

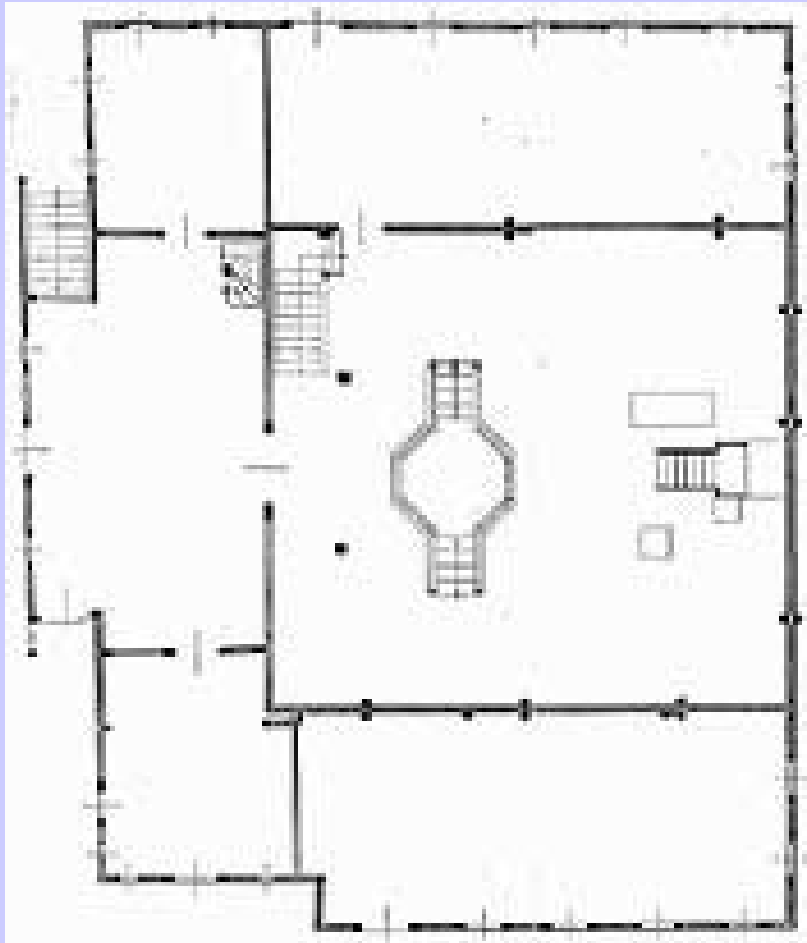
Virtual Tour of a synagogue

Welcome to the synagogue

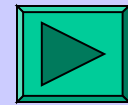
- This is the outside of the synagogue.
- Click on the picture to enter.



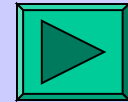
Inside the synagogue



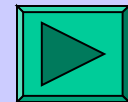
The Bihmah



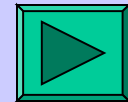
The Ark



The Pews



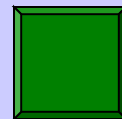
**Worship in the
synagogue**



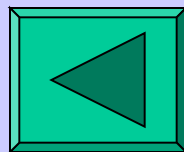
The Bimah



The scrolls are taken from the Ark to the Bimah, a centrally positioned reading platform (dais) with a reading desk. There they are undressed, unrolled and read to the congregation in Hebrew.



Reading the Scrolls

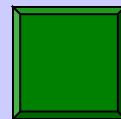


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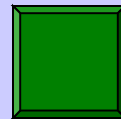
The Ark



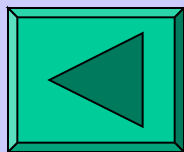
The focal point of any synagogue is the Ark, this is like a big cupboard covered by a curtain, in which the Torah scrolls are kept.



More about the scrolls

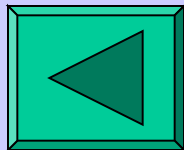


The Ner Tamid



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The Pews



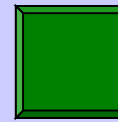
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Worship

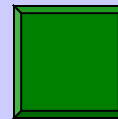


Hanson Hosein / NBC News

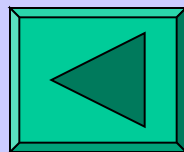
Worship in the synagogue happens on Shabbat and during the week



More about Shabbat



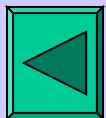
More about in the week



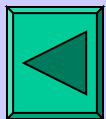
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Torah Scrolls

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



Back to the Ark



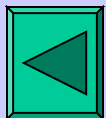
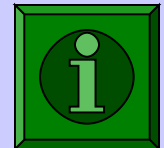
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Ner Tamid

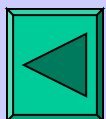
Above the ark a lamp called Ner Tamid (eternal light) burns as a symbol of God's constant presence. The writing across the top of the ark is in Hebrew, the language traditionally used by Jews in prayer.



What's the design on the Ner Tamid?



Back to the Ark

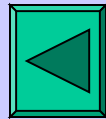


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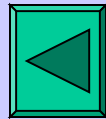
Menorah



The Menorah or seven branched candlestick was the one in the temple in Jerusalem the Ner Tamid symbolises the menorah in the synagogue



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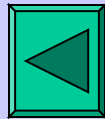


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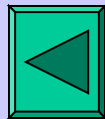
Yad



A silver yad (hand) is used as a pointer so that the scrolls are not damaged.



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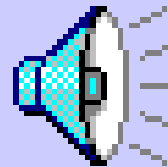
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Shabbat Worship

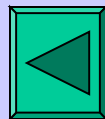
The service in the synagogue on a Shabbat consist of four parts.

- 1. Warm-up Prayers**
- 2. Shema and its Blessings**
- 3. Amidah**
- 4. Concluding Prayers**

A key part of the service is the reading of the Torah and the d'var Torah an explanation of the reading



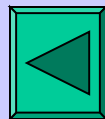
The Blessing before the torah is read



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Weekday Worship

A quorum, called a minyan, is required for a complete religious service. Ten adults (aged 13 years plus a day) are constitute a minyan. In the absense of a minyan, the Barechu and Kaddish are not recited aloud, and the Torah is not read from the scroll.



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