Jewish and Ancient Greek civilisations are profoundly similar yet fundamentally different. We'll compare and contrast Jewish and Greek conceptions of beauty, scholarship and knowledge, discover why olive oil was valued by both, and come to appreciate the battle of ideas that lies behind the Chanukah story.

The Noah Tour

Was the Flood global? Where was the Garden of Eden? What was the Tower of Babel?

Explore fascinating relationships between the early stories of Genesis and stories found in Mesopotamian cuneiform tablets. Learn how ancient Babylon influenced Biblical Israel, and about the moral revolution that the Torah introduced to the world.

The God Tour

The ancient worlds worshipped planets, rivers, trees and animals, so the Torah was a radical rejection of this thinking.

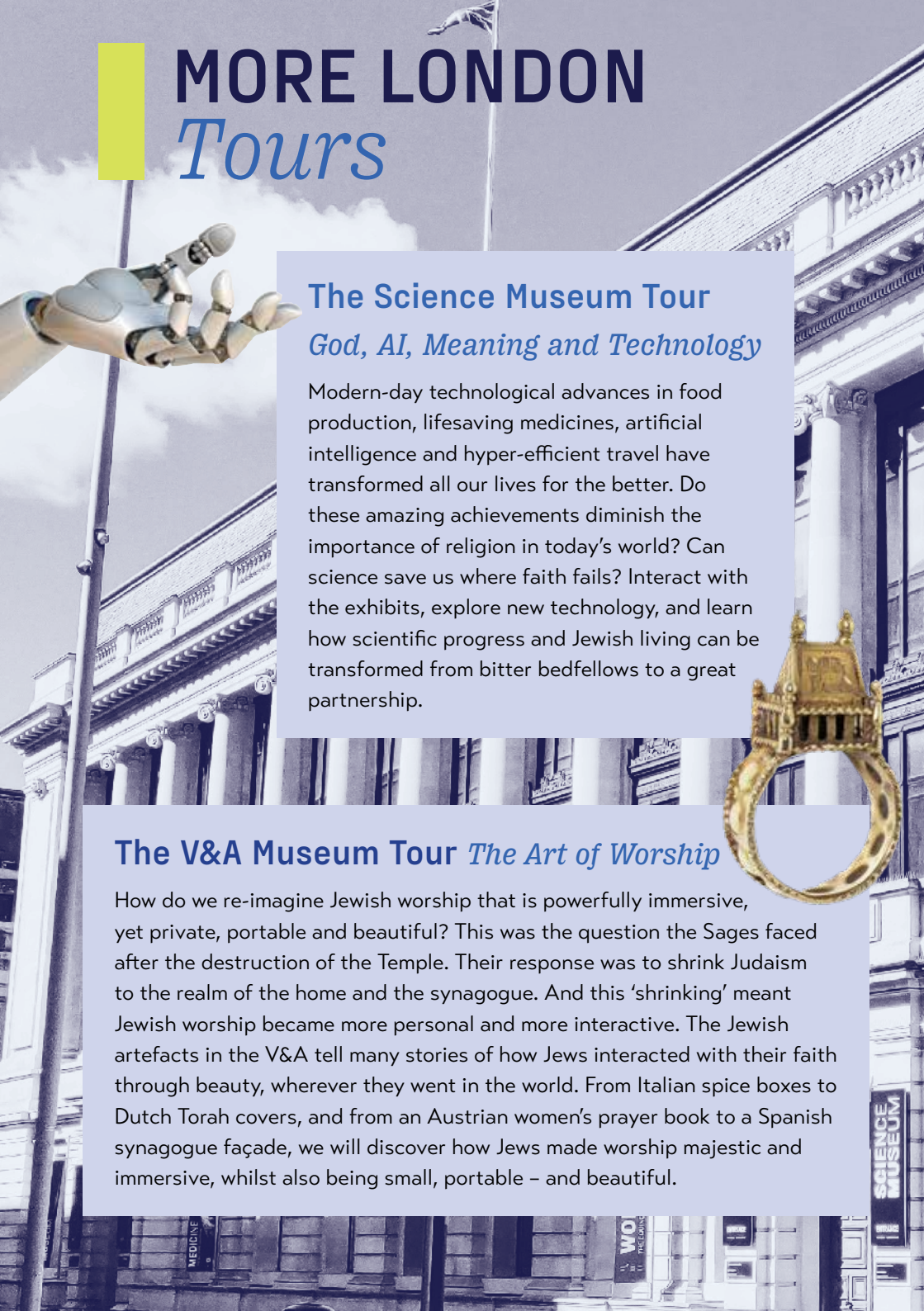
The God Tour examines statues and ritual objects, comparing them to laws prohibiting idolatry in Jewish sources, to better understand the one true God.



The Highlights Tour

A whistle-stop tour of captivating Jewish artefacts.

Watch ancient Israelites in a battle scene, come face-to-face with our biggest adversaries and see how the Cyrus Cylinder transformed our understanding of Tanach.



