

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

CAPE COD'S GATEWAY OF EASTHAM: With miles of sandy coastline, the Cape Cod towns of Eastham, Orleans and Wellfleet represent a haven for beachcombers and pail-toting youngsters. Only 25 miles up Route 6 from the bustle of shopping in Hyannis, this Gateway to the National Seashore is often referred to as the Cape's little secret. If you are planning a holiday here, consider this area for your base.

The western border of Eastham is lined with six

miles of beautiful beaches overlooking Cape Cod Bay. Just as magical as the National Seashore, Cape Cod Bay offers calmer and warmer waters, amazing flats at low tide and breathtaking sunsets. We enjoyed Coast Guard Beach, only a few blocks from our hotel. It is \$15 to park your car and take a shuttle. Limited handicapped parking is available directly on the beach, where they also have beach wheelchairs. There is a free beach pass for those who are permanently disabled or legally blind.

The most notable and largest Eastham bay beach is First Encounter, the location where the native Indians first encountered the pilgrims in 1620. It's great for kids, with its extraordinary low tides. Buy them a net and watch as they scoop up crabs of all shapes and sizes in water up to your ankles.

WHERE TO STAY: When we last visited this area six years ago we discovered the Four Points by Sheraton Eastham Cape Cod (<http://www.starwood-hotels.com>) a modern full-

service hotel which just kind of appears before your very eyes as you travel on busy Route 6. For summer trips, an early winter booking is highly recommended. Hyannis is only 45 minutes away. The hotel has beautiful indoor and outdoor swimming pools and is close to the beaches. Some rooms have balconies overlooking the indoor pool, which is beautifully heated and a fabulous place to go after returning from the beach. There is also a jacuzzi.

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This hotel has one of the most magnificent suites I have seen in a long time. The Nauset Suite has two separate bedrooms – one with a king bed and another with two twins. There is ample cupboard space. Each has a flat screen television. The very large living room also has a flat screen, a couch, four comfortable chairs, two end tables, a large working desk, a dining room table for four, another clothing closet and a small kitchen with a full-sized fridge, a microwave, dishes and silverware. In the bathroom you will find a large shower with glass doors. Oh yes, let me tell you about the balcony. It is gigantic, with two lounge chairs, two picnic tables and 10 plastic chairs – ideal for entertaining friends or family. This is traditionally used for businessmen, as the hotel hosts a lot of conferences. But for a family seeking good space for everyone, this is a luxury. The free wireless high speed internet is indeed “high speed” and faster than what most other hotels offer.

There is also great service from the front desk, starting with the printout of descriptions and directions to the local beaches. The hotel also has a fitness facility, a game room, refrigerator,

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tors and coffee makers in each standard room, an on-site restaurant (Bellamy's) and five meeting rooms in case you want to hold a company conference here. The front desk will get you anything you need, be it a dining reservation, tickets to a show or a car rental. Check out the Cape Cod Rail Trail Bicycle Trail, only 100 feet away.

The Four Points has a thriving Jewish clientele. There are many Jewish families in the area. “We have had many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs over the years,” says sales manager Cindy Ladd. “Also many families stay here if they are coming to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and live off Cape. We are the only full service hotel open year round in this area, which is very helpful.”

JEWISH CONNECTION: There is an organized Jewish community in the Eastham area. Am HaYam (www.ahycc.org) is a Havurah, Fellowship group. It promotes Jewish fellowship, traditions, culture and education. Services are held most often at Chapel-in-the-Pines, located at 220 Samoset Road in Eastham. They have quite a few summer residents and visitors coming to Friday night services during the summer and fall months and usually some 300 people attend High Holiday services. The Sheraton Four Points is often used by members of the group for bar/bat mitzvahs.

vails.

And The Four Points has another significant Jewish connection as part of the noted Linchris Corporation. Senior Vice-President Robb Moskowitz oversees all operational aspects of the more than 20 hotels under the Linchris umbrella. His hands-on management style, commitment to the fundamentals of the hotel industry and

his focus on the bottom line have contributed to his professional growth within the company over the last 24 years. Check out www.linchris.com for a list of their other properties.

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