

TRAVEL TALES

The Jewish Standard, Dec. 30, 2010

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

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By MIKE COHEN

WELLFLEET'S BEAUTIFUL BEACHES: Wellfleet (www.wellfleetchamber.com) on Cape Cod offers something for everyone. Located some 30 miles

out into the Atlantic Ocean, Wellfleet has an abundance of quaint seaside character and charm. Bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and the west by Cape Cod Bay, 61 percent of the land area of Wellfleet is in the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. Wellfleet has a total upland area of approximately 13,100 acres (20.47 square miles). Of this total, about 8,000 acres (12.5 square miles) are within the Seashore boundaries, leaving 5,100 acres (8 square miles) outside.

The miles of beautiful sandy beaches are perfect for swimming, surfing, flying a kite or just relaxing. If you're willing to walk a short distance, you can enjoy complete solitude on your own private beach. This unique town offers a variety of lodging choices including motels, bed and breakfasts, cottages and houses to rent and country inns. The comfort of Wellfleet motel and lodge accommodations will make your beach vacation complete. Dining can be anything from fried clams on the beach to white tablecloth restaurants. After dinner you can catch a movie, a theatre performance or live music ranging from classical to rock, or you can head down to the harbor for one of

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Wellfleet's spectacular sunsets.

Do you prefer to travel in the quieter months? Wellfleet is usually blessed with great weather through October; most businesses are still open, crowds have dissipated, the beaches are

nearly deserted. The Wellfleet Drive-in, Mini-Golf, Flea Market and Cinemas (www.wellfleetcinemas.com), located right on Route 6, are a popular spot. You can call 508-349-7176 for more details. There is also the Wellfleet Harbor

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Actors Theater (WHAT) and the Julie Harris Stage & WHAT For Kids (www.what.org) at 2357 Route 6 & 1. You are promised an enjoyable evening of entertainment.

DINING OUT: We did venture to Wellfleet for dinner. Van Rensselaer's (www.vanrensselaers.com) has been family owned and operated for over 35 years. Peter Hall and his

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wife Diane operate the restaurant from April until October. Located on State Highway 6 in South Wellfleet, opposite the entrance road to the Marconi area of the Cape Cod National Seashore, the restaurant actually draws diners from as far away as New Hampshire who drive in for the evening. My family enjoyed a wonderful dinner. The virgin pina colada was a quenching beginning while the salad bar was excellent. There are no kosher restaurants in Wellfleet, but Van Rensselaer's has some excellent fish choices: the baked chatham scrod, with lightly seasoned crumbs, fresh vegetables and mashed potatoes is a delight. Ditto for the sword fish, salmon and the tuna. For the kids there is a cute and low priced menu offering grilled cheese, hot dogs, mozzarella sticks, fried chicken tenders or penne pasta with marinara sauce.

WHERE TO STAY:
When we last visited this area six years ago we discovered the Four Points by Sheraton Eastham Cape Cod (www.fourpoints.com/eastham), a modern

full-service hotel which just kind of appears before your very eyes as you travel on busy Route 6. This is 10 minutes from Wellfleet.

For summer trips, an early winter booking is highly recommended. The hotel has beautiful indoor and outdoor swimming pools and is close to the beaches. Some rooms have balconies overlooking the indoor pool, which is perfectly heated and a fabulous place to go after returning from the beach. There is also a jacuzzi.

The hotel has one of the most magnificent suites I have seen in a long time. The Nauset Suite has two separate bedrooms - one with a king bed and another with two twins. There is ample cupboard space. Each has a flat screen television. The very large living room also has a flat screen, a couch, four comfortable chairs, two end tables, a large working desk, a dining room table for four, another clothing closet and a small kitchen with a full-sized fridge, a microwave, dishes and silverware. In the bathroom you will find a large shower with glass doors. Oh yes, let me tell you about

the balcony. It is gigantic, with two lounge chairs, two picnic tables and 10 plastic chairs - ideal for entertaining friends or family. This is traditionally used for businessmen, as the hotel hosts a lot of conferences. But for a family seeking good space for everyone, this is a luxury.

The free wireless high speed internet is indeed "high speed" and faster than what most other hotels offer. There is also great service from the front desk, starting with the printout of descriptions and directions to the local beaches. The hotel also has a fitness facility, a game room, refrigerators and coffee makers in each standard room, an on-site restaurant (Bellamy's) and five meeting rooms in case you want to hold a company

conference here. The front desk will get you anything you need, be it a dining reservation, tickets to a show or a car rental. Check out the Cape Cod Rail Trail Bicycle Trail, only 100 feet away.

The Four Points has a thriving Jewish clientele. There are many Jewish families in the area. "We have had many Bar and Bat Mitzvahs over the years," says sales manager Cindy Ladd. "Also many families stay here if they are coming to a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and live off Cape. We are the only full service hotel open year round in this area, which is very helpful."

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

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