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THE GRAND HOTEL, BRIGHTON

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The previous owners refurbished the 152-year-old hotel three years ago, made it even more plush inside and added a spa and fish restaurant. It's right on the seafront, five minutes' walk from the pier, so ideal for nipping back for a quick nap inbetween fun on the seafront.

ROOMS ANY GOOD? A boutique feel to the 201 rooms spread across seven floors.

Contemporary but with nods to the classic building they're housed in. Loads of space inside for the push chair and buggy. But our room had a view of a brick wall, not the ocean horizon you'd expect for the price.

EAT IN OR GRAB PIZZA? Home to GB1, Alan White's 2 AA Rosette fish restaurant, which does an amazing lobster burger and Neapolitan ice cream, while the lounge bar has one of the top 15 afternoon teas in the UK. All of it set in a restaurant that uses the hotel's historic architectural features to make dining there feel truly special. Though fish and chips from Harry Ramsden is just up the road too!

**check in
check it
out**

WHAT ELSE? The newly-built spa is worth a visit and a reasonable £19.50 to use, which includes a glass of bubbly. But in all honesty, with the nearby Sea Life centre, fun fair (just £7-10 for all you can ride), galleries, boutique shops, theatres and seaside, there's only so much time you'd want to spend indoors.

SO YOU'D GO BACK? Not sure. Chuffed I got to do it once and whenever I'm in Brighton I'd pop back for an afternoon tea. But the room view was really disappointing. With so much to do around Brighton, I don't feel the time you'd spend in the hotel justifies the cost. But booking through booking.com was something I'd do again, as it was easy.

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE? Rooms cost between £140 and £300 depending on how big, and whether you want a sea view or not. Spa entry is £19.50 as previously mentioned, treatments cost extra. Mains at GB1 cost between £19 - £40, while afternoon tea will set you back £23.95 in the week and £27.95 at weekends.

Find out more at booking.com.

MARK HUDSON

