

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

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By MIKE COHEN

**VERMONT'S CITY OF BURLINGTON:** Who does not love the Vermont city of Burlington? Less than two hours from Montreal, it features great shopping, good places to eat and fabulous accommodations. It is also a great place to stay during the ski season as you are near some superb hills, notably in Stowe.

When I was young my family went to Burlington each summer for an extended stay. Looking to break up the drive home from Cape Cod last summer, I decided to extend our family vacation with a few days in Burlington.

Your Vermont vaca-

stop on Burlington's award-winning Church Street Marketplace pedestrian mall! With over 100 retail shops, restaurants and street vendors, this is a popular destination for shopping, dining and people watching. A recipient of the prestigious Great American Main Street Award, the Marketplace is recognized as one of the most successful pedestrian malls in the country.

Burlington Town Center is considered Burlington's premier indoor shopping center, featuring an exciting retail mix including Macy's Department Store. Then there is University Mall, Vermont's largest enclosed shopping center, with over 70 shops and services.

The Burlington region offers outdoor activities from lake-based kayaking, fishing and sailing to mountain-based hiking, cycling and skiing - and everything in between. Spend your time in Vermont enjoying the area's fantastic dining, shopping, concerts and special events.

Northern Lights, Vermont's premier cruise boat, offers daily scenic, lunch and brunch cruises, departing from the King Street Ferry Dock from May through October. The Flynn Theatre is a 1,453-seat art-deco treasure and 150 seat "black box" facility hosting over 100 world-class live performances annually.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** We stayed somewhere new for me. The Doubletree Hotel Burlington ([www.doubletreevt.com](http://www.doubletreevt.com)) is just off I-89 on Williston Road and near the airport. Many years ago

I was here when it was a Ramada. I was struck immediately by what a large and attractive property this was. All standard guestrooms include the Sweet Dreams bed, coffeemaker, hair dryer, iron and ironing board, refrigerator, easy chair, in-room remote printing, Lodgenet with web access and Game Cube, speakerphone and complimentary wireless high speed internet access. In the

suites there is the main bedroom with a king size bed, a pullout couch, a working desk with two chairs and two flat screen televisions and large size fridge, perfect if you are keeping kosher since there is so much room. There is a pool, connected to an outdoor patio and an onsite restaurant (Trader Duke's).

We were greeted with hot chocolate chip  
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cookies upon checking in. General Manager Rick Milliken has been in the local hotel industry for 32 years and converted the hotel from a Clarion to a Doubletree in 2005, at which time 33 suites were constructed. There are 161 guest rooms in all. You can leave your car here for two weeks and for only \$25 when using the nearby airport. Customer service is top-notch and so is the location.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY:** The state of Vermont has about 5,000 people of Jewish faith - 3,000 in Burlington and 500 each in Montpelier-Barre and Rutland. Among the most prominent is Bernard "Bernie" Sanders, the junior United States Senator elected on November 7, 2006. Before becoming Senator, Sanders represented Vermont's at-large district in the United States House of Representatives for 16 years. He also served as mayor of Burlington, Vermont from 1981 through 1989. The son of Jewish Polish immigrants to the United States, he was born in Brooklyn and moved to Vermont in 1964, where he originally worked as a carpenter and journalist.

There are a number of synagogues, including Temple Sinai (reform) and Ohavi Zedek (conservative). Chabad is also active in the area. Beth Jacob Congregation is located in Montpelier. The latter is not affiliated with any movement and carries out pro-

gramming for reform, reconstructionist, Jewish Renewal, and conservative. Kosher food can be found at the Price Chopper Supermarket at 595 Shelburne Road.

**DINING OUT:** The Sadie Katz Delicatessen

([www.sadiekatzdeli.com](http://www.sadiekatzdeli.com)) is located at 189 Bank Street, off Church. It is the closest thing the city has to a kosher restaurant. Owner Glenn Walter and his wife Stacey Steinmetz (whose grandmother was Mrs. Katz) opened this spot two and a half years ago. We loved the

deli sandwiches. There is also matzoh ball soup, a chipped chicken liver plate, cheese blintzes, salads, latkes, knishes and a full breakfast.

One of the more established fish restaurants in town is Shanty on the Shore ([www.shantyontheshore.com](http://www.shantyontheshore.com)), located at 181 Battery Street overlooking Lake Champlain. Open from 11a.m. daily, the restaurant is owned by the husband and wife team of Al and Kim Gobeille. There is free parking, which is a bonus, and a menu which features excellent clam chowder, tasty appetizers, plenty of seafood, chicken, steaks, sandwiches and some tantalizing desserts. General Manager Christian Chardain and his staff merit some applause for the way they will break open a lobster for you and serve it minus any shells. A lot of restaurants won't go to that trouble. Ask if Big Al's Platter is available on the night you dine. It consists of flounder, shrimp, clams and either fries, baked potato or rice.

For those looking for some standard fish options, there is broiled haddock, classic Boston scrod, grilled Atlantic salmon and grilled swordfish. For dessert, save some room for the fabulous Shanty pie - silky chocolate mousse with chocolate crust and whipped cream on top. For reservations call 802-864-0238.

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