

# TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

**THE CAPE COD RED JACKET EXPERIENCE:** My family and I recently returned from our first trip to Cape Cod in six years. Based on previous experience I started the process of booking accommodations in January. We began our summer vacation with a four night stay at the Red Jacket Beach Resort ([www.redjacketresorts.com](http://www.redjacketresorts.com)) in beautiful South Yarmouth

and what an excellent choice this was. We actually squeezed an additional full day at the beach by packing our car up before checkout time, keeping our safety deposit box and requesting the front desk to place our cooler of perishables in their fridge. That turned out to be an excellent decision.

Nothing can quite compare to this locale.

Situated directly on the beach, we secured a spacious family room with a balcony overlooking the ocean and only seconds from the heated outdoor and indoor pool, the latter of which also has a whirlpool. You can practice your swing on the private tennis court or enjoy a quiet afternoon game of shuffleboard. There is also a spa on the premises. Wireless internet is available throughout the complex and in each room. The resort has 150 guest rooms and 14 cottages totaling 164 total guest units.

The convenience of being able to go back and forth to your room cannot be understated. Upon entering the private beach you are provided with towels, beach chairs and umbrellas. Because this is the South Side of the Cape the water is exceptionally warm. The hotel is humming with different family activities. You can also choose from a variety of water sports offered by Gold Coast Parasail (<http://www.goldcoastparasail.com>.) We opted in favor of the jet ski (\$115 plus \$15 per passenger) and banana boat (\$25 per person for 20 minutes) options. Just a mile down the road from the Red Jacket are sister properties the Blue Water and Riviera Beach Resorts. The former is where we went for the banana boat ride, which I strongly recommend. You need to actually swim over to the boat, which I found kind of cool.

Staff here aim to please. Ken Smith, director of operations for the Red Jacket group, has been with the company for 25 years while Red Jacket Beach

general manager Thomas Moore - who married a Montrealer named Sylvie Trudeau - has been on board for a decade. As Moore explained, every effort is made to organize different activities for the kids such as hermit crab races. There are evening buffets, with live music.

You can call 1-800-CAPECOD or email [info@redjacketresorts.com](mailto:info@redjacketresorts.com).

**JEWISH GUESTS:** The Red Jacket hosts many Jewish guests. Over the years there have been groups which have booked Shabbat weekends. General

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Moore said that arrangements are made for kosher caterers to set up shop on the premises. "We even send staff to individual rooms to turn the lights on and off," he said. Moore also notes that some Jewish guests who keep kosher have had all of their food shipped over in advance

and keep it in the main kitchen, eventually switched to the fridges in their own rooms.

Three villages make up the 17 square mile town of Yarmouth: West Yarmouth, Yarmouthport, and South Yarmouth. Each village has a distinctive character formed by

over 350 years of history. A community shaped by its seaside heritage, Yarmouth has retained much of historic charm while integrating the present into its surroundings. To gain a true perspective of this town you must stray from the major roadways of Route 6 and 28 that traverse from Hyannis to the West and Dennis to the East. Yarmouth is the second oldest town on Cape Cod, and it is filled with historic charm. The large Cape Cod Mall in Hyannis is an easy 15 minute drive from the hotel. That could be a little longer during the very busy traffic season.

**DINING OUT:** There are no kosher restaurants nearby, but when seeking out a dining spot in Yarmouth, someone pointed me to the website of the Skipper Restaurant ([www.skipperrestaurant.com](http://www.skipperrestaurant.com)). As an old fan of the TV show Gilligan's Island I was immediately intrigued by the Skipper's take of the show's theme song. The Skipper was established in 1936, and it is one of Cape Cod's oldest waterfront restaurants with the pristine views of Nantucket sound. The Skipper Crew have made this restaurant the huge success that it is, by hard work and taking care of customers.

Owner Alan Delaney and his chefs work hard to present the finest and freshest fish you can find. Angus cuts of beef and not to mention their award winning clam chowder. All entrees are cooked to order and they have a great kids menu. Located at 152 South Shore Drive, the Skipper is open from mid-April until October 31 and is only minutes from the Red Jacket. Delaney bought the restaurant in 1998 and has expanded the building's size in recent years and just added an ice cream bar. The night we went folks were lined up outside the door for tables.

The Skipper's swordfish, haddock, salmon and the yellowfin tuna are all good options. You can also choose from the among the different salads or opt for a dish of angel hair pasta. Open for lunch and dinner, you can call 508-394-7406 for reservations. The Skipper is wheelchair accessible, with a ramp at the entrance. Make sure to book a table on the first floor.

SYNAGOGUES: Con-

The Jewish Standard, September 2010

gregation Beth Israel of Onset Congregation ([www.capecodshul.org](http://www.capecodshul.org)) is located in Plymouth County and the town of East Wareham near the very beginning of the Cape. During the summer period there is a daily minyan. Friday night services begin at 7 p.m. while the Shabbos morning services commence at 8:45 am. Hyannis is home to the the reform Cape Cod Synagogue (<http://ccsynagogue.org>.

Cape Cod Chabad Lubavitch (<http://www.chabadcapecod.com>) also operates in Hyannis at 745 West Main Street. There is also the Falmouth Jewish Congregation (<http://www.falmouthjewish.org>), also Reform, at 7 Hatchville Road in East Falmouth.

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