

Jewish Synagogues Around the World

Grand Choral Synagogue, St Petersburg, Russia

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Dohany Street Synagogue, Budapest

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Jubilee Synagogue, Prague

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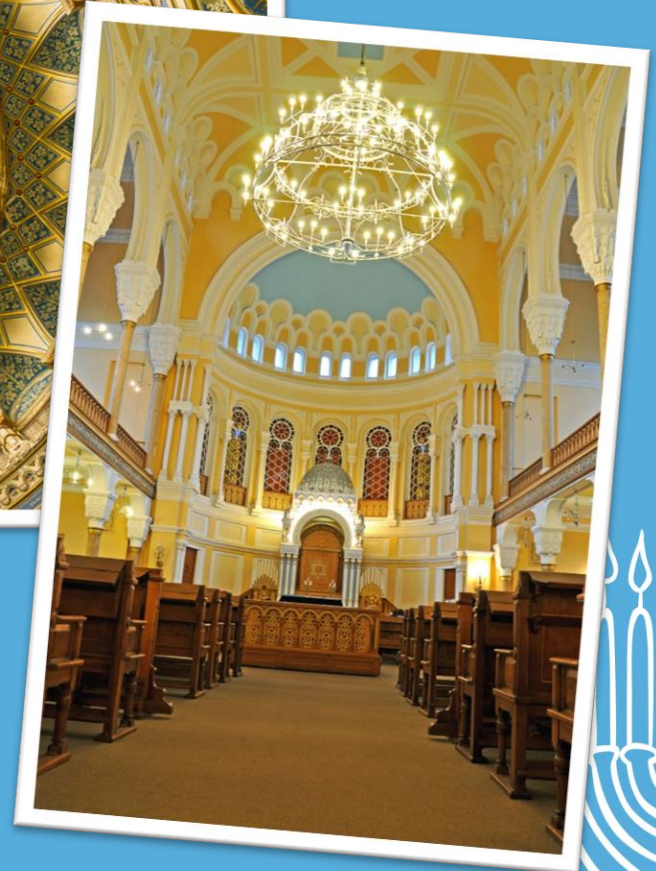
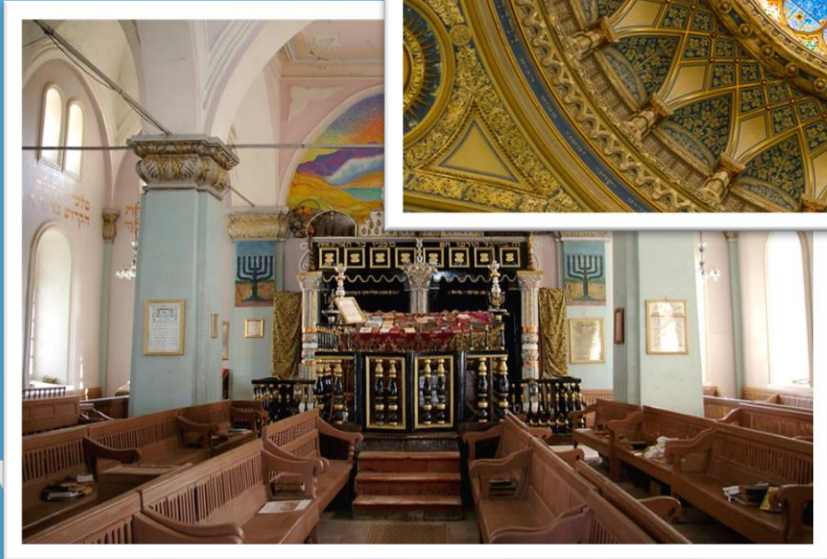
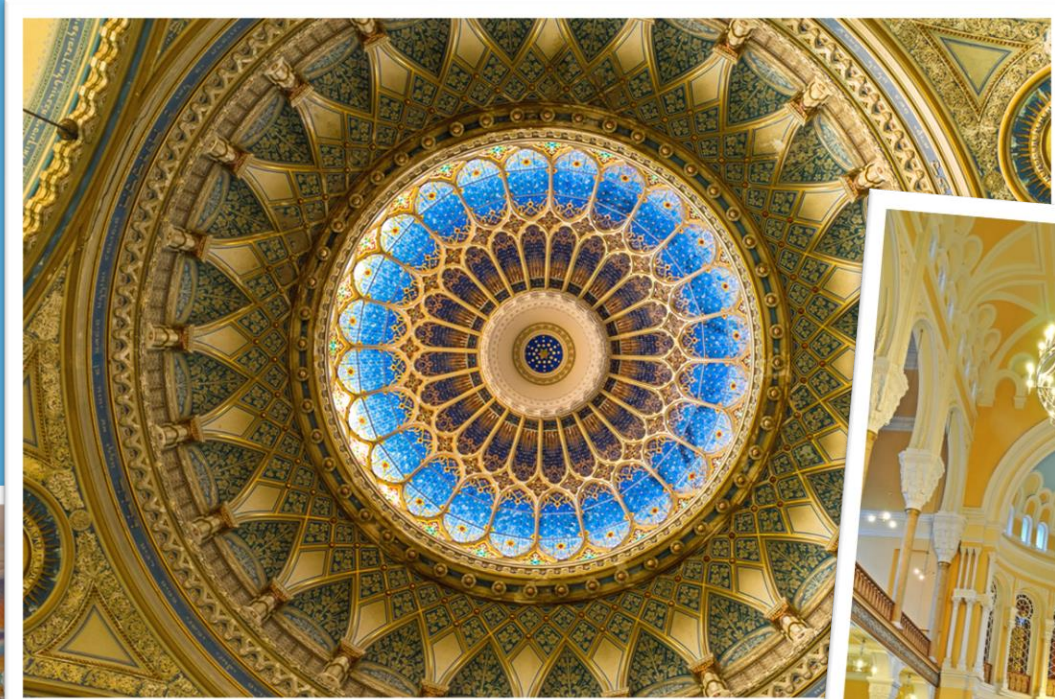


