

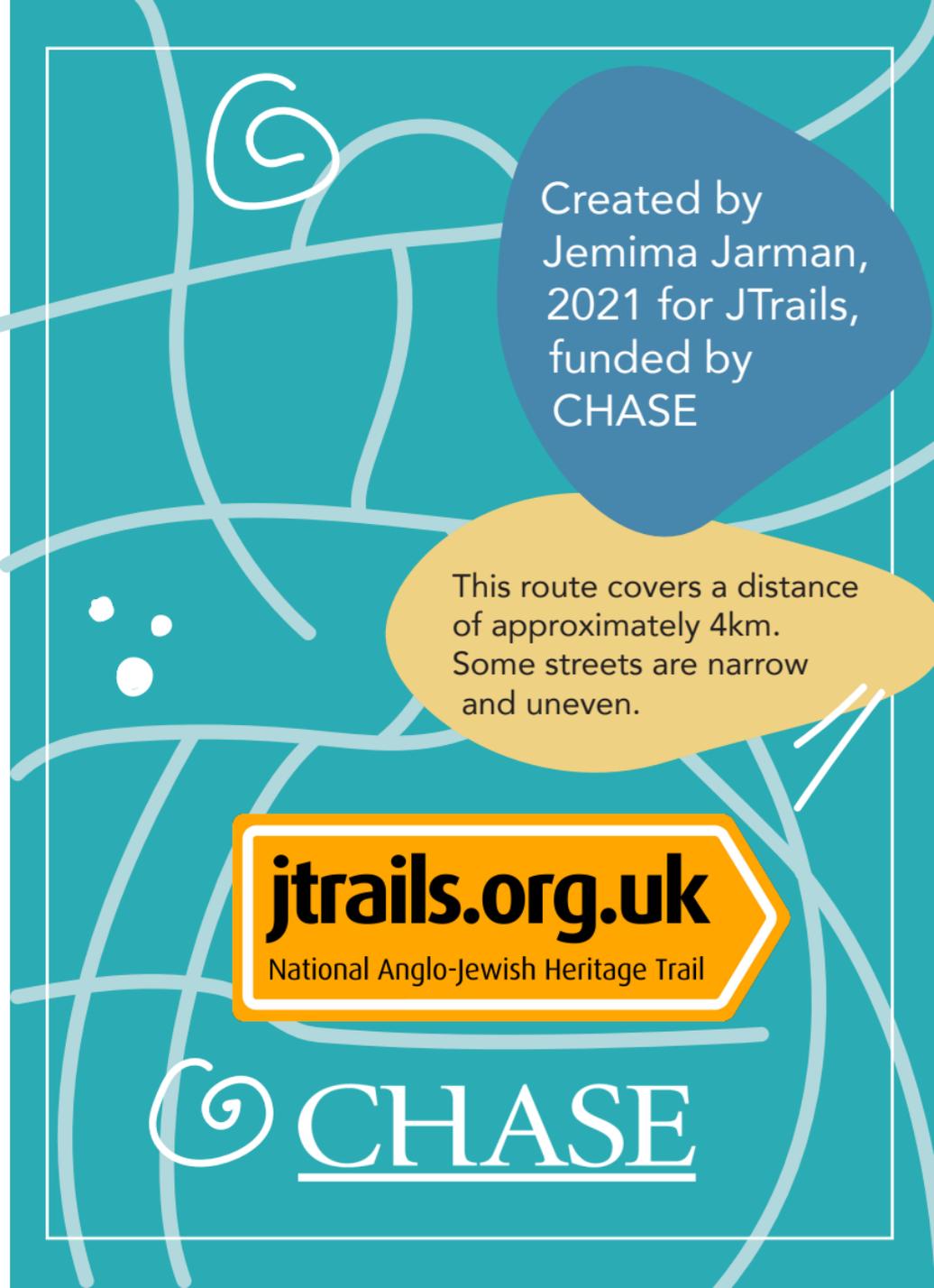
The background is a vibrant teal color. It is decorated with several white, hand-drawn style elements: a large pinkish-red blob in the top left, a large yellowish-gold blob in the center, a purple blob in the bottom left, and a dark blue blob in the bottom right. A network of white, irregular lines crisscrosses the entire page. There are also a few small white icons: a spiral on the left, three dots on the right, and a double slash mark in the bottom right corner.

Brighton's

Jewish

Heritage

Trail



Created by
Jemima Jarman,
2021 for JTrails,
funded by
CHASE

This route covers a distance
of approximately 4km.
Some streets are narrow
and uneven.

jtrails.org.uk

National Anglo-Jewish Heritage Trail

 CHASE

1. Brighton Station, Trafalgar Street

Brighton Station and Viaduct was designed by the Jewish architect, David Mocatta (1806-1882). After six years of study under Sir John Soane, Mocatta made a tour of Italy for further architectural inspiration before he was appointed architect of the London and Brighton Railway company in 1839. Brighton Station was his first railway commission, although he went on to design a further ten stations on the line, including nearby London Road (Brighton).

