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Agadir & Marrakech

Hand baggage #1 - No hand baggage weight limit

0. For travel between 28 March and 30 October 2010. Variable charges for hold baggage apply. See website for details. EasyJet has no weight restrictions on hand baggage except you must use it. The only stipulation is that the maximum dimensions do not exceed 56 x 45 x 25 cm.

30, what would Winston have made of this?

This famous hotel is more Moroccan than ever after a £100m facelift. **Adrian Mourby** tested the water

Stay the night

La Mamounia, Marrakech

The Mamounia is the Dorchester of North Africa, not just a hotel but a one-man-brand standing for service, style and celebrities. Its guest list goes back to Roosevelt and Churchill, Hitchcock and Eric von Stroheim. More recent celebrity guests include Omar Sharif and Elton John as well as Sarah Jessica Parker who stayed here during the filming of *Sex and the City 2*. But visitors in 2010 are seeing a very different Mamounia from the Art Deco palace where Winston propped his easel after the Second World War. In 2006, the Grand Dame of Marrakech closed for a three-year refurbishment, only reopening, £100m later, last September.

The French designer Jacques Garcia oversaw an overhaul that has left the new Mamounia something much more Moroccan than before. While its low wide corridors and intersecting lobbies remain Art Deco, the décor itself is inspired by the great dynasties that once ruled here: Almoravid horseshoe arches, chiselled Almohad stucco, delicate Merenid tilework and carved Saadian corbels. It retains its signature pink-and-green façade, but there has been an explosion of colour within. Big reds, yellows and

blacks make the public areas dramatic. A new subterranean spa has walls of deep blue contrasted with bright orange leather upholstery. The one area that has not been given a vibrant makeover is Le Bar Churchill, which remains dark, intimate and smoky.

The rooms

The rooms and suites have been cut to 207 but still seem small by today's standards. The décor is a triumph of traditional Moroccan woodwork, stucco and tiling. Guests might think each room is elaborately restored but this faux-riad style is wholly new, sweeping away the last remnants of the old angularity. The beds have Sealy mattresses and the linen is by Garnier-Thiebaud. Bath products are made especially for La Mamounia using a special fragrance created for the hotel by Olivia Giacobetti, one of the world's great perfumers.

The food and drink

You need a lot of time – and money – to take advantage of all the places to eat. A new restaurant alongside the pool (Pavillon de la Piscine) has breakfast and a superb Mediterranean buffet lunch. An old house in the grounds has been converted into Le Marocain, a traditional riad restaurant, and there are also Italian and French options. Just lunch at the Pavillon is £47 a head without wine.

The extras

The Mamounia Spa has many ways to pamper you and slim your wallet.

Babymoos are not just



Are all these celebrity pregnancies making you broody? From Sam Cam to Pearl Lowe, media darlings across the nation are announcing little additions to their families like it's going out of fashion.

I've done the sensible thing and got a dog instead. But I rather envy pregnant women for one thing: they get to go on babymoos.

These last-chance pampering flings hadn't been invented when I needed one, but today it's practically the law for pregnant couples to take a luxury holiday before they disap-



Pool players: The Mamounia Spa offers a variety of pampering treatments amid the deep blues of its traditional Moroccan tilework

PRIZE DRAW

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Please write OFF OUT at the top of your entry if you do not wish to receive promotional materials from HotM or our draw partners. The holiday will be valid until the end of February 2011, subject to availability, and cannot be taken during peak periods including school holidays, Christmas and New Year. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over. For full draw rules go to independent.co.uk/legal. airmalta.com

MarocMaroc skin care treatments, Glassoul for "capillary and body care", La Ric for nails and Majestic Rose for "infinite body softness". There is a gym in the beautiful gardens and free WiFi for the less active.

The access

Children and small dogs are welcome. There is good access for those with disabilities, although the gravel garden paths may be a challenge.

The bill

Double rooms cost from 6,050 MAD (£489) per room per night. Elegant Resorts (01244 897538; elegantresorts.co.uk) has five nights at La Mamounia from £1,455 room only, based on two sharing, including return flights from Heathrow and private transfers.

The address

La Mamounia, Avenue Bab Jdid, 40 040 Marrakech, Morocco (00 212 5 24 38 86 00; mamounia.com).

for first-time mothers

pear under a giant pile of nappies.

In fact, babymoos are now a multi-million pound industry. As Ilonka Mollin from specialist company Baby Moon (003 13 2010443; baby-moon.eu) says: "The number of couples booking pregnancy holidays is growing all the time, and high-end hotels are stepping up their game to meet the demand. Couples want to make the most of this precious time together before the baby arrives."

Which is all well and good if you're expecting your first baby. But what if

you're having your second (or third or even fifth)? Most luxury spa hotels are fiercely child-unfriendly, but I've dug out a few brave ones which will happily accommodate sprogs of all ages, born and unborn.

Take the new Le Dune Resort (01202 484858; justsardinia.co.uk). Mums-to-be will be massaged and polished (and dads can be scrubbed and wrapped in mud if they fancy). Meanwhile, children from the age of 18 months to 16 years can enjoy soft play, arts and crafts and all sorts of fun activities at supervised clubs.

The newly refurbished Soar Mill Cove in Devon (01548 561566; soarmillcove.co.uk) also welcomes kids with open arms while offering respite to exhausted mums-with-bumps. Children are well looked after: there are baby monitors, bottle warmers, swimming and tennis, bikes and a games room. Mums just lie down to be pampered with massages, pedicures and Devon cream teas. The perfect combination.

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Kate Sim Travel Editor

I'm just repack for our family Algarve. Out go in come the wa see, I've just ch day forecast for the world and heavy showers thunderstorms more heavy sh we step on the home. The won pointed" bareh mood in our ho We thought t right at the bot Iberian Peninsu ting distance of African coast – good bet for su time of year. We expecting scort squelchio? Was ask for blue ski Yet, this isn't we've been cau weather abrau Easter school h years ago, we s this time of yea freak condition Within a day of resort on the n the Mediterran island, the win black clouds cl freezing rain p We learnt our l leaving the coa at home – whic couple of years Easter holiday similarly dogg Truth is, the always unpred Europe at this t even if you ha southern reach ment. And, obv earlier the East fall, the doggle are of having a break. A spokeswo Office explaine weather we're enjoying in Bri for the soggy p family's Algarv high pressure l