

My short break

My wife and I like to stay with the Warners group of hotels and chalets as they offer short breaks with good levels of entertainment during the day and evening. The best thing is that children under the age of 16 are not allowed.

A Warners holiday is all about relaxing, enjoying your surroundings and to make your stay as pleasant as possible. Each hotel has its own specialty. Some are near the sea but the majority are inland. There are over twelve hotels to stay at and my wife and I have been lucky enough to stay at three of them.

Thoresby hall (Nottinghamshire time to arrive 1 hour 45 minutes) this is the flag ship and it is also a spa. Based in Nottinghamshire it is definitely landlocked and isolated. That being said when you go there you are mainly going for the spa treatments. The hotel itself is a converted manor house and to be honest is not very wheelchair friendly. If you are completely wheelchair bound many of the spa facilities are not accessible.

As for meals you get full English breakfast (which is self service), and in the evening it depends on the style of room as to whether you have the A'la carte menu or the carvery. After the meal the entertainment starts at 8.00p.m. with a tea dance for an hour and then changes nightly from comedians to musicians. The entertainment finishes at about 11.00 p.m. and the bar stays open until 12.00am.

Cricket St Thomas (Somerset time to arrive 2 hours) Again this is a historic hotel and has been lovingly converted. Some people may recognize it from the TV show "To the manor born". This hotel is bathed in history and I have to be honest when I say I loved staying here. Believe it or not there is a little church in the grounds which is still in use today and which members of the hotel are allowed to attend or if you wish you can just look around. Lord Nelson used to woo his mistress here at cricket ,walking in the grounds away from all the commotion their affair would

have caused if they had been in London. There are memorial plaques in abundance and the brother of Nelson is buried in the crypt.

In the new section they have every convenience for the disabled, with three lifts being available. The corridors are wide and overall it caters for scooters and power chairs well. When it comes to self-propelled chairs or attendant chairs I would say you would need some muscles as the place is on a slope, now if when ordering your room you forget to mention you are disabled, some rooms are quite a walk from the reception and the facilities. As for the entertainment it is similar to the previous hotel as they like to keep the activities similar the main difference is that you do not have a spa just a basic pool but you can still have the beauty treatments. The one thing this place has that no other Warners hotel has is its own wildlife park for this you will definitely need a power chair or scooter as it is about a five-mile walk and although it is down hill to get to it on the way back it is a very tiring hill.

Sinah Warren (Hayling Island, Hampshire time to arrive 2 hours 30 minutes) this is a classic hotel, which means it was built about ten years ago. It has ramps in most places and all of the floors are accessible by lifts the entertainment is very much of a muchness in comparison with other hotels in the group with slight variation on a theme. To add to the shooting and archery they also do ten-pin bowling using a Wii console (TV game system) fantastic if disabled as it means you can play along with able-bodied on an equal basis. I understand that some people may not like game machines but if they let you have fun, who cares

The staff are so friendly and helpful they seriously cannot do enough to help you. On our last visit which was the 6th July 09 we booked a royale room, these rooms are bigger than the standard room and normally have a nice view our view was over looking the harbour. This hotel also has an outside heated pool and there is also an indoor pool, both have disabled access but the outside pool is better as it has a ramp gently down into the pool and they have a special wheelchair which they use to get you in and out.

Warners have four types of room:

Ambassador room: these can be either twin or double best to check. These are the smallest rooms with en-suite facilities and a small table and a couple of chairs. Normally there is a chest of drawers and a wardrobe

with a small TV. This room is not practical if you need to charge your scooter or power chair. If this facility were needed you would have to leave scooter in hallway to get charged.

Signature room: this room is slightly bigger again with either twin or double but this time you have a small sofa and the TV comes with a DVD player. This room can accommodate a mobility scooter or a power chair comfortably to charge it up.

Royale room: this room is the biggest of all and comes with a king size four poster bed. The mattress is very firm so is good for your back you get little extras like a bowl of fruit on arrival and a couple of bottles of wine, you also have the use of a mini bar. This room come with a big TV and also has little extras such as a separate shower and a Jacuzzi bath. Comfortably fits a power chair or scooter.

Historic room: A big room only found in the older type of hotel. Most of the rooms are designed to reflect the period of the room but also have modern facia ties and still has an en-suite. Plenty of room for power chair and scooter

If you book a disabled room which is available at most hotels be aware that if you are sharing with an able bodied person the bathroom can prove to be a slight problem. Although has extra room for scooter or power chair all of the wash and sanitary ware are lower so an able bodied person may have to bend to have proper wash.

At the end of the day there is something for everyone when you stay at a Warners hotel, one word of advice if you enjoy your stay and are thinking of going again if you book while there you can save a considerable amount. Also depending when, you may be able to go hot air ballooning or learn about digital photography or any number of things to tantalize the mind. It is worth having a look at the Warners web site for more information as there is just so much you can do. Although kids are not allowed, I think that is because it shows older and disabled people can have fun too and shows that adults are just big kids too. There are not many places I can say I have a wicked time but Warners is one of those places. As for a favourite hotel, well at the moment it is Sinah Warren, but then again who knows.