



Inside a Synagogue

This slideshow will take you on a tour of a synagogue, and explain what you will find!





Outside the synagogue against the back wall is the framework for a sukkah.



This is a flimsy hut built annually for the festival of Sukkot which both celebrates harvest and recalls the story of the Jews wandering for years in the wilderness after their escape from Egypt.



The entrance to the synagogue is marked by the Magen Star (Star of David) symbol. This symbol has long been associated with Judaism and is seen on the flag of Israel.



The focal point of any synagogue is the Ark, a big cupboard covered by a curtain, in which the Torah scrolls are kept.



In this synagogue a reading platform is found in the centre and chairs on three sides around this.



The scrolls of the Torah are always beautifully 'dressed'. They are the most precious item in the synagogue and contain God's words. The silver ornaments on the top of the rollers jingle as the scrolls are taken out and call the congregation to listen to what God says.





The scrolls are taken from the Ark to the Bimah, a centrally positioned reading platform with a reading desk.



There they are undressed, unrolled and read to the congregation in Hebrew.



At the back of this synagogue a Hanukiah, a special 9-branched candlestick for the festival of Hannukah was kept. Note the Magen David symbol. A 7-branched menorah or candlestick is another traditional symbol for Judaism.



On each doorway inside the synagogue (except the toilet) a mezuzah is nailed.

This contains some words from the Torah and is a special reminder that this is a home or building where God's laws are honoured kept.



In the kitchen there are many Jewish food laws to be kept. This kitchen is specially designed to be 'kosher'.

This is a meat preparation area. Meat and milk must be kept separately.