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TRAVEL TALES

HELPFUL HINTS FOR THE JEWISH TRAVELLER

By MIKE COHEN

WHISTLER, BC - My family and I recently made our second visit to Whistler, BC (www.tourismwhistler.com), less than a two hour drive from Vancouver and one of the host cities for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Vancouver has a large Jewish community, many of whom also have homes in Whistler or frequent the local hotels.

PEAK 2 PEAK: There is no better experience than the Peak 2 Peak Gondola. You first take the Whistler Express Gondola from the Village, which takes 25 minutes. You'll arrive at the Roundhouse, a lodge where you can have lunch or a snack, and take in the spectacular view of the mountains on the opposite side of

(Please turn to page 16)

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TRAVEL TALES

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the valley. We took advantage of that opportunity. The view was nothing short of spectacular. Our next move would have been to hop on the Peak 2 Peak Gondola for a thrilling 11-minute ride over to Blackcomb Mountain. Unfortunately for us, there was some maintenance

work the day we visited and the Peak to Peak was closed. The Peak Cloudraker Suspension Skybridge is the latest attraction and it was part of our 360 package. It is 130 metres long and goes from Whistler Peak to the West Ridge, which crosses the Whistler Bowl. Upon completion it will have

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APOLOGIES FOR
ANTI-SEMITIC JOKES**



TRAVON FREE, WHO has written for "Full Frontal With Samantha Bee" and "The Daily Show" has apologized after tweets he wrote in 2010 and 2011 surfaced on social media. In a 2010 tweet he wrote "Got cut off in traffic by a jew. WWHD? (what would Hitler do). In 2011 he wished a Happy birthday to Hitler. "Nine years ago", Free wrote, "I tweeted some stupid and really offensive jokes that were intended to be that, jokes....Going forward, I will continue to work tirelessly at my job and on behalf of marginalized communities, some of which, in retrospect, I did a tremendous disservice to with those tweets years ago."

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a West Ridge side.

WHERE TO STAY:
We were so pleased to spend some time at The Hilton Whistler (www.hilton-whistler.com), a popular spot for Jewish guests. Our family thoroughly enjoyed a day at the outdoor pool area, which has plenty of very comfortable lounge chairs and umbrella coverage. The water was the perfect temperature and the pool itself a nice size. There are two Jacuzzis, one outside the other in the fitness center. You can also soothe your sore muscles in the sauna. The pool area is completely handicapped accessible, with a level walkway from the elevators and lobby to the deck.

We were provided with a menu of items we could conveniently order right from our chairs. There are 24-hour fitness and

business centres. The Hilton Fitness Centre by Precor features the finest cardiovascular equipment with personal viewing screens, elliptical cross-trainers, a stationary bike, free-weight station, and stretching area. Sales and Marketing Director Allison Brown was kind enough to give me a tour of the property, noting that when it debuted in 1982 it was the first large hotel to open in Whistler. As she walked me through the beautiful 287 room facility, its age did not show. One good reason for that is the recent renovation of all rooms and hallways. Next on the agenda will be a revamp of the large reception area. The rooms I saw were lovely.

The Hilton Whistler is a popular spot for weddings and honeymoons.
(Please turn to following page)



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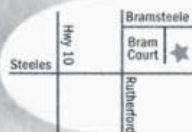


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TRAVEL TALES

(Continued from preceding page)

Just email sales@hilton-whistler.com for more information.

THE ULTIMATE ESCAPE ROOM: Escape Whistler (<http://escapewhistler.com>) was a lot of fun. There are four escape rooms to try: Pirate ship, Pinball Machine, Buried Cabin or Rabbit Hole. Each room is very different in terms of game, difficulty and style! If you are an escape room veteran, you should be confident enough to try any of the rooms straight off the bat. Info: 604-962-1117.

DINING: There are some fantastic dining choices in Whistler, B.C., most of them located in the village area.

We were very excited to return to the Brewhouse Restaurant (<http://www.markjamesgroup.com/brewhouse.html>). This is one of the busiest spots in the Whistler Village all year round. With a separate restaurant, bar and mezzanine, the Whistler Brewhouse is capable of accommodating groups large and small. The pub has a cozy two-sided fireplace and lots of TVs, making it the perfect place to watch the game when you're tired from playing all day. The restaurant is warm and family friendly with a great kids' menu and a huge patio for Whistler's long, hot summers. The cuisine is an inspired and appetizing mix of barbeque and rotisserie classics, with exceptional pizza and pasta options. These flavours are complemented by their range of handcrafted ales and lagers, brewed onsite. There are even four kinds of poutine. Try the huge bowl of Matzo Ball Soup. This is part of the Mark James Group Brewery Restaurant. James is a member of the Jewish community and has been supportive of numerous

charitable events.

One of our favorite and more unique spots we recalled from our last visit to Whistler was the Mongolie Grill (www.mongoligrill.com). This is the ultimate "fun" dining experience with fresh and tasty ingredients grilled to perfection in front of your eyes. I love the creative aspect to this place, where you go about choosing your own stir-fry combination. Select your favourite ingredients and flavour with your chosen sauce combinations. Your meal will be weighed by the chefs then theatrically grilled to perfection.

The Jewish-owned and operated Hy's Steakhouse & Cocktail Bar (www.hyssteakhouse.com) is always a special dining experience and their Whistler location is no exception. Every ingredient is chosen to highlight the top quality of perfectly grilled steaks and the freshest fish and seafood. A wide range of classic and modern appetizers and accompaniments make choosing difficult, but satisfaction is guaranteed.

If you are looking for the best sushi in Whistler, consider Harajuku Izakaya (<https://www.harajuku.ca>).

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Mike Cohen can be reached at info@mikecohen.com.

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WORLD N REVIEW

(Continued from page 3)

Jews Should Engage With Far Right

Rabbi Menachem Margolin, chairman of the European Jewish Association, believes that once a far Right or Populist party joins a coalition European government, Jews should open up channels of communication with them. The rabbi said that no effort should be spared in an effort to outlaw anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi parties but that once a Far Right party enters power “the discussion should be completely different”. “Does Israel not speak to Hamas? Israel spoke with Arafat, who clearly hated Jews. Does Israel not talk today with different enemies?” he asked.

Margolin said he “understands” why the Austrian Jewish community has boycotted all contact with the Freedom Party of Austria but he still believes that once these far Right parties are in power “the future of the Jewish community in this country is in their hands...I believe we have to find different ways of communication without giving a kosher certificate to those who do not deserve it.”

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