

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
(Please turn to page 17)

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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from page 7)

and the remembrance of the Holocaust.

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.cirque-dusoleil.com/en/shows/michaeljacksonone/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 Michael Jackson. Prominent Montreal Jewish lawyer and businessman Mitch

the chairman of the board of the Cirque de Soleil.

Presentations of Michael Jackson ONE (and we acknowledge how controversial a figure Jackson is) take place at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino from Fridays to Tuesdays at both 7 pm and 9:30 pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays are dark days. Driven by the late King of Pop's powerful, multi-layered music – heard like never before in a 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. This show captures the essence, soul and inspiration of the King of Pop, celebrating a legacy that continues to transcend generations. You will surely be captivated by the aerial acrobatics and special effects during this unforgettable performance, while trying not to sing along to Jackson's most popular songs, from "Smooth Criminal" to "Thriller" (a particular highlight).

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(Continued from preceding page)

ONE somehow manages to get better with every routine. Each time you think that there cannot possibly be another trick left to perform, someone will fly through the sky or trampoline upside down and once again, you will find yourself amazed.

While the hits in Michael Jackson ONE have been rearranged to suit the show, they remain very close to the album versions and are treated in a highly cinematic fashion. Kevin Antunes, who was also the Musical Designer on Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL World Tour, took the multi-track master recordings and manages to make audience members feel the music is surrounding them, a beautiful musical assault coming from all directions. In fact, each of

the theatre's 1,804 seats has three speakers, leaving the room with a total of 5,412 seat speakers!

This show, in its technical and energized glory, truly is not something that you want to miss. Since its beginnings in 1984, almost 160 million spectators in over 330 cities and 48 countries have been thrilled by Cirque du Soleil. Garber first met Cirque founder Guy Laliberté in Las Vegas in 2010. That's where Garber spent most his time then running Caesars Interactive Entertainment. The two became friends. Eventually Garber agreed to step in as chairman. Laliberté would soon sell the business to a consortium which includes Garber.

WORLD IN REVIEW

(Continued from page 4)

ing kosher food and a kosher restaurant is in the works in the United Arab Emirates. Kosher Arabia was founded by Ross Kriel, a Johannesburg-born lawyer who is the leader of the Orthodox Jewish community in Dubai.

For now the company serves only dairy, fish and vegetables and there is no kashrut supervisor. But that did not stop the company from setting up a kosher food section at a February interfaith conference in Abu Dhabi which was attended by Pope Francis. "It was so exciting", said Rabbi Marc Schneier, head of the Jewish-Muslim Interfaith Understanding Foundation, "to stand in line for kosher food in Abu Dhabi at a conference convened by Muslim leaders". Schneier added that "many Jews visit the Gulf states, and they need kosher food. If there were such a thing here

(Please turn to page 20)

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