

# ABAMA RESORT – NOVEMBER 2011



Most review sites, in my opinion fail to be objective. Whilst guests have every right to be critical about the service they receive, I feel that sometime they fail to be objective! If expectations have not been met, is it the fault of the hotel or the agent that recommended the holiday? At Westway Travel I like to think our professionalism and knowledge of hotels around the world allows us to give an honest an objective opinion of any property we visit.

My credentials to review the Abama include over the last year, visits to resort hotels like the Four Seasons in Sharm El Sheik and several properties in Mauritius. Talking to returning guests on a regular basis allows me to comment on the Abama Resort in an objective manner.



The Abama is a truly self contained resort hotel, not an all inclusive, pre paid holiday, but a resort that has everything you may need under one roof. I would like to start my review with the negative side of the hotel and then move onto why it is a property I would happily recommend to the right guest.

In parts, the Abama Resort is cavernous, the main hotel is huge and its sheer size can make it impersonal in areas. The main restaurant, an international buffet, can get extremely busy as can the whole resort. This can mean slow service but, when it comes, the service is professional and attentive. It is a resort hotel, so if you want small, intimate and personal, then it is not the hotel for you. It is a good property for families, so adult only parties really should not book at peak school holiday dates, as children are highly visible. Finally, its location, it is isolated and not within walking distance of a town, thus not allowing for a quick change of scenery, however, a maximum of a 20 Euro taxi ride to Playa de las Americas and a 10 Euro fare to Playa San Juan soon overcomes this.

Once you have accepted this, WOW, what a resort, it has everything you need. A high quality golf course, a tennis school, a spa and 4 pools, one an adult only. A gym with classes held throughout the day or if you prefer a walk, wherever you go the gardens are beautiful and magnificently kept, a real gardeners delight. The Abama has its own beach connected to the resort by a vernacular railway and is self contained with changing rooms and a beach restaurant. There are no water sports of any kind.



As a resort popular with families, you would hope the Abama has a children's club and it delivers a high quality venue which operates into the night if parents want some time on their own. It also encourages "Mummy and me" events in the Spa which is an interesting touch.

Food is a key aspect of many people's holiday and to have such a choice in one hotel is rare. A freshly cooked international buffet is always child friendly and gives exceptional choice but the rest are waiter service. The highlights are the Michelin starred "MB", and the Japanese "Kubuki", although they are pricey. Alternatively you have the Argentinean steak house, an Italian, a tapas bar or the El Mirador fish restaurant popular for Paella and its ocean views. During the day, lunch can be taken poolside or as previously mentioned, the beachside restaurant offers fish, grilled meats and salads in a relaxed environment. There are also numerous bars throughout the resort.



Being comfortable starts in the room and the lead double rooms are large including an oversized bathroom. Almost junior suite in size, booking a double is not a problem, comfortable for an extra child or if you prefer interconnecting to an adjoining room for larger families. Suites are even bigger. The main building or "Citadel" contains most of the rooms and I would say paying a little more for a sea view is worth the extra expense. The views over the resort to the sea are breathtaking.



A second series of rooms are in the villa section of the resort nearer the sea. These are not individual villas but rooms in two storey blocks. Charged at a supplement they provide guests a much gentler experience, almost a different hotel as they are lost within the gardens of the hotel. I liked these as they were much quieter and gave you the option of using a smaller quieter pool. You are away from the hubbub of the main hotel yet have full use of all of the Abama's resort facilities.



The Abama is a 5\* hotel at 5\* prices, and I believe it compares favourably with similar hotels throughout the world. The big advantage is that it is only 4 hours away and has all year sunshine. The resort is comfortable, well maintained and beautifully manicured. No, it is not perfect, but it offers so much that it cannot be ignored as a holiday choice. Regular flights make it suitable for a short break, the facilities make it perfect for the sporty type and the size of room and choice of restaurant make it suitable for a main holiday. Abama has a lot to offer so don't miss out.

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