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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

NORTH CAROLINA
COMES CALLING:

Stephanie Freed-Burns is the Canadian public relations manager for Visit North Carolina (www.visitnc.com), the official tourism organization for the state. Based in Toronto, she recently undertook a series of media sessions alongside regional representatives from Raleigh, Charlotte, Durham, Transylvania County, Johnston County and the Outer Banks. I took part in the event at Marcus Restaurant at the new Four Seasons Hotel in Montreal.

The State of North Carolina sure did come across to me as inviting. What does it have to offer? Professional sports teams in the NFL, NHL and NBA; college sport powerhouses like Duke and North Carolina State; world class BBQ and incredible southern fusion cuisine; funky and artsy Mountain towns; unique boutique accommodations; epic cycling routes all the way to the stunning Outer Banks beaches with unparalleled windsurfing and fishing; great art museums, music; and shopping in Charlotte and Raleigh.

From the misty mountains to the sunny coast, the North Carolina travel experience offers endless dimensions of natural beauty, urban vitality, history, arts and culture, outdoor adventure, culinary craft and artisan drink. In the mountains, you can surround yourself with scenic beauty while picnic-

ing, hiking, golfing, or whitewater rafting and rock climbing. In the winter, ride the slopes on skis, tubes or snowboards. In central North Carolina, you can find one-of-a-kind shopping, tee off on one of the state's more than 400 golf courses and experience the "home" of NASCAR. Sample wine at one of North Carolina's wineries or step back in time at a Civil War battlefield. Along the coast, why not dive into water sports like boating, swimming and saltwater fishing; climb historic lighthouses and bask in the warm sun on the Atlantic coastline. Savor Eastern Carolina barbecue and Calabash seafood.

Raleigh (www.visitraleigh.com) is considered
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TRAVEL TALES

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one of the hottest destinations in the country! In fact we were told that a visit to Raleigh is more than a trip to a blossoming Southern metropolis. You'll feel enriched and energized the instant you're warmly welcomed by its smart, savvy locals. Raleigh's bright minds head top-tier technology, education and life science institutions; its artists create a bevy of cultural and culinary touchstones; and its storytellers proudly carry on the collective heritage of a rich, historic capital city.

Perhaps the best testimonial about what a incredibly fascinating place Durham (www.discoverdurham.com) is to visit and even reside comes from Veda Gilbert, the public relations manager. A native of Australia, she took a shine to Raleigh after multiple visits and now calls it home. It is known for a celebrated food scene, top-notch universities and a buzzing startup culture, inspiring and absolutely alluring. Durham has been enriched by several immigrations, including Scots-Irish in the 18th century, African Americans and Russian Jews in the 19th century, Latin Americans in the 20th century, and many others.

Charlotte <https://www.charlottesgotalot.com>) is a city on the rise. It has been recognized as the top travel destination in the Carolinas and the number one "up-and-coming city in America" by Yelp.

Brevard and Transylvania County (www.explorebrevard.com) are the home of North Carolina's Land of Waterfalls. "There are 250 in our region," said Nathan Jordan, whose advertising firm promotes the area.

The Outer Banks

(Please turn to following page)

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

(www.outerbanks.org) features uncrowded beaches that stretch for miles and the endless possibilities that come with them. Johnston County (www.johnstoncountync.org) is a destination rooted in history, located just 30 minutes east of Raleigh and convenient for visitors travelling

through North Carolina at the crossroads of I-95 and I-40! Check out all of their websites for more information. I hope to provide my own reports one day.

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. Follow his travels at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

DIRE PREDICTIONS PROVEN WRONG

(Continued from page 7)

Most Palestinians may not have liked the terms of the peace plan, but they were not so angry they were motivated to protest. In fact, to mobilize a demonstration, the PA closed all the government offices and schools and bused people to Ramallah (Ma'an, February 11, 2020). Contrary to Ma'an's claim that "hundreds of thousands of citizens marched," the truth was that besides small sporadic protests, that one staged rally in Ramallah

with a tiny fraction of a hundred thousand demonstrators was all the outrage they could muster. Palestinians told *Al Jazeera* they could not get too excited over the plan because nothing had changed. "It's already our reality," one said (Arwa Ibrahim, "Anger in Palestine over Trump plan, but protests see low turnout," *Al Jazeera*, January 29, 2020).

Mariam Barghouti had a different explanation for the failure of Abbas to

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