

HOTEL REVIEWS

Checking out



NH Hannover, Germany

By Steve Hartridge

The Background: The 91-room four-star hotel opened in 2021. The ground floor was a former Chinese Restaurant. It is cat and dog friendly and has Accessible facilities. Extra beds and cots can be put into rooms for children.

The Location: NH Hannover is a 10-minute walk to the heart of the city centre and main shopping area and another 10-15 minutes to the 'old town'. Hannover-Langenhagen Airport is a 25-minute taxi ride (€30). I arrived by ICE train from Dusseldorf, into Hannover Hauptbahnhof (central train station). It's a 20-minute walk or five-minute taxi ride (€8) to the hotel.

The Check In: I was met by Anna, the GM, who was waiting to show me around the hotel. She told me she had arranged some 'treats' for my room. This turned out to be some delicious scones, cream, jam and a pot of English Breakfast tea. Anna later revealed that she had made the scones that morning at home.

The Room: I was in 601, on the top floor, a super-spacious Superior room with glass doors that opened onto a balcony area, with a table and two chairs and great views across the city.

Restaurants & Bars: The restaurant and bar are located off the attractive lobby/reception area. The hot and cold breakfast options were extensive and evening options are available.

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THE VERDICT

With its history, parks and gardens, scenic walks and great bars and restaurants, Hannover makes for a great city break. The NH Hannover is very comfortable, nicely informal with spacious rooms and a bountiful breakfast spread. The city highlights are an easy stroll away.

Rates: A Superior room for a weekend in June starts from around 300 euros a night.

THE VERDICT

The entire resort is hidden under a canopy of tropical trees and plants, making for a peaceful and private stay - except for the occasional monkey on your way to breakfast! The staff are incredibly attentive. Paje is a bit of a sleepy area so White Sand is best suited for couples who want to relax. Rates: A Garden Villa with hot tub on half board basis starts from £1,100

Zanzibar White Sand Luxury Villas

By Jessica Alexander

The Background: Located on the East Coast of Zanzibar with direct access to the powder white sands of Paje beach, Zanzibar White Sand, a Relais & Chateaux property, is home to 11 villas each with its own private pool or jacuzzi and butler.

The Location: The resort is an hour's drive from Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport and is securely gated. Although there is not much within walking distance, the famous Rock restaurant, which at high tide seemingly floats in the sea, is a 20 minute taxi ride.

The Room: My Garden Villa felt spacious and luxurious with high ceilings, a free-standing bath and separate lounge area. The personal touches including bath salts, straw hats and daily printed weather updates were all thoughtful additions. The garden foliage created ample privacy to enjoy the outdoor hot tub and rain shower.

Key Facilities: An outdoor gym, steam room hammam, Senses spa and infrared sauna added to the wellness offering. There is a large main pool area alternatively loungers at the beach are very private. There is also a kitesurfing and watersports centre on-site with free kitesurfing tryouts available to guests.

Restaurants & Bars: There is a rooftop Sunset bar which is open between 18.00 and 20.00, perfect for pre-dinner drinks. The hotel sets up a pool-side BBQ twice a week serving locally-inspired dishes. The fine-dining restaurant has a varied a la carte menu. whitesandvillas.com