



The Carlton Hotel
Blanchardstown

LITTLE Adventurers GETAWAY

*Astrid Madsen experiences
an extra-relaxing family
stay at the Carlton Hotel
Blanchardstown.*

I'm not quite sure how stars are allocated, but what I can say is the Carlton in Blanchardstown is the best four-star hotel I've had the pleasure of staying in for a long time. We were there for a one-night stay on a Little Adventurers Getaway package that includes tickets to one of the nearby attractions – Emerald Park, Aquazone or Dublin Zoo – with breakfast included.

Our digs for the night was a superior suite, which more than lived up to its name. It felt like a luxury apartment, with a panoramic window in the superior room's living room. Yep, a living room separate from the bedroom. A door connected us to a lovely double suite for the kids to inhabit (their own bathroom included of course). They



cute little teddy, a drink, treats, all in a bag they set about colouring straight away.

There's something about being in a hotel that's on the more luxury end of the four-star spectrum; the service is impeccable, with attentive staff and lovely touches at every corner. Including USB plugs at the bedside tables and welcoming goodies. Even checkout is at 12; no rush, no fuss. These are the little things that make the experience for me.

You've two options for dinner, traditional bistro food at the Hourglass Bar but we went to the Sundial for a more creative menu.

Our delightful
welcome plate



immediately set about playing hide and seek.

Shrieks of excitement ensued, signalling a surprise awaited. On each of their single beds, a

coffee was real coffee, miraculously not watered down.

Bellies full and happy, we headed to Emerald Park (I'm still a sucker for roller coasters). The great thing about the experience is we got there early enough to avoid the queues, as it's less than 20 minutes from the hotel.

We wouldn't normally stay the night in Dublin but this escapade proved to be one of our most relaxing getaways of the summer. It's all down to the hotel staff, accommodation and general atmosphere of utter relaxation. Oh, and it's an Irish hotel. What more can you ask for? WW

TRAVEL



Bed in master
bedroom



Sundial restaurant