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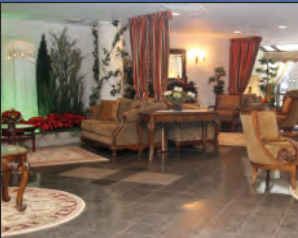
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ADVENTURES

IN TRAVEL By Mike Cohen



PARIS, FRANCE

While in Paris (en.parisinfo.com) last summer, we stayed at the Jewish-owned Les Jardins du Marais (lesjardinsdumarais.com). It is located only blocks away from the famous “Jewish” Marais district. This beautiful hotel is spread out over seven historic buildings with a dramatic 1,500 square metre backdrop of courtyards and gardens. It 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 and an outstanding buffet breakfast. The Saint Sébastien-Froissart station, on Line 8 of the metro, is two minutes on foot from the hotel. There are presently about 600,000 Jews living in France, most in Paris.

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 Koff Delicatessen (koff-paris.fr) at 15 Rue la Vieuville, was excellent. The menu features bagels, burgers, quesadillas, nachos, sandwiches, smoked salmon, Ashkenazi specialties, Russian dishes and a nice variety of salads. Breakfast in America (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! And here is one final tip which relates to sightseeing and fine dining. We desperately wanted to get to the top of the Eiffel Tower, (eiffel.fr) but it was clear that without reserving tickets online at least six 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 (ejulesverne-paris.com).

THINGS TO DO

The Bateaux-Mouches (bateaux-mouches.fr/en) offers daily departures throughout the day and in the evening. In the first day or two of your trip be sure to get tickets for the famous hop-on, hop-off bus tours (eng.bigbustours.com/paris). The Palais Garnier is a magnificent 1,979-seat opera house (visitepalaisgarnier.fr). The Louvre Museum (louvre.fr) a former residence of the kings of France, has for two

centuries been one of the biggest museums in the world. Its collections are spread over eight departments. Internationally renowned for its rich collection of impressionist art, the Musée d'Orsay (musee-orsay.fr) also displays all western artistic creations between 1848 and 1914. The Moulin Rouge (moulinrouge.fr) is quite simply the most famous cabaret in the world! And I strongly recommend an evening at the Mogador Theatre.

(stage-entertainment.fr/theatre-mogador).

LONDON, ENGLAND

The Kensington Hotel (doylecollection.com) at the corner of Queen's Gate and Old Brompton Road, is part of the Doyle Collection, a privately owned group of eight luxury hotels located in the most fashionable neighbourhoods of five major cities around the world. The 150 room hotel is situated only a few blocks from the South Kensington tube station. We enjoyed a daily buffet breakfast in the main restaurant, Aubrey, and returned there twice for absolutely fabulous dinners. The hotel welcomes many Jewish guests. Upon request they are able to cater for any dietary requirements. There are more than 260,000 Jews residing in England and Wales.



The Kensington Hotel

WHERE TO GO

Where shall one go first upon arriving in London? Our first stop, which I suggest, was the Changing of the Guard; this is the process involving a new guard exchanging duty with the old one. Immediately following we proceeded to Buckingham Palace and the Royal Day Out Tour. This tour runs annually from late July until late September (royalcollection.org.uk). The Tower of London (hrp.org.uk/TowerofLondon) is a large open air site covering 18 acres, which includes the moat, the Tower Bridge Exhibition (towerbridge.org.uk) is right next door. Do not miss an opportunity to experience the London Eye (londoneye.com), a giant wheel which enables you to see all of the British capital.

For anyone who has ever wished to visit the fictitious land of Hogwarts, then find time to take part in the Warner Brothers Studio Tour - the Harry Potter experience (wbstudiotour.co.uk).

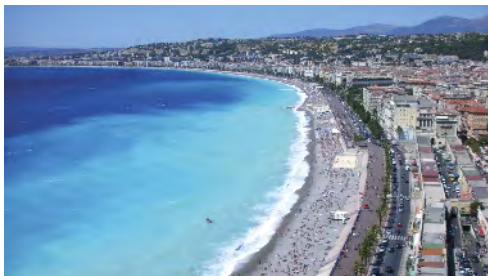
With over 80 stops, three main sightseeing routes and countless photo opportunities, The Original Tour (theoriginaltour.com) really is the finest way to see London and her landmarks by bus. City Cruises (citycruises.com) offers hop on, hop off cruises of the River Thames.

WHERE TO DINE

The Balcon (thebalconlondon.com), a grand brasserie located at the Sofitel St. James Hotel, offers breakfast, morning tea and savouries, lunch, French and English afternoon tea, champagne and cocktails, charcuterie, dinner and late night dining. When in London check out the gorgeous Dorchester Hotel (dorchestercollection.com) and 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.

NICE, FRANCE

Located on the French Riviera, Nice is paradise! There is a small Jewish community here and a synagogue.



The seafront in Nice

Located at 223 Promenade des Anglais, the Radisson Blu (radissonblu.com/hotel-nice) has 331 rooms and suites with amenities such as free high-speed, wireless internet access and complimentary entrance to the on-site health and fitness club. Other services include rooftop pool, sauna and sophisticated meeting facilities. You can dine at the

Bleu Citron or La Terrasse, both well known for delicious international and regional cuisine, or relax on the rooftop terrace with a refreshing cocktail. The hotel has its own exclusive private beach, open from April to October. We truly appreciated the free seasonal double-decker bus shuttle service to Old Town, which operates in July and August.

WHERE TO DINE

At Le Grand Balcon (legrandbalcon.net) the food is all fresh and homemade. We were excited to learn that there was a Hard Rock Café (hardrock.com/cafes/nice) in Nice. In fact it only opened up last November.

THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO

We took the train one night from Nice to dazzling Monte Carlo in Monaco. Monaco (visitmonaco.com) has a colorful and fascinating history filled with barbarians, kings and even a movie star. Monaco has a population of just over 32,000. Approximately 1,000 Jews presently live in Monaco.

WHERE TO DINE

The Salle Empire (montecarlosbm.com/restaurants-in-monaco/gourmet/salle-empire) at the gorgeous Hôtel de Paris (hoteldeparismontecarlo.com) has a lovely terrace overlooking the entrance to the grand casino. We experienced an extraordinary meal which lasted nearly two and a half hours.



The Salle Empire dining room

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

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