

TRAVEL



■ One of the stunning log cabins at Penrhos Park in Ceredigion, Wales



■ The Royal Pier at Aberystwyth

Depressurise in a cabin of your own

THE children thought we'd arrived at our very own gingerbread house.

I had to agree. The log cabin at Penrhos Park in Ceredigion, Wales was one of the prettiest places we'd ever stayed.

With its pitched roof, balcony and decking, it looked like something from a Christmas card.

Inside was kitted out to the highest possible standard, with a cosy leather corner sofa for lazing in front of the TV and DVD player to the kitchen stocked with its own washing machine, microwave and dishwasher.

The linen on the beds was luxurious, the bath was full-sized with a skylight above for bathing under the stars and the views from the bedrooms were breathtaking. You could see the hills for miles around.

There were two decked areas at the front, one covered so that al fresco dining was possible whatever the weather.

Best of all had to be the hot-tub, which was a lovely way to start the day, or end a brisk walk, a game of golf or fun at the beach.

A countryside log cabin with stunning views and its own hot tub. Could there be a better way to relax? asks **ZOE CHAMBERLAIN**

There really is something for all the family at Penrhos.

My husband Adam loved practising on the driving range, while the children, aged five and seven, thoroughly enjoyed splashing around in the indoor pool, trying to dive down to touch the red kite mosaiced onto the bottom.

And I indulged in a bit of relaxation in the sauna and steam room.

In the reception area, there were magazines to browse through, and there was a games room for youngsters.

Outside, we found a fabulous wooden play area where the children could play freely while we sat and soaked in the views.

There are also mobile homes, lodges and a hotel – so there's something for every budget.

The family business had started out as a farm and diversified back in the 1960s by opening a caravan park. Since then it has grown to include luxury log cabins, big

enough to be suitable for wheelchair access, and the extensive golf club.

Penrhos Golf Club is one of those "best kept secrets" – set in the 150 acres of glorious privately owned, landscaped countryside.

The 18-hole championship length course is said to be considered as "high quality and challenging" and there is also a nine-hole course. Penrhos also boasts the only floodlit driving range in Wales.

The location is great for getting out and about.

It's just a 20 minute walk to the local beach. It's shale but the sea was mild enough for us to take a dip, before rushing back to our hot tub to warm up!

The charming regency town of Aberaeron is around 10 miles to the left, whilst Aberystwyth is a similar distance to the right.

We chose the latter and spent a lovely day, wandering up and down the wide promenade, eating Kelly's ice-cream and taking in the

views of the pier and the multicoloured Victorian houses along the seafront.

Back at Penrhos, we got ready for our evening in the restaurant, which overlooks the green.

We found the menu was extensive, offering everything from seafood to pizza, enabling diners to enjoy a special occasion dinner or a quick light bite. They also do takeaway, which was tempting as the log cabin was so cosy.

We shared whitebait with tartare sauce to start together with a lovely platter of fabulous pate served in a kiln jar with toast and caramelised onion marmalade.

Both were excellent, and exceedingly large portions.

For main courses, I had Thai spiced barramundi served on a bed of roasted Mediterranean vegetables. It was heavenly, I didn't want it to end.

My husband had a rare steak, which he said was cooked to perfection, served with garlic mushrooms, vine tomatoes, rocket

salad with balsamic dressing and large shavings of parmesan together with a basket of chips.

The children shared a pepperoni pizza.

The staff were really friendly and even boxed up the leftover pizza for the boys to enjoy later!

There was a quiz night on that evening, which was fun.

The next morning we enjoyed croissants and coffee on the deck overlooking the hills before a dip in the hot tub ahead our journey home. All in all, we left Penrhos feeling totally refreshed and rejuvenated.

NEED TO KNOW

■ **ZOE CHAMBERLAIN** and her family stayed in the Kestrel One log cabin at Penrhos Golf and Country Club, Llanrhystud, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, Wales.

■ Log cabins start from £289 for a short break, and the hotel bed and breakfast costs from £35 per person per night.

■ For more information, visit www.penrhosgolf.co.uk or call 01974 202999.



■ The driving range at