

Focus on Travel & Getaways

A supplement compiled by Marlene & Barry Bilewitz. Cell 083-475-0288, (011) 886-0162 or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

'Retro' means much more than nostalgia

Would you like to spend a few days or weeks in the past without the expense of building a timemachine?



One of 4 000 Bauhaus buildings in White City Tel Aviv.

Barry Bilewitz

TO BEGIN your journey, make sure you're wearing the correct apparel. Designers have been plundering the back catalogues of fashion for inspiration for some time now, but for Spring/Summer 2009 Balenciaga have come up with quite a nifty idea. Pillaging the treasure trove that is the brand's design history, they have chosen 26 designs from the house archives to recreate for sale once more as the Balenciaga Edition collection.

Each piece is being recreated using research into original fabrics, but with the added expertise and finishing of modern construction techniques.

Retro fashion is not only "in" for clothing, it also applies to cars and holidays. Audi - for example - has the TT, which looks a lot like the Porsche 356 series of the 1950s and has a very retro-style interior.

There are many hotels locally and abroad, which have their décor styled from the Victorian, Georgian, or even Napoleonic and Elizabethan eras. There are some hostleries that can take you right back to the opulent decadence of Rome when she ruled most of Europe.

Indeed, the public areas of Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas are decorated to take us back

to this period of marble fountains, chariot races and death in the senate. A senator suite with double marble baths and LCD TV (essential for an up-to-date politician from ancient Rome) will set you back over R20 000 per night. The even more exclusive double storey emperor's suite with onyx staircase is unavailable until further notice.

If retro-architecture is your thing and you love visiting Israel, take a free walking day tour of Tel Aviv's White City. There you'll find nearly 4 000 buildings created in the Bauhaus architectural style, also known as "International Style".

In the early 1930s, architects came to Israel to escape Nazi persecution. Many of them had been trained in Modernist styles at the top European schools. Chief among them was that of the Bauhaus School of Art and Architecture in Berlin.

White City has the largest concentration of Bauhaus-style architecture in the world and was declared a World Cultural Heritage site in 2003.

Driving an American pony car of the 1960s is an essential experience for the retro-car lover and you don't have to go all the way to the US to do it. The Open Road Classic



Car Hire Co in the UK has a mint condition 1965 Mustang fastback with a 289 cu inch V8 and an automatic gearbox. The car is only available from April to November to keep its pristine condition.

Continued on Page III

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Warm regards

Reeva Forman - Chairman Israel Now Tour, SAZF

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- The new Yad Vashem Memorial & Herzl and Begin museums.
- Knesset - meet members of Parliament.

TEL AVIV

- Independence and Palmach museums.
- Visit Neve Zdek with its craft and art markets.
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GALILEE

Visit the famous South African Forest and plant a tree.

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Reeva Forman, tel (011) 482-1570, cell 083-228-7777, e-mail reeva@intekom.co.za or Miriam Garb (011) 645-2531, e-mail miriam@beyachad.co.za



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FOCUS ON TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

Travel light - travel smart

MARLENE BILEWITZ

AIRLINES ARE becoming stricter on the weight and size of our luggage, both carry-on and in the hold. A friend recently had to open a case already bound in bubble wrap as it was overweight and he then had to send the excess luggage home with his family who had come to see him off. So, when packing, confirm permissible luggage sizes with your agent or airline and plan your travel wardrobe carefully.

Basic rules when travelling

Travel light, mix and match and layer, for instance remove items of clothing as it gets hotter and add on when cooler.

Choose one or at the most two basic colours.

Two smart outfits, four casual, easy-to-wear T-shirt type or sleeveless tops, four shirts or blouses that can be worn separately or on top of the T-shirts, three pairs of pants and/or extra skirt... All to be dressed up or down with different tops, jewellery, scarves and belts.

Swimsuit and wrap, walking shorts and tracksuit, a sunhat, a light cardigan or wrap, a heavier cardigan or jacket.

Two pieces of nightwear - nighties/pajamas, underwear, enough for at least three days without washing, pantyhose, knee-highs (two pairs at once if it's cold - it works), one camisole, one spencer (long sleeve), lounging gown and slippers.

A pair of comfortable walking shoes or takkies,

sandals/moccasins, a pair of smart evening shoes, a spacious, well-compartmented travel handbag, a smart evening bag (large enough to take the essentials).

Jewellery - simple, easy to interchange pieces, with at least one piece that makes a statement, but nothing which would cause a security headache.

Carry-on luggage, emergency medication, make-up and basic toiletries (no sharp objects, no liquids over 100ml each).

A complete change of clothing, an all-weather coat and small umbrella, a light lounging gown and a change of shoes and slippers.

