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A hidden gem on the Mediterranean Sea

• By LIDAR GRAVÉ-LAZI

Nahsholim Holiday Village Kibbutz Hotel offers a great getaway for vacationers looking to escape city life while avoiding the sizzling heat in Eilat or the packs of tourists visiting the Kinneret.

Situated on the Mediterranean Sea at the foot of the Carmel Mountain less than an hour drive from Tel Aviv, the hotel boasts a beautiful white sand beach tucked away in a semi-private bay, an array of water sports, and a new beachfront restaurant.

The hotel offers more than 150 rooms ranging from family units, double rooms, country resort rooms, plus 40 luxurious new boutique rooms and suites facing the water's edge.

The rooms are scattered between green lawns, lush vegetation and relaxing hammocks – all just a few steps from the beach.

World-renowned London-based interior designer Nir Gilad drew inspiration for the boutique rooms from the local scenery. Decorated with an elegant sea motif, each boutique room is bathed in soothing blue and

sandy hues. The wardrobe and headboard feature perforated designs reminiscent of seaweed, while the walls are adorned with Murano glass flowers, a tribute to the Mizgaga Museum, the glass factory museum for nautical and regional archeology nearby.

There are lawn chairs outside each room on a small private patio, with a beautiful sea view for guests staying on the second floor. The private swimming pools, reserved for rooms on the first floor, practically invite you in for an early morning on moonlight swim.

The hotel is ideal for families, as kids have plenty of open space to run around and lots of water sports and activities, including kayaking, windsurfing, and stand-up paddle boards on the hotel's beach. Guests can also enjoy diving activities, including an introductory diving course, operated in collaboration with Aqua Dor Diving.

The new beachfront restaurant provides a beautiful view of the bay, while Chef Ofer Ben Gigi's Mediterranean-inspired breakfast offers an abundance of delicious fresh salads, cheeses, fish, eggs, quiches, breads and fruits. The breakfast is also open to the

general public (NIS 85).

While the hotel has everything onsite for a family getaway, there are also a number of activities in the nearby surroundings.

The underground Mei Kedem water tunnel in Alona Park is an especially interesting outing, taking visitors into a 280-meter ancient tunnel that was built more than 2,000 years ago to supply water to Caesarea. Prepare to get wet and bring a flashlight because the entire experience takes place in the dark, wading through knee- or waist-high water (NIS 27 for adults, free for children aged 5 to 18 staying at the hotel).

The hotel is also situated close to the beautiful Zichron Yaakov pedestrian walkway, scattered with artist shops and cafés, making for a perfect afternoon outing.

Overall, the Nahsholim Holiday Village Kibbutz Hotel is a hidden gem. Situated along a beautiful stretch of beach, it offers a relaxing and comfortable vacation for the whole family.

The writer was a guest of Nahsholim Holiday Village Kibbutz Hotel.



STRIKING SUNSET colors dominate twilight views from luxurious seaside rooms at Nahsholim. (Courtesy)