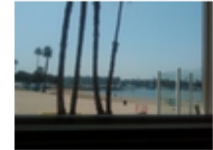


Current Location: USA > California > Greater Los Angeles (Disneyland) > Marina del Rey

Jamaica Bay Inn

4175 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, California
From \$219.00



view 6 photos



★★★★★ 1 Review

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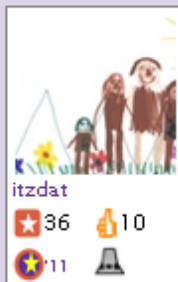


1 Review for Jamaica Bay Inn



July 03 2011

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"A Waterfront Oasis in Coastal Los Angeles"



The improbably tranquil dockside community of Marina del Rey is the setting for the elegant yet unpretentious Jamaica Bay Inn, a newly rebuilt hotel which highlights its prime beachfront locale with understated tropical décor and plenty of amenities. The Inn ambitiously seeks to provide a resort-like experience, and it serves as a pleasant sanctuary for families on vacation or an ideal base for exploring the attractions of urban Los Angeles.

Highlights of our stay:

- *Friendly, helpful, and down-to-earth staff
- *Comfortable rooms with premium mattresses and bed linens
- *Beautiful scenic outlook from the Marina-view rooms
- *Convenient location, with some eateries and shops in walking distance
- *Steps from Mothers' Beach
- *Full-sized balconies

The Downside:

- *Pool area wasn't particularly child-friendly
- *Exercise Room was basic and small
- *No bathtub in many rooms

ROOMS:

The rooms at the Jamaica Bay Inn are impeccable and attractively appointed. Standard rooms are available with a City or Marina view, with two queens or one king-sized bed. Rooms feature a full-sized patio or balcony with surprisingly clean and comfortable patio furniture, which we used as our 'dining room' to eliminate in-room crumbs. Balconies on the Marina side offer a stunning vista, well worth the slight premium, and our view from the top floor was especially lovely. The City-side rooms with patios bordering the parking lot offer less privacy and rather homely vantage points, but still provide a securely fenced-in bit of the outdoors. For our family, the two can't-live-without hotel features are wireless Internet access and a refrigerator, and our room rewarded us with both. Free Wi-Fi in every room is one of the hotel's above-average provisions, and our room abounded with other considerate touches, such as two free water bottles, luxuriously soft bed linens, and extra-firm mattresses. Rooms were just spacious enough to set up a crib (or the kids' sleeping bags) without too much furniture rearranging. The hotel was also notably quiet, with the exception of oddly resonant door latches.

The only disadvantages of our room were that the beds were unusually high, which tempted our kids to 'skydive', from which we dissuaded them in the interest of those on lower floors and to avoid potential injury. Also, our bathroom lacked a tub, although we managed to shower off our sandy school-aged children adequately in the oversized gentle 'rain' shower.

For those traveling with larger families, or larger budgets, Jamaica Bay offers two-room suites, complete with two full bathrooms, sleeper sofa, two televisions, balcony, and both tub and shower. Sometimes, there is nothing like having that extra wall to divide up your family...

THE EXPERIENCE:

Jamaica Bay can be a destination on its own or serve as a base for further adventures. Mothers' Beach is steps away with its stretch of surf-free marina water and ample (if not pristinely clean) sandy beach. Beachfront amenities include shaded picnic areas, a comprehensive playground, and high-season lifeguards. The placid waters of the Marina are an ideal place to try kayaking or paddleboarding. Equipment rentals are available nearby, and we were offered a trial paddleboard run by a friendly beach-blanket neighbor. My kids loved having the independence to wade into the shallow water to fill their own buckets without concern about waves. Clean beachside bathrooms are a luxury, located on the outside of the hotel, along with an outdoor shower with spray nozzle, the best tool ever for rinsing off sand-encrusted children. The hotel offers bicycle rentals (for two hours or all day) for those who prefer land-based activity, or who want a green form of transportation to nearby Venice or Santa Monica.

Enough establishments are located within walking distance of the hotel to allow your car to remain parked through much of your stay, a rarity in Southern California. Within a short walk are a bagel shop, a café, and several restaurants, including the child-pleasing Cheesecake Factory. The Venice fishing pier and nearby oceanfront beaches are a heartier walk, but still reachable on foot for those with school-aged (or older) children and not too much paraphernalia. Everything else in metro Los Angeles is a short drive away, depending, of course, on traffic.

POOL AND SERVICES:

The pool at Jamaica Bay was disappointingly adult-oriented. The no-frills heated rectangular pool starts at a depth of three and a half feet, a daunting face level for our preschooler, and quickly deepens from there. Although young kids can hang out on the steps, the pool doesn't beckon to the timid or very young swimmer. There is a hot tub, and plenty of lounge chairs, tables and umbrellas. A poolside menu and beverages are offered until 7 p.m., but we found that this only increased the 'resort' vibe of the pool area. Although I'm sure we were imagining the impatient glances of the childless couples sunbathing silently with their pina colodas, we felt much more welcome on the rough-and-tumble beach.

The 'Fitness Center' was also a letdown for the active adults in our family. With five creaky machines and a tiny window, the closet-like environs didn't help with our vacation fitness goals. At such a beautiful outdoor venue, we were probably culpable for attempting to exercise indoors, but still...

DINING:

Jamaica Bay's on-site restaurant, Vu, is a destination in itself (please see my separate review). Unlike the typical bland hotel restaurant, Vu offers up imaginative culinary offerings to please discriminating diners. Vu's dinner menu is a mix of daring small plates (pink lemonade mayo and root beer jello appear in two separate creations) and innovative California cuisine. The restaurant's views are gorgeous, the décor is artful, and the patio with its fire pits and gentle breezes is likely one of the easiest fine dining experiences to undertake with children in tow, especially if your room is right upstairs. We found the service a bit leisurely for our kids' level of patience, but this was balanced by the complete (and more traditional) children's menu available at all meals. The room service menu is likewise more interesting than most, with reasonably affordable kids' menu items, and some healthy breakfast items.

Generally, we found the Jamaica Bay Inn to be surprisingly affordable and quite luxurious. We were welcomed by attentive staff and treated wonderfully by everyone we encountered. While this hotel lacks the overt glamour of some of its competitors (the Ritz is just up the street), it does have an earthy, comfortable feel which makes it ideal for families looking for an oasis of calm.

Disclosure: This review is based on a complimentary stay at the Jamaica Bay Inn. I received no other compensation and the business owner did not state any requirements that I express a particular point of view. The opinions I express are entirely my own.



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