New West End Synagogue, London

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What is it like inside a Jewish Synagogue?



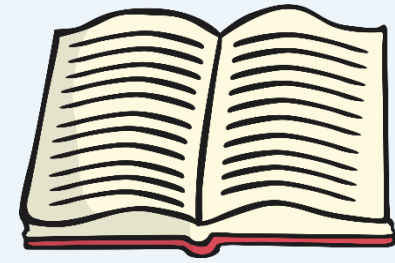
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Ark

The Ark is a cupboard in which the Torah scrolls are kept.



Siddur

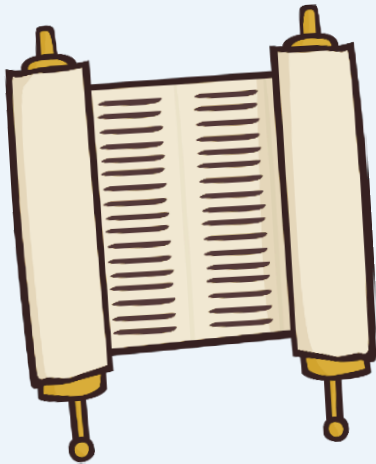
This is the main prayer book.

Important Features of a Jewish Synagogue

Bimah

A raised platform where most of the service takes place. The Torah readings happen here.





Torah Scrolls

The scrolls contain the words of the Hebrew Bible.



Memorial Boards

These are boards full of name plates. Each name plate remembers someone who has died.

Important Features of a Jewish Synagogue



The Eternal Light

This hangs above the Ark and is always burning to remind everyone that God is always with them.

Jewish Worship



Watch the video to find out more about Jewish worship on Shabbat. Shabbat is the Jewish day of rest and is the most important time of the week. Shabbat begins at sunset on Friday and ends at night time on Saturday.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/celebrating-shabbat-at-the-synagogue/3877.html>



Why do people go to a Jewish Synagogue?



People go to the synagogue to worship but also to study. Many synagogues are also community centres where local Jewish people can meet and take part in different activities and events.

A synagogue is a house of prayer where Jewish people can get together to feel closer to God, and each other.

The services are led by a rabbi or a worshipper.



Showing Respect



During the service everyone, except women who aren't married, must wear a hat to show respect to God; this is called a kippah.



Adult men wear a prayer shawl for morning prayer which has fringes along the edge to remind the worshipper to follow God's way.

Men and women sit separately in the synagogue.

Once the Ark is open, nobody must enter or leave the room as a sign of respect.