

MAMMY DIARIES



By Moira Hannon

A true family friendly hotel

IMAGINE A HOTEL for children, where the adults just happen to have a great time too. Imagine a playroom for toddlers, a play centre for older kids, indoor and outdoor pools, a playground, sand pit, free buggies, free bicycles with baby trailers and seats, free childcare all day, every day (with English speaking nannies), baby monitors for your room, free organic baby food and help-yourself to snacks and soft drinks all day. Oh and did I mention pony rides?

Sounds too good to be true? Well it exists because I have just been there! The Kinder Hotels group (based in Austria amidst stunning scenery) pride themselves on being among the most family-friendly hotels in the world.

We stayed in the all-inclusive Hagleitner resort near Salzburg. Most of the accommodation has rooms plus a separate living room so parents get to chill out on their own in the evening (the stunning views from our balcony were straight out of the Sound Of Music).

Only families are allowed to stay (so when your kid has a tantrum, nobody bats an eyelid — they've all been there) and our boys loved every second of their visit.

Oscar (3) and Louis (20 months) were spoiled for choice. Would we hit the pool, the play centre, or the sandpit in the morning?

Would we go for a bike ride or on a steam train into the local town in the afternoon?

How about a ride up the mountain in a cable car or hiring a boat on the lake?

And just how much ice cream can one child eat in a day (a chest full of ice cream and ice pops is available to guests free all afternoon?)

Answer: my two can put away lots and lots.

"I'm very sad to be leaving," moaned Oscar as we packed to come home.

We all were — take a look at www.kinderhotels.co.uk on the web (phone 1850-930430) to understand why!



● You go away for a week, and all of a sudden three more celeb babies arrive.

And yay! their parents have come up some more crazy names to ensure junior can never be mistaken for your average child.

Congrats Nicole Kidman — calling your daughter Sunday just begs for the next one to be called Monday (maybe her and Keith will surprise us all and go for Tuesday?)

● Brad and Angelina (pictured) named their twins Vivienne (girl) and Knox (boy) — so I guess only the wee lad will get a slugging!

SURVIVING A FLIGHT

★ **THERE IS** no doubt that flying with two toddlers is incredibly stressful. Even when they are behaving themselves you are constantly on edge, waiting for some drama to kick off.

I find that letting the boys run around as much as possible at the airport, even while queueing to get on the plane, helps them to work off enough steam to stay in their seats until the plane has taken off.

★ We flew with Ryanair and I recommend paying the extra few euro for priority boarding — this guarantees you can get on early enough to sit together. I was glad we had forked out for it when I saw the extremely long queue for non-priority boarding.

I checked with the air hostess to see if the flight was full. It wasn't, so instead of sitting Louis on my knee (we had not paid for a seat for him) I sat in the row of three seats with the kids while my husband sat across the aisle.

This meant we had a bit more space and I could hand over