

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

PARIS, FRANCE: Anti-Israel demonstrations were rampant in Paris (<http://en.parisinfo.com/discovering-paris>) during my family's visit to the French capital in July. But I did not personally witness any of these activities. We thoroughly enjoyed the one week we spent visiting all of the historic sites.

**WHERE TO STAY:** We stayed at the Jewish-owned Les Jardins du Marais ([www.lesjardinsdumarais.com](http://www.lesjardinsdumarais.com)). It is located only blocks away from the famous "Jewish" Marais district. This beautiful hotel has 263 rooms and suites, an intimate restaurant and bar and excellent customer service. Our package included a beautiful and spacious deluxe suite, with all the comforts of home.

There was also an outstanding buffet breakfast, an in-house restaurant and a layout the likes of which I have never seen at a hotel before: 263 rooms spread about seven historic buildings and a dramatic 1,500 square metre backdrop of courtyards and gardens with cozy swing chairs, outdoor lounges, couches and other resting spots. Owner Albert Cohen literally stumbled upon this property in 1987, which at the time was a little alleyway surrounded by buildings and studios, home to famous sculptors and artists in the 1960s on Rue Amelot.

The Saint Sébastien Froissart station on Line 8 of the metro is two minutes on foot from the hotel and it will lead you to any place you wish to go. Wi-Fi is

available in all rooms and common areas. There is a workout room and even in-room massages upon request. Just a short walk from the front desk is a Carrefour grocery store. Email: [info@homeplazza.com](mailto:info@homeplazza.com) for more details.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY:** Present-day French Jewry is estimated at half a million people and is the Diaspora's second largest community, after the United States. Paris and its suburbs are the home to the great majority of Jews (350,000). The Shoah Memorial (<http://www.memorialdelashoah.org>) was opened to the public in January 2005 at 17 rue Geoffroy l'Asnier in the Marais district, on the site of the Mémorial du Martyr Juif Inconnu (Memorial to

the Unknown Jewish Martyr). It is a good place to visit.

**WHERE TO DINE:** There are currently over 120 kosher restaurants in Paris. We had dinner at a Jewish deli in the Marais district one night. While Parisian food is special, we were pleased to find a few eating spots that reminded us of home.

The renowned Koff Delicatessen ([www.koffparis.fr](http://www.koffparis.fr)) at 15 Rue la Vieuville was excellent. The husband and wife team of David and Jade designed this place like a New York deli. The menu features bagels, burgers, quesadillas, nachos, sandwiches, smoked salmon, Ashkenazi specialties, Russian dishes and a nice variety of salads.

*(Please turn to page 18)*

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**CRYING RACISM**

*(Continued from preceding page)*

tance forces[i.e. Hamas])."  
Lesson twenty of the Gaza war: The "racism" lie spouted by the likes of Diana Buttú and Yousef Munayyer cannot change

the fact that Hamas deliberately uses Palestinian civilians as human shields, and therefore bears complete responsibility for the harm that has come to them.

**TRAVEL TALES**

*(Continued from page 8)*

It is open for lunch and dinner and offers a Sunday brunch. I must say that I very much enjoyed the pastrami club sandwich, accompanied by delicious hash browns. Koff is just one minute's walk from Abbesses métro station (line 12).

Breakfast in America (<http://www.breakfast-in-america.com>) is another unique place to check out. There are two locations: in the heart of the historic Latin Quarter, not far from the Sorbonne and Notre Dame and in the Marais district. Breakfast in America is famous for breakfast, but also known for being one of the best places in Paris for burgers!

What dishes are the most popular? At BIA, some favorites include: blueberry pancakes with real maple syrup, the Connecticut omelet, two by two, locally-baked bagels, their own "BIA Burger" and "Super BIA Burger," California chicken wrap, vegetarian wrap, home-made chili con carne, club sandwich, cheesecake, real milkshakes and much, much more! There are toasters at each booth.

And here is one final tip which relates to sight-seeing and fine dining. We desperately wanted to get to the top of the Eiffel Tower ([www.eiffel.fr](http://www.eiffel.fr)), but it was clear that without reserving tickets online at least six

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months in advance for the peak period we were visiting we'd be facing at least a two hour wait. We did find a way to reach the second level quickly and enjoy a memorable dining experience with the view of a lifetime. This was all made possible by securing reservations at The Jules Verne Restaurant (<http://www.lejulesverne-paris.com>). This is part of the Alain Ducasse culinary empire (<http://www.alainducasse.com>). Not only did we enjoy a five course meal, but we had a private door to enter and exit the viewing platform whenever we wished. Upon arrival at the South Pillar, we gave our names to the host who sent us up on a private elevator 125 metres above. While regular patrons had to wait seemingly endlessly to go

back down at the end of the night, we did so in minutes. In order to get the window table we had, one needs to reserve at least three months in advance. We could have bought tickets from there to go to the very top, but frankly it is really not worth the long wait. There is now a "tasting" menu, allowing you to experience the full Jules Verne sensation. Dinner is 185 euros for five courses (meat or fish) or 230 euros for six.

In my next article on Paris, I will cover many of the historic sites tourists should visit,

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