

TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By **ALEXANDRA COHEN**

BACK TO THE BIG APPLE: New York City has always ranked amongst my favourite places in the world to visit. It seems to buzz with an energy that is difficult to describe without feeling it for yourself. Of course, I was thrilled when the opportunity presented itself for my friend and I to head over there for a long weekend. We certainly made the most of every minute that we had!

New York's landmark historic Jewish neighborhood, the Lower East Side, was once home to the world's largest Jewish community. Covering the area between Houston and Canal Streets east of the Bowery,

this neighborhood is where New York's garment industry began. Today it is a bargain hunter's paradise! The overall New York Jewish community in the metropolitan area has remained stable at 1.4 million people, while the population of New York City is just below a million.

In New York City, Jewish life is just a walk down the street. The Jewish
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Museum (www.thejewishmuseum.org) at 1109 Fifth Ave. (northeast corner of 92nd St.) is dedicated to presenting the remarkable scope and diversity of Jewish culture. You can also visit the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan (www.jccmanhattan.org) at The Samuel Priest Rose Building (334 Amsterdam Avenue at West 76th Street.) The

Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust (<http://www.mjhnyc.org>, first opened its doors on September 15, 1997 at 36 Battery Place. It is a must visit.

WHERE TO STAY:

During our visit, we stayed at Arlo Midtown, a two-year-old hotel property located right between Times

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Square and the Hudson Yards, on 38th Street and 9th Avenue. If the hotel name sounds familiar to you, perhaps that is because Arlo Hotels is an independent, four-star life style hotel brand, with two other locations in New York City, two in Miami, and the newest property having just opened in Chicago. Featuring 489 guest rooms and suites, Arlo Midtown also features a modern-looking lobby bathed in greenery, with a coffee shop and plenty of comfortable, cushioned seating.

While the hotel has six different room types available for all travelers, my friend and I stayed in a King room on the 20th floor, which featured an incredibly comfortable bed, a view of nearby skyscrapers and calming colour palates

of white, grey, and light blue. One of the room's highlights was a comfortable window bench, which you will find in most of the hotel's rooms. Rooms are also equipped with bedside wireless charging stations, Bluetooth radios, 55" LED TVs, and complimentary WiFi. The bathroom includes a glass-enclosed shower and softly backlit bathroom mirrors.

Another hotel highlight is the rooftop, where you can soak up some beautiful panoramic views of the city, including the Empire State Building, from 26 stories as you socialize with friends, mingle with colleagues, or celebrate with family over craft beers, fine wines, creative cocktails,

and light bites.

The hotel's business features include a variety of flexible meeting and event spaces, with seven venues offering a total of 7,334 square feet of meeting space spanning across three floors. The hotel's leisure facilities include a state-of-the-art fitness facility, outfitted with traditional weights and cardio equipment, in addition to Peloton bikes, an Interactive Fitness Mirror, a yoga studio, and more.

For more information, visit www.arlohotels.com/arlow-midtown or call 212.343.7000.

DINING OUT: New York City's kosher restaurants offer a variety of cuisines, from Israeli and Middle Eastern to Central

Asian to Chinese vegetarian to Mediterranean. Some of the best kosher restaurants in the Big Apple are Azuri Café, Taam-Tov, Buddha Bodai Kosher Vegetarian, Pitopia and Lieberman's Kosher Delicatessen.

We stopped by globally acclaimed Black Tap Craft Burgers & Beer on 35th Street home to world famous Crazy Shake® milkshakes. The menu offers something for everyone. At the stand-alone Shake Bar—the first in New York—guests can get a glimpse into the magic of making one of Black Tap's famous milkshake creations. There is a wheelchair access ramp to the left of the front door that goes into the hotel next door, where there is a side entrance leading into the restaurant.

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