



Style

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a luxury
London
break

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fashion

Sun SEEKERS

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swimwear

Spa-hopping
for beginners



Picture the scene. You're lying by a pool, happily sipping a Mojito before lunchtime, lost in a trashy chick-lit title on your Kindle that you carefully sourced for your well-earned week in the sun. Your body has remembered what it feels like to relax and with the stresses and strains of the office a distant memory, your only concerns are what you're going to eat next and when you need to apply a bit more Factor 30. Life is bliss.

And then there's that piercing sound that bursts your holiday bubble in an instant. You know the noise, you sat next to it for four long hours on the flight over, and now the high-pitched cry of someone's 'little darling' that's overtired, over hot and just, well, overrated, has decided to exercise its vocal chords poolside too.



It was this all-too-familiar holiday experience that led my boyfriend Matt and I – and yes, we are sans enfants – to look for an adult's only hotel for this year's sunny getaway. Now don't get me wrong, I don't dislike children, I hope to have a couple of my own one day, but I'll have no problem leaving them behind for a holiday of their own with granny and grandad while I relax in peace.

I spotted the Lindos Blu Luxury Hotel & Suites a few years ago while holidaying on the Greek island of Rhodes. We were



A grown-up HOLIDAY

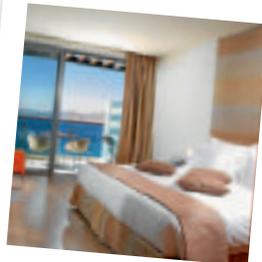
Desperate for peace by the pool Louise Martin checks in to the adults-only Lindos Blu hotel in Rhodes and finds out that silence, is indeed, golden

on our way to Lindos for dinner and just before we arrived at the beautiful village, I saw the luxury five star hotel poking out of a rocky hillside, all chic design and inviting infinity pools, twinkling in the dusk. At the time I had no idea it was an adults-only hotel – if I had, I would have checked in a lot sooner – but in the first week of May this year, as the hotel opened for its 2013 business, we arrived for

a grown-ups-only holiday.

Built in 2008, the Lindos Blu is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World portfolio, which not only sounds very grown-up and impressive, it really is very grown-up and impressive. The hotel's 70 rooms and suites, à la carte restaurant, lounge and pool bar and spa are all sea-facing, offering panoramic views over the stunning Vlichia Bay and Aegean Sea.

Just a few hours after boarding an early morning flight from Stansted we were sipping sparkling wine – minus screaming children – in the afternoon sun, after checking into our new home for the week. An architectural mix of stone, glass, wood and marble, the boutique hotel is immaculate, but not in an uncomfortable way, with bright white and contemporary grey walls accented by splashes of vibrant orange.



We were staying at the hotel on a bed and breakfast basis in a stylish double room complete with private balcony, comfy king size bed and a plush Jacuzzi bath. The buffet-style breakfast was served



in the Smeraldo à la carte restaurant and offered every choice imaginable for that all-important meal of the day with a selection of fresh fruits, pastries, Greek yoghurt and honey, omelettes cooked to order and even bacon and eggs for those who want a taste of home. In the evening, the restaurant had a more formal feel offering European cuisine in a combination of buffet and waitress service, which comes highly recommended from one holiday-goer who described it to me as a combination of 'Heston Blumenthal meets *MasterChef*'.

Although very impressive, at 35 Euros per person, we found that eating like a Greek was the most affordable way to dine. As huge fans of the rich cuisine, we were happy to spend our evenings choosing between classics such as moussaka, lamb kleftiko and pork souvlaki at the many restaurants on offer in Lindos or at a nearby taverna by the beach.

Lindos is less than a five-minute bus or taxi journey from the hotel where many of the restaurants offer rooftop dining granting guests a front row view of the historic Acropolis. Dining up

high in the maze-like location was very atmospheric and, surrounded by a sea of whitewashed rooftops, we felt like we were in a James Bond movie.

Having enjoyed the view of the Acropolis from the ground, we decided to explore the ancient ruins and passed on the 'Lindos Taxi' (donkey) option in favour of using our own two feet, which looked much more stable than the poor donkeys! At the top we were rewarded with amazing views of the island, but if you do decide to make the trip, just be careful on those slippery, donkey-worn cobbles.

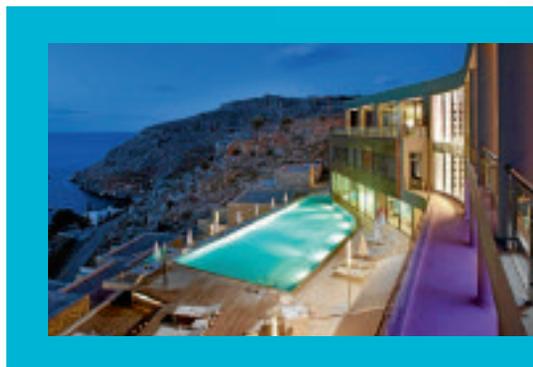
When we had exhausted Lindos – and an unexpected cloudy spell prevented us from sunbathing for a few hours – we travelled by bus to Rhodes Old Town. Located in the north of the island, the 50km trip took around an hour and cost just five Euros per person.



The pretty town is an assortment of cobbled streets bordered by bars, restaurants and shops offering plenty to keep visitors occupied on a day trip.

The largest of the Dodecanese islands, Rhodes enjoys a thriving tourist season from May to October and, despite arriving early on, the hotel was already fully booked with those desperate for some early summer sun. Although at full capacity, because of its boutique size the hotel never felt too busy and this is in part down to the staff, who were very efficient without being intrusive.

After one week at the Lindos Blu we felt that adults-only holidaying really is the way forward and agreed there wasn't anything we would have changed – well, child-free flights would have been nice, but that might be going a bit far.



TRAVEL FACTS

A one-week stay for two people at the Lindos Blu Hotel on a bed and breakfast basis is priced from £987 during low season (2013 rates). For reservations and further information, please visit www.lindosblu.gr