

History of the Jews of India



Six Classes Starting February 5, 2025

Wednesdays at 3:00 PM and 8:15 PM

3:00 PM - In Person at the JCCP/CBT or on Zoom

8:15 PM - Zoom only

Rabbi Arthur Weiner

Of all the Diaspora communities, the Jews of India are among the least known and most interesting. In this class, we will study the history and culture of the three geographically and ethnographically distinct Jewish communities of India. These include the Bene Israel, located primarily on India's Western coast, the Jews of Cochin, in southwestern India, and the Baghdadi Jews, who migrated from Iraq and Syria to India's large commercial and port cities and flourished under the British Raj.

Join us as we study the ancient origins of Indian Jewry, its relations with the dominant Hindu culture and other diverse communities. We will also learn more about Indian Jews in Israel, their relations with other Jewish communities throughout the world, as well as evaluate the future for Jewish life in India.

This will be the 29th year that our winter adult education semester has been devoted to the study of Jewish history.