



Apex International Hotel, Edinburgh

31-35 Grassmarket, Edinburgh

Helen says

A superb hotel for families visiting Edinburgh with thoughtful extras laid on for children making it a top choice for return visits.

On a rather wet and blustery weekend in October we decided to take the kids on their first trip to Scotland. Unfortunately not by rail as typically the one weekend you decide to do anything there happens to be engineering works. So arriving at the Apex International Hotel right in the midst of the Grassmarket by car was quite easy as the car parking for residents is directly round the back of the hotel and is charged at a reasonable £8.00 per day.

It was Halloween weekend and the kids were worried that they were going to miss all the fun, however arriving at the front desk of the Apex the kids spotted the pumpkins filled with sweets and after stashing a handful were presented with goodie bags.

Our room was not overly large or overly small but what it did have was a fantastic view of Edinburgh Castle. In fact the room was just perfect for us as a family of 4 with quite a good sized bathroom and 2 queen sized beds, but if we had dragged Alfie with us (who was safely stashed away at Grandparents) an extra cot would have been tight.

If you ever decide to stay at the Apex International Hotel, prior to your stay you must pre-book in for a meal at the Heights Restaurant - based on the 5th floor it has outstanding views over towards the Castle which is just stunning lit up at night-time and the food is suppose to be pretty good too! However we weren't that forward thinking and of course it was fully booked up when we checked in. After browsing the list of family games available to borrow from reception and an enjoyable round of Junior Monopoly later we had worked up an appetite. The Metro Bar and Brasserie Restaurant in the basement ended up being a rather pleasant affair. Hannah (6) and Emily (8) were handed an activity sheet and it actually kept them occupied and in their seats until the meal arrived. Settling the bill I queried why the kid's meals had been knocked off and as I should of known from reading "Apex Offers Kids Stay and Eat for Free" when staying in a room with parents. It was good value before the meals were deducted!

Once back at our room both Dave and I were bushed, however it was great to know that the Apex International Hotel provides children with a voucher to hire a DVD for free. After a conflag the verdict was "Night at the Museum" and I have to say it was thoroughly enjoyed by us all. I was a bit worried that we would be up all night from the party goers in the Grassmarket as our room was on the first floor and overlooked the nights shenanigans but honestly I must have been tired out or the bed was super duper, as I had a really good night's sleep.

We managed to sample the Heights Restaurant in the morning as this is where you have your breakfast. It is easy to see why it gets booked up so quickly as it has those panoramic views of Edinburgh Castle and the surrounding area. It is also wonderfully child friendly and the Scottish breakfast was spot on although I chickened out of tasting the Haggis.

Once we had checked out we passed a family having great fun on the Wii console in the lounge area and I am sure had we spotted it earlier the girls would have nagged us until we had had a go! Anyway it is noted for the next time we visit, as I am sure there will be a next time together with mum remembering to pack the swimming costumes! All in all, I would highly recommend The Apex International as a superb child friendly hotel ideal for visiting Edinburgh Castle.