

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

NEW YORK CITY PASS: If you are headed to New York City anytime soon, here is a good tip: purchase the CityPASS (<http://www.citypass.com/new-york>). New York sure does appreciate its Canadian tourists and this has been underlined in recent years by the establishment of an NYC & Company office in Toronto. By logging on to www.nycgo.com you can begin planning your activities.

We were only in town for a few days and while the other two members of the family saw some Broadway shows, I wanted to do some exploring. But where does one start? New York CityPASS includes admission to NYC's top six attractions: the Empire State Building Observatory, The Met, American Museum of Natural History, the 9/11 Memorial Museum and Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum. It is valid for nine days from first day of use. Not only do you get to skip ticket lines, you save 41 percent.

JEWISH CONNECTION: New York's landmark historic Jewish neighborhood, the Lower East Side was once home to the world's largest Jewish community. Covering the area between Houston and Canal Streets east of the Bowery, this neighborhood is where New York's garment industry began. Today it is a bargain hunter's paradise, with great deals to be found on

everything from souvenir tee shirts to menorahs, especially along Orchard Street in the neighborhood's center. The overall New York Jewish community in the

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metropolitan area has remained stable at 1.4 million; the population of New York City is just below a million.

Indeed, the world-class museums and collections found throughout Manhattan are not to be missed. The historic synagogues should be toured. But in New York City, Jewish life is just a walk

down the street. The Jewish Museum (www.thejewishmuseum.org) at 1109 Fifth Ave. (northeast corner of 92nd St.) is dedicated to presenting the remarkable scope and diversity of Jewish culture. You can also visit the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan (www.jccmanhattan.org) at The Samuel Priest Rose Building (334 Amsterdam Avenue at West 76th Street). The Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (<http://www.mjhnyc.org>) first opened its doors on September 15, 1997 at 36 Battery Place. The Museum differs from other institutions of memory by telling the story of the Holocaust from the perspective of those who experienced it. Others spots to bookmark include Temple Emanuel (www.emanuelnyc.org) at 1 east 65th street near 5th, one of the largest synagogues in the world; The Living Torah Museum (www.thelivingtorahmuseum.com); The Museum at Eltridg Street Synagogue (www.edtridgestreet.org); and Yeshiva University Museum at the Center for Jewish History (www.yumuseum.org).

WHERE TO STAY:
We stayed somewhere new on this trip, the Omni Berkshire Place (<http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/new-york-berkshire>) at 21 East 52nd Street between 5th and Madison - a great location. I was particularly impressed with the live chat assistance available on their website as I planned the trip. With the simple click of the mouse there was someone at the opposite end answering all of my questions in real time. I also signed up free of charge for the Select Guest Loyalty Program, which provides you with complimentary perks such as free Wi-Fi Internet service, access to

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counter space. There are two telephones in the bathroom. We very much appreciated the in room safe. The separate living area has an extremely comfortable pull-out sleeper sofa, club chair, desk and an iHome© audio system. The hotel has a very helpful concierge desk. Across the street is Isadora's Café, which has an absolutely endless array of items to choose from. It is perfect for bringing dinner to the room before a show.

This luxury Omni Berkshire Place is steps away from Fortune 500 companies and some of the city's most illustrious sites like Fifth Avenue Shopping, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Central Park and Broadway theatres.

For more information about the hotel, call 1-888-444-OMNI or locally at 212-753-5800.

We stayed in a spacious Madison Suite, overlooking 52nd Street and Madison Avenue. These magnificent 781-square-foot suites feature a large master bedroom with an oversized bath that includes separate shower and soaking tub along with generous

Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.ca. See his travel advice column at www.sandboxworld.com/travel.

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FIGHTING INSULTS

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in their control, did not succeed."

American Jews deluged the World's Fair organizers with angry letters, the Anti-Defamation League denounced the mural as antisemitic, and Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol canceled his visit to the World's Fair in protest against the Jordanian insult.

The escalating controversy took an unusual turn when the American Jewish Congress applied for a permit to picket the Jordanian pavilion. The application was denied, but twelve AJCongress leaders - including folksinger Theodor Bikel and Democratic congressional nominee James Scheuer - showed up with picket signs anyway and were arrested.

"I have been arrested before, by the Gestapo-- so I am not afraid of that," declared AJCongress president Joachim Prinz, a refugee from Nazi Germany. The spectacle of mainstream Jewish leaders knowingly breaking the law

in a political protest was so unusual in 1964 that the story made the front page of the *New York Times*. The charges were eventually thrown out by New York City judge Bernard Dubin, who ruled that the World's Fair grounds were quasi-

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