

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

WHISTLER, BC: My family and I recently made our first visit to Whistler (www.tourismwhistler.com), less than a two hour drive from Vancouver and one of the host cities of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

There are many things to do in the Village, located at the base of the lifts. This makes access to Whistler and Blackcomb

Mountains convenient for skiing, snowboarding and sightseeing. The year-round population of Whistler Resort is almost 10,000 permanent residents.

The ski season in Whistler typically begins around the third weekend in November, coinciding with the American Thanksgiving. From that point on, both
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mountains are open daily for winter operations until late April. Blackcomb Mountain stays open for spring skiing and snowboarding until mid-May. Summer glacier skiing and riding on Blackcomb Mountain starts the third week of June. In summer Whistler Mountain Bike Park opens as a haven for riders of all levels and the Village Gondola, Peak 2 Peak Gondola and Peak Chair are open for sightseeing.

WHERE TO STAY:
The Fairmont Chateau Whistler Resort Hotel (www.fairmont.com/whistler), which does indeed define mountain luxury. An all season resort destination.
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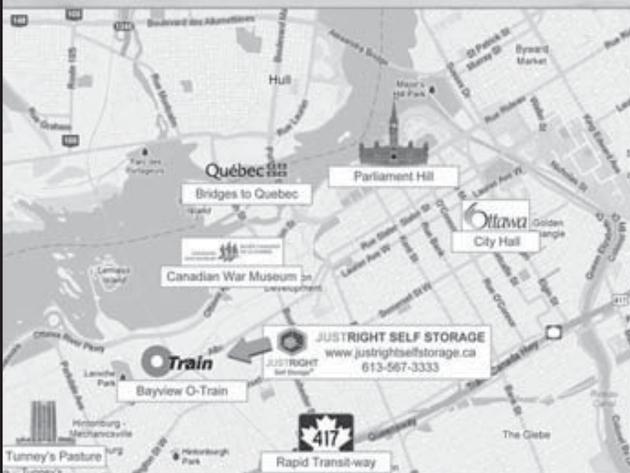
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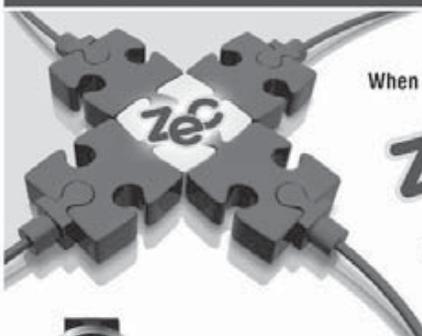


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The Fairmont Chateau Whistler hotel offers a seamless blend of year-round adventure and unsurpassed guest service for business or pleasure. With mountainside ski out the door convenience and an on-site Whistler golf course, the classic elegance of this award-winning hotel offers a modern alpine setting featuring exceptional dining, full resort amenities, a Vida Spa and Fairmont Gold - Fairmont's exclusive lifestyle hotel experience. There are an incredible 550 rooms here, an in-house reservation centre for all Whistler activities and a rental station for bikes and ski gear. A small and pretty shopping plaza is part of the facility as well, featuring an art gallery and some boutiques. This hotel is a popular locale for Jewish weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs.

Not only is this hotel delighted to host your entire family, four-legged friends are welcome as well. Their dog-friendly program includes pet bed, bowls, special treats and menus. This also happens to be

Whistler's largest conference resort hotel, with 32,000 square feet of conference space.

We just loved the two outdoor pools, one for lap swimming and the other which connects to an indoor one. There are three whirlpools, sauna and steam rooms and two outdoor plexipave surface tennis courts. As I looked out at the mountains from my lounge chair, I thought I was in paradise.

For dinner, the Wildflower and the Grill Room are particularly popular. At the former, the culinary team invites diners to enjoy a tantalizing showcase of locally inspired dishes and innovative classics in a warm and relaxed setting. Reservations are highly recommended and can be made online or by telephone. This is fine dining at its best, with delicious appetizers, main courses, sides and desserts making for a thoroughly enjoyable dining experience.

For a lighter bite, check out the Portobello Market & Fresh Bakery. You can also take advan-

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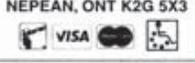
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tage of poolside dining and order a sandwich, burger, drinks and more right from the comforts of your chair.

DINING: We heard some very good things about the Jewish-owned Brewhouse Restaurant (www.markjamesgroup.com/brewhouse.html) and our party of five was not disappointed. This is one of the busiest spots in the Whistler Village all year round. With a separate restaurant, bar and mezzanine, the Whistler Brewhouse is capable of accommodating groups large and small. The pub has a cozy two-sided fireplace and lots of TVs, making it the perfect place to watch the game when you're tired from playing all day. The restaurant is warm and family friendly with a great kids' menu and a huge patio for Whistler's long, hot summers. The cuisine is an inspired and appetizing mix of barbeque and rotisserie classics, with exceptional pizza and pasta options. These flavours are complemented by their range of handcrafted ales and lagers, brewed onsite.

This location is part of the Mark James
(Please turn to following page)

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Group Brewery Restaurant, with others in Vancouver (Yaletown), Richmond (Flying Beaver) and Surrey (Big Ridge). James is a member of the Jewish community and has been supportive of a number of charitable events. This includes the annual Sports Celebrity Dinner. It is no surprise then that one of his main appetizers is a gigantic bowl of matzah ball soup. This not only contains a large

matzah ball, but plenty of pieces of chicken and vegetables.

Mike Cohen's email address is info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel and on Twitter @mikecohencl.

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TARGETING THE BDS
(Continued from page 8)

Alabama-based Southern Poverty Law Centre that has successfully used US courts to target the Ku Klux Klan, alleges the BDS movement is racially discriminatory and undermines human rights.

Shurat HaDin director Nitsana Darshan-Leitner said: "Lynch and his ilk seek to boycott Israeli and Jewish national products, whether it's goods, services, performers or professors. By singling out Israel and no other country, the BDS ...exposes the anti-Semitism that motivates them.

"We are hopeful that this historic proceeding against the BDS movement will serve as a model for battling it in other jurisdictions worldwide."

The Shurat HaDin lawyer who has lodged the claim, Sydney-born Andrew Hamilton, said the BDS campaign sought to "discriminate and impose adverse preference based on Israeli national origin and Jewish racial and ethnic origin of people and organizations".

"It does nothing to help Palestinians and indeed harms them," Mr Hamilton said.

He said similar legal actions had succeeded in silencing European BDS

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