

Three waves of immigration from Afghanistan

The first wave of immigration from Afghanistan (1882–1914)

The first groups of Afghan immigrants arrived in Israel at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century and their number in the Land of Israel by the eve of the First World War reached 100 people. They were the first communal nucleus to purchase land, and joined the immigrants of Mashhad and Bukhara. Together they built the Bukhari neighborhood in Jerusalem. Some of them returned some time later to Afghanistan and brought the rest of their family members to the Holy Land.[1] Those immigrants were the first to immigrate to the Land of Israel and told the Jews in Afghanistan about the Land of Israel. The immigration route of the Afghan Jews to Israel was through Russia, Odessa, Turkey, and the Land of Israel.

The motivations for immigrating were mainly religious. They stemmed from the love of Zion and getting closer to the place of the Shekinah, as well as the desire for the renewal of Jewish life in the Land of Israel.[2]

The second wave of immigration from Afghanistan (1933–1939)

During the second wave of immigration from Afghanistan, the northern route of immigration (see above) was blocked for Afghan Jews. As a result, the Afghan Jews decided to immigrate to Israel via the southern route:

The southern route of ascent passed through the Khyber Pass, Peshawar, Karachi, Bombay, and from there by sea in one of the following ways:

- Through the Persian Gulf to the port of Basra in Iraq and from there to Syria, Lebanon or Jordan and the Land of Israel.
- Through the Suez Canal to the port of Jaffa or Haifa.

During the second wave of Afghan Jews immigrating to the Land of Israel, between 1934-1946, there were also people who immigrated illegally following the decrees of the Mandatory Government's White Book that limited immigration to Israel. In the records of the mandate, during the second wave of immigration, 721 immigrants immigrated from Afghanistan to the Land of Israel, between the years 1934-1946, but it is

likely that another 1,000 immigrated illegally as border thieves, as tourists who arrived for a fixed period and stayed beyond the promised departure date.[2]

The third wave of immigration, the 1950s onwards

Starting in June 1950, the Afghan authorities allowed 200 of the Afghan Jews to leave Afghanistan every month and come to Israel. From 1951 to .1990, about 4,000 Jews immigrated to Israel from Afghanistan