I have been stranded without my luggage for five days with no essentials in a country where I did not speak the language, suffering incredible inconvenience while trying desperately to obtain the necessities.

For cold and snow

Most indoor places have central heating, so all the above still apply. Your outer garments should be weather-proof: coat with hood that extends over the face, gloves, scarf, shoes/boots with thick, non-slip soles.

Lastly, don't forget to visit your favourite travel shop for that tiny, fold-up umbrella and travel raincoat and those special compartmentalised

plastic bags to separate the different groups of clothing. They keep your clothes tidy and make it easy to find things without having to do major packing and unpacking if you're not staying long in one place.



Visit Gigi von Helden for all your travel wear.

Being observant no impediment to complete travel enjoyment

KEEPING SHABBAT and kosher does not mean that you are restricted to holidaying locally and eating tinned tuna. You can travel internationally in style with The Travel Wizard, while keeping fully kosher and being observant.

Laura Joselowsky, the sole proprietor of The Travel Wizard, has 20 years' experience in the travel industry, and being observant herself, un-

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Laura Joselowsky
The Travel Wizard in association with E Travel
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FOCUS ON TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

'Retro' means much more than nostalgia

Continued from Page 1

Many replicas of cars made famous in movies and TV are for hire in England and the US. The bright orange "General Lee" 1969 Dodge Charger of "The Dukes of Hazzard" fame is available from Star Car Hire in Wiltshire, Essex, Suffolk and Manchester - simultaneously.

They also have a "genuine copy" of James Bond's Aston Martin DB5 without the ejector seat and twin machine-guns. If you favour the 1970s mafia type transport, Status Luxury Vehicles has a pair of black and white Cadillac Fleetwoods in Cape Town for weddings, barmitzvahs etc.

A hallmark of retro-luxury is the elegant oversized four-poster bed. If you wish to sleep in one of these superb reminders of yesteryear while visiting London, book your stay at the Royal Park or St James Hotel and Club.

If your tastes tend toward the Colonial, then spend a few nights near George at the Botlier Private Game Reserve in a luxury-tented suite with its enormous four-poster bed, mosquito



nets and outdoor shower. At Le Telfair in Mauritius you can jump out of your four-poster and turn left to go to the beach or turn right to play a round of golf.

The Middle and Far East also offer sumptuous colonial-style accommodation. The Oriental Suite at the Mandarin in Bangkok is 295 square metres in size. That's bigger than most standard three-bedroom houses in South Africa.

If you believe that a man's holiday-home is his castle, then Flycatcher Castle in Graskop is for you. The whole interior is furnished and decorated

in art deco with an auditorium with seating salvaged from an old synagogue in Johannesburg.

For a similar price to that of a senator suite at Caesar's Palace without the hassle of airport taxes and lost luggage, you can spend some time in the Nelson Mandela Platinum Suite at the Saxon in Sandhurst.

The posts of the four-poster are not really posts; they are, in fact, elegantly tiled columns.



Wouldn't you like to ride in my beautiful balloon?

SHEREE JACOBS

THE FIRST TIME man defied the laws of gravity in a hot air balloon was in 1788. From this time on it has been one of the adventure activities on many people's must-do list.

This simple form of flight has not changed much in all this time. Air to Air fly three commercial balloons. The traditional wicker baskets can carry eight, 12 and 16 passengers. These baskets are weight-related depending on the cubic capacity of their envelopes and for this reason booking well in advance is essential.

Balloons require stable air conditions and for this reason flights take place at sunrise. Passengers meet for tea and coffee 30 minutes before take-off. Most of the flights take place from a private golf estate on the Crocodile River in the Kromdraai Conservancy also known as the Cradle of Humankind, approximately 35km from Johannesburg. As all the balloons are on trailers, these can be moved to a destination of your choice for larger groups.

You don't need to be physically fit to stand for an hour while you float along at tree top height and you may get to pick a leaf from the top of a tree, or speak to passers-by who have stopped to take a picture of you as you drift along in relative silence.

That is until the pilot burns to maintain heat in the envelope and keep the balloon in flight. Tranquil and calming are the word that most describe the experience.



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Balloons move with the wind and therefore where you land no one knows. Not even the pilot can tell you prior to flight. Each flight is different and the ground crew's job is to find the balloon on landing. As tradition dictates, the landing is celebrated with a glass of champagne and/or orange juice. You are then whisked away in the retrieval vehicle and taken for a well-deserved breakfast. Air to Air Africa will then present you with a certificate to remember the day you defied the law of gravity.

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FOCUS ON TRAVEL & GETAWAYS

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