

THE SCOTSMAN MAGAZINE/ 19th September 2009

OSPREY LODGE: A WEEKEND VISIT

Journalist Will Slater visits Osprey Lodge for *48 HOURS IN AVIEMORE*

FRIDAY 6pm Arrive at Osprey Lodge, Tulloch, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. We note the smart kitchen and living area as the children eagerly explore, clocking the Nintendo Wii, the big TV and the appealing bedrooms. Squeals are added when they discover the family sized hot tub outside.

8pm Children are already changed for some bubbles al fresco and waiting for dad to a) finish unloading the car and b) read all the instructions.

9pm Family plunge, with the cold night air and the stars for company. Fantastic.

SATURDAY 10am A lovely walk by the Loch Garten and into the woods of the RSPB reserve (www.rspb.org.uk) Red squirrels (we see one up a tree) are common here and during the summer, Ospreys.

3pm Mooch around Aviemore's many outdoor shops and tourist shops. Between them the children come out with a new fleece, a pair of powerful magnets and some colouring pencils.

5pm Back to base to relax. More hot tubbing. Return to Aviemore, 15 minutes away, to get a take-out fish supper from Smiffy's. (Grampian road 01479 810190).

10pm After the children are in bed, the grown ups get a few minutes to soak the day away in peace.

SUNDAY 11am Reluctantly leave Osprey Lodge and head for Cairngorm and the Funicular Railway (www.cairngormmountain.co.uk) It is still the ski season (usually December to April) when we visit so the children try tobogganing. Retreat to the restaurant to thaw out with some warming soup. More souvenirs are bought, including a smart winter hat and some postcards.

3pm Head for home, happy and tired.

Glad that for once we really have made the most of the weekend.

THE FACTS: Osprey Lodge (01479 812266 www.greatnorthlodges.co.uk) sleeps up to eight and costs from £799 to £1,499 per week)

