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# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **MIKE COHEN**

LONDON, ENGLAND: Where shall one go first upon arriving in London. I would suggest the Changing of the Guard, the process involving a new guard exchanging duty with the old one. While the ceremony begins at 11:30 each morning, at busy periods I suggest that get there at least an hour early. That will give you time to find a decent spot to stand and take pictures. Thousands of people jam the area. Immediately following this activity we proceeded to Buckingham Palace and the Royal Day Out tour. This runs annually from late July until late September. A Royal Day Out ticket offers admission to The Royal Mews, The Queen's Gallery and The State Rooms at a discounted price. Reserve as much as four and a half

hours to complete this tour. Historically the British royal family has had a very friendly relationship with the Jewish community. Members of the royal family routinely attend many Jewish events and support Jewish causes and charities. When Queen Elizabeth II celebrated her diamond jubilee, synagogues throughout the Commonwealth read out a prayer for the monarch.

**PLACES TO SEE:** Westminster Abbey (<http://www.westminster-abbey.org>) is a must-see living pageant of British history. It welcomes over one million visitors a year. The Tower of London (<http://www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon>) is a large open air site covering 18 acres (including the moat). As well as being a

*(Please turn to page 15)*

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1939, had spoken out against German National Socialism throughout his entire career and may have saved an estimated 850,000 Jews from the Shoah. Astonishingly, internal Nazi documentation also shows that they harbored the belief that Pope Pius XII was involved in the failed Valkyrie plot to assassinate Hitler.

The collection of evidence shows the incredible challenge of running a religion that doubles as a sovereign state during a time of war. The Vatican, possessing no standing army and having to keep up the appearance of neutrality, used extremely creative methods to hide Jews from danger. The moral and spiritual leader of Roman Catholicism was also a political leader who showed incredible resolve, shrewdness and foresight.

Learn more by visiting: [www.ptwf.org](http://www.ptwf.org)

"Pope Pius XII and World War II: The Documented Truth"

By Gary L. Krupp

**TRAVEL TALES**

(Continued from page 8)

unique historical monument, it also houses part of the collection of the Royal Armouries. I recommend you start off by visiting the Queen's Crown Jewels, one of the not to be missed highlights of a visit to the Tower of London. Right next door is the Tower Bridge Exhibition ([www.towerbridge.org.uk](http://www.towerbridge.org.uk)). It was recently awarded a Certificate of Excellence for 2014, signifying that it has consistently earned outstanding feedback from TripAdvisor travellers. Do not miss an opportunity to experience the London Eye ([www.londoneye.com](http://www.londoneye.com)), a giant wheel which enables you to see all of the British capital. This is London's answer to the Eiffel Tower in Paris. For anyone who has ever wanted to visit the fictitious land of Hogwarts, then find time to take part in the Warner Brothers Studio Tour - the Harry Potter experience (<http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk>). We made the relatively easy 20 mile trip from London to Leavesden and it was well worth it.

(Please turn to following page)

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**TRAVEL TALES**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

**GETTING AROUND**  
With over 80 stops, three main sightseeing routes and countless photo opportunities, The Original Tour (<http://www.theoriginal-tour.com>) really is the finest way to see London and her landmarks. One fantastic value 24-hour ticket offers a truly comprehensive London sightseeing experience: on foot, by boat and on board a marvellous fleet of London's famous red buses. City Cruises ([www.citycruises.com](http://www.citycruises.com)) is not the leading operator of passenger services on the River Thames for nothing, carrying in excess of two million passengers annually on its extensive sightseeing, entertainment and charter services. We purchased hop-on hop-off River Red River tickets, which enabled us to take in London's best sites and listen to some of the best commentary the city has to offer.

**DINING OUT:** The Balcon (<http://www.thebalconlondon.com>), a grand brasserie located at the Sofitel St. James Hotel at 6 Waterloo Place, offers breakfast, morning tea and savouries, lunch, French and English afternoon tea, Champagne and cocktails, charcuterie, dinner and late night dining. The dinner was beyond superb.

When in London, I was always told that one must experience afternoon tea. We chose to do so at the gorgeous Dorchester Hotel ([www.dorchestercollection.com](http://www.dorchestercollection.com)) in the stunning vista of The Promenade. For over 80 years the Dorchester has earned the reputation of serving one of the finest afternoon tea experiences in the country. Having experienced it, I can now understand why. This is a "class act" from the moment you walk through the front door and are shown to a table. Our

server spent some time explaining how the afternoon tea service works. We had actually arrived at 5:45 p.m. on a weekday, Being novices we wondered whether this would substitute for dinner. We

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loved the champagne, the endless array of tea offerings, the home-made finger sandwiches and the famous raisin and plain scones from their bakery, served with homemade strawberry jam and Cornish clotted cream. We left just enough room for a selection of French pastries. Dinner was not needed,

Afternoon tea is served five times daily at 1.00pm, 2.00pm, 3.15pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.45pm. The Dorchester is in the heart of London's Mayfair on Park Lane.

Mike Cohen's email address is [info@mikecohen.ca](mailto:info@mikecohen.ca). Follow his travels at [www.sandboxworld.com/travel](http://www.sandboxworld.com/travel) or on Twitter @mikecohensl.

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**WORLD IN REVIEW**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

is threatening to put fund raising efforts in "disarray". Many Jews believe that the Labor leader has abandoned the party's balanced approach towards the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

It was not just that Miliband ordered his MPs to vote for the recent motion recognizing a Palestinian state "as a contribution towards a two-state solution". The shift in policy appears to have started during the Gaza War. Miliband did acknowledge Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks from Gaza.

*(Please turn to following page)*

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