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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By ALEXANDRA COHEN

There is no question about it. The City of Las Vegas, Nevada (<https://www.visitlasvegas.com/ca>) has everything that a vacationer could possibly ask for: concerts, shows, sports, shopping, dining, nightlife, golf, spas, adventure, luxury accommodations, and much more.

Having just returned from our second trip in the last four years, I am already counting down the days until I can go back.

Las Vegas is considered the fastest growing Jewish community in the United States. There are over 70,000 Jews and 19 synagogues in total, as well as many Jewish organizations in the area, Jewish delis, and kosher restaurants. Many larger markets feature kosher fresh meats and kosher food sections. Even the Mayor of Las Vegas,

Carolyn Goodman, is Jewish. The 19th annual Las Vegas Jewish Film Festival took place in January, providing insight into Jewish identity, history, and culture, also promoting solidarity with Israel and the remembrance of the Holocaust.

JABBAWOCKEEZ: We were thrilled to see Jabbawockeez (<https://www.jbwkz.com>) for the first time. Their energizing 70-minute show is a must see. The Jabbawockeez first caught the nation's eye when they competed on "America's Got Talent" in 2006, before ultimately winning the grand prize on the first season of the MTV reality show "America's Best Dance Crew", produced by Randy Jackson.

Their live show at the recently renovated

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TRAVEL TALES

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Jabbawokeyz Theater at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino (www.mgmgrand.com) on the Vegas Strip is absolutely fantastic! Called JREAMZ, it takes audiences on a journey of mesmerizing sights and sounds, entertaining audiences with a dynamic mix of choreography, music, videos, characterization, and special effects. The imaginative production finds a way to seamlessly combine dance, drama, and a surprisingly effective amount of comedy.

Jabbawokeyz perform Thursday through Monday at both 7 pm and 9:30 pm. Tickets are available for purchase at any MGM Resorts box office, by phone at (702) 531-3826 or (866) 740-7711 and online at mgmgrand.com or ticketmaster.com. For more in-

formation, visit jbwkz.com.

MICHAEL JACKSON ONE: When in Vegas, experiencing at least one Cirque de Soleil production is a must. As proud Montrealers, we did just that and chose the Cirque's incredible Michael Jackson ONE (<http://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/shows/michael-jackson-one/show/about.aspx>), an awe-inspiring show that fuses acrobatics, dance, story-telling, and visuals, taking the audience on an immersive journey through the music and spirit of the admittedly controversial Michael Jackson.

Prominent Montreal Jewish lawyer and businessman Mitch Garber is the chairman of the board of the Cirque de Soleil.

Presentations of Michael Jackson ONE take place at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino from Fridays to Tuesdays at both 7 pm and 9:30 pm, while

Wednesdays and Thursdays are dark days. Driven by the late King of Pop's powerful, multi-layered music – heard like never before in a *(Please turn to following page)*

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

riveting, state-of-the-art surround-sound environment – ONE takes the audience through a series of seamless visual and musical tableaux.

The talented cast of 63 dancers and performers quickly reel you in, taking over the stage and at times even the audience with their infectious energy and brilliant tricks. You will repeatedly find yourself gasping in disbelief at the magic taking place on stage.

For ticket information call 877.632.7400 or 800-745-3000. Go to www.cirquedusoleil.com/mjone or www.mandalaybay.com.

ESCAPE ROOM: Last year in Montreal, I experienced my first-ever escape room. Having really enjoyed the experience, I looked forward to trying one in Las Vegas, so we visited Trapped: A Real Life Room Escape Adventure. This location was launched in 2015 and is centrally lo-

cated at 4760 Polaris Avenue, a quick drive from the Strip.

For those who have never experienced an escape game of this nature, it involves a group of people being placed in a room where they must use all elements present to solve a series of puzzles, find clues, and complete the objective within a set time limit. It is a great bonding activity, as it requires a lot of teamwork to succeed. The recommended minimum age to participate is 12. All rooms cost \$35 per person for regularly scheduled times. There are currently two rooms, with a third one on its way. We chose The Lair of the Puzzlemaster. The game is very well constructed—my favorite escape room experience thus far. It thoroughly challenged us, but we were able to escape in the nick of time. Info: www.trappedescaperoomvegas.com or (702) 907-8078.

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