Mocatta built the station in an Italian style designed to blend with the existing aesthetic of the town. It was a vast undertaking involving 3,500 men and 570 horses.

2. Jew Street

Jew Street is thought to have been the original centre of the Jewish community, with Brighton's first synagogue recorded to have stood here in 1792. It is believed that the filled-in archway still discernible in this narrow passage was the original door leading to the synagogue. The building would have been rented and adapted for the purposes of worship and schooling. It could accommodate 50 men, but no additional space was made for women.

3. Gardner Street & Bond Street

Among the many shops that existed on Gardner Street and Bond Street in the twentieth century, a significant number were Jewish-owned businesses catering to the needs of the thriving Jewish community, as well as to Brighton's population at large. From kosher butchers and delis serving latkes and bagels to hairdressers, costumiers and antique dealers, these local businesses were part of everyday life in Brighton.

Gardner Street: No. 4 Deb's Kosher Deli; No. 7 Gilmour's Corset Dealers; No. 20 Rosenberg's Brass and Copper Antique shop; No. 51 Beall & Co. Cork Merchants under the Abrahams family; No. 54 G. Martin's Ladies Hairdresser.

Bond Street: No. 16 Woolfe's Second Hand Furniture; No. 20 Kosher Butchers, No. 29 D. A. Friend's Leather merchants.

4. Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Church Street

Gender-nonconforming, queer Jewish artist Gluck (born Hannah Gluckstein) took multiple holidays to Brighton before moving permanently to nearby Steyning with her partner Edith Shackleton Heald in 1944. Near the end of her life in 1977, Gluck donated 57 of her personal items to the Brighton Museum & Art Gallery many of which were displayed in the major exhibition 'Gluck: Art and Identity' (2017).



5. 34 North Street

On this site stood the office of Levi Emanuel Cohen, editor and manager of the radical Liberal newspaper, the Brighton Guardian. Cohen, helped by his two sisters Zippora and Rosetta, started the paper in 1827 and at its peak it sold 60,000 copies a week. Cohen spoke out against the Corn Laws, attacked unjust magistrates, and supported universal suffrage. He was prosecuted for criminal libel in 1833 and sentenced to six months in jail. He continued to write editorials from his cell.



6. 66 Middle Street

Opened in 1875 by the Chief Rabbi Dr Nathan Adler, this beautiful Byzantine style building replaced Devonshire Place synagogue (see 9.) as the centre of worship for the Brighton and Hove congregation. Now a Grade-II listed building, its muted exterior conceals an elaborate and ornately decorated interior which was lit by electric light at the early date of 1892 thanks to the pioneering Sir David Sassoon. Seats in the synagogue were ticketed, the best seats being the most expensive. Those who could not afford a seat had to stand behind a red rope at the back of the building.

7. Town Hall, Bartholomew Square

Brighton Town Hall formerly contained the Police Station, where Henry Solomon became the first Chief Constable and the first Jewish policeman of Brighton in 1838. Tragically, it was also the scene of his murder when on March 13 1844, John Lawrence, who had been arrested for the theft of a carpet, attacked Solomon with a fire poker, inflicting fatal head wounds.



8. 22 East Street

The first recorded Jew living in Brighton, Israel Samuel Cohen, silversmith and toymaker, lived here with his wife Susanna and their children from 1766. A blue plaque was added to the building in 2016 to mark 250 years.

9.

38-39 Devonshire Place

A synagogue has been on this site since 1824. The original building was small and simple and stood back from the street. In 1837 it was expanded and improved upon by David Mocatta, architect of Brighton Station, who drew up plans for the current building. As the local Jewish population grew, a larger building was sought in the early 1870s leading to the purchase of the site on Middle Street (see 6.) When this synagogue was sold, it came with the stipulation that in the future, it would never be used as a pub, refreshment hall or music hall.

10.

83 St George's Road

The Sassoon family mausoleum sits on an unassuming residential street in the heart of Kemptown. A Grade-II listed building, evocative in style of the Royal Pavilion, the design also nods to the Bombay origins of the Sassoon family. Built in 1892, Sir Albert Sassoon and his son Edward Sassoon were buried here. However a later descendent, Sir Philip Sassoon, sold the mausoleum in 1933, re-interring the family remains in London. Since that time it has been used as an air-raid shelter, a pub and now a cabaret bar.



11. Royal Sussex Hospital, Eastern Road

Florence Oppenheimer is known as the 'Jewish Florence Nightingale'. She first trained as a nurse here at the Royal Sussex Hospital in 1911. While taking her final exams, the First World War broke out and she began her service as an army nurse. She kept diaries of her wartime nursing experiences which, now in the collection of the Jewish Museum London, have been digitised and are available to read online.



12. 29 Sussex Square



Eleanor Marx, socialist, trade-unionist, translator and poet, was sent away from Paris to Brighton by her father after he discovered a love affair between herself, aged 16, and the considerably older French journalist Prosper-Oliver Lissagray. She worked here as a French teacher in a small private school while living at 6 Vernon Terrace.