MORE LONDON *Tours*

The Science Museum Tour *God, AI, Meaning and Technology*

Modern-day technological advances in food production, lifesaving medicines, artificial intelligence and hyper-efficient travel have transformed all our lives for the better. Do these amazing achievements diminish the importance of religion in today's world? Can science save us where faith fails? Interact with the exhibits, explore new technology, and learn how scientific progress and Jewish living can be transformed from bitter bedfellows to a great partnership.

The V&A Museum Tour *The Art of Worship*

How do we re-imagine Jewish worship that is powerfully immersive, yet private, portable and beautiful? This was the question the Sages faced after the destruction of the Temple. Their response was to shrink Judaism to the realm of the home and the synagogue. And this 'shrinking' meant Jewish worship became more personal and more interactive. The Jewish artefacts in the V&A tell many stories of how Jews interacted with their faith through beauty, wherever they went in the world. From Italian spice boxes to Dutch Torah covers, and from an Austrian women's prayer book to a Spanish synagogue façade, we will discover how Jews made worship majestic and immersive, whilst also being small, portable – and beautiful.

The National Portrait Gallery Tour

500 Years of History

The National Portrait Gallery tells the story of Britain through portraits, using art to bring history to life. This tour brings 500 years of Anglo-Jewish history to life through fascinating and varied portraits of Jews and those who influenced Jewish life. From Queen Elizabeth I to Maureen Lipman and from Daniel Mendoza to Sid James, we will meet royals, scientists, politicians, military leaders and musicians, including some lesser-known names. Each one made an indelible and unique contribution to Anglo-Jewry and beyond.



The National Gallery Tour

Where Torah meets Art

Can art serve as a Jewish way of looking at the Bible? Or is a word worth a thousand pictures?

As we walk through the splendid National Gallery, we'll study pictures of biblical stories to discover how they compare to, and contrast with, the Hebrew text. Along the way we'll marvel at Belshazzar's headwear, admire Elijah's fervour, and question Rubens' ideas of Israelite dress customs in the desert. We'll uncover some of the troubling messages hidden beneath the surface of Western depictions of the Bible.

SCIENCE
MUSEUM

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Natural History Museum Tour

Where are the Dinosaurs?

Just how old is life on Earth? Why are there no dinosaurs in Genesis? And does Evolution clash with Jewish belief?

The wonderful Natural History Museum houses over seventy million specimens; from microscopic slides to giant prehistoric skeletons.

Should traditional Jews feel challenged by what they find here? Explore the relationship between Bereishit and Charles Darwin, and discover the surprising origins of the museum.



OUR EDUCATORS

LSJS prides itself on our excellent educators, who are experts in both Torah and the museum's field of study. Each tour is well-sourced, clearly structured and will be delivered in an engaging and enjoyable way for people of all ages and backgrounds.



**Rabbi Dr Raphael
ZARUM**

Dean of LSJS and the Rabbi Sacks Chair of Modern Jewish Thought, established by the Zandan family. He is an international lecturer, rabbinic leader, academic, author and podcaster. He has devised many LSJS tours, which synthesise Torah teachings with archaeological, historical and scientific research, bringing museum artefacts and exhibits to life. He has turned the British Museum into a dynamic Torah classroom, and has guided thousands on his world-famous Pesach, Chanukah and Purim tours.



**Rafi
COHEN**

Teacher of Jewish Studies and Science and Head of Bet Midrash at JFS. He qualified as a teacher through the LSJS Teach to Lead - Lehorot programme, completed an MA in Jewish Education at LSJS and is a graduate of the LSJS Rabbi Sacks Learning Fellowship. A former Mazkir of Bnei Akiva, he guides Jewish-themed tours of the British Museum.



**Simon
GOULDEN**

Educational and management consultant, writer and international lecturer. He received an MA in Jewish Education from LSJS. He is an expert on Anglo-Jewish history and a seasoned museum guide and storyteller, using exhibits and portraits to make Jewish history come alive.



**Michael
RAINSBURY**

Head of Adult Education at LSJS and a Sacks Scholar. He created the first dedicated English language tours of the President of Israel's Residence in Jerusalem and leads Jewish heritage tours with LSJS and JRoots. Based in Israel, he guides tours in the British Museum and beyond both in person and online.



**Michelle
SINT**

A graduate of the LSJS Susi Bradfield Educational Leadership Programme, she is a popular teacher and tour guide at LSJS. She enjoys combining her expertise in Tanach with her knowledge of the Egyptian, Greek and Persian worlds to create dynamic and interactive learning journeys at the British Museum.

PRIVATE BOOKINGS FOR YOUR *Community*

LSJS private tours can be booked year-round for your organisation, school, work, community or private party. Each tour offers a distinctive opportunity to fuse Jewish learning with broader historical and cultural understanding.

For more details or to book a tour, please contact lsjsadmin@lsjs.ac.uk.

British Museum

National Portrait Gallery

Natural History Museum

Science Museum

The National Gallery

The V&A Museum



LSJS is always innovating & growing, so if you have a specific request for a tour or tour guide not yet listed in this brochure, please be in touch.