

Oakland House Review

Oakland House is a wonderful, warm, welcoming home from home. We have just returned from our second visit and have already booked our third. It is my happy place. I can't imagine staying anywhere else – in fact, I wish I lived there!

So, what makes it so special?

Mumbles is one of my favourite destinations, but Oakland House makes it a particularly memorable experience. Spread over four floors, from the light and bright 'chill-out' loft space at the top, to the cool 'man cave' in the basement, it is an ideal (and incredibly special) holiday home for families and friends. There are various cosy living spaces with comfortable sofas, pretty bedrooms and well-equipped kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities.

I love many things about Oakland House – too many to list here. Last time we stayed there, I took almost 100 photos of the carefully chosen local artworks, and specially selected home décor pieces; they are so lovely to look at and remind me of happy holiday memories (as well as giving me inspiration for my own house). The owners have a phenomenal eye for creative detail and have lovingly created this unique gem which stands out from other luxury holiday accommodation: the big bumblebee door knocker, the thick ebony sheepskin throw on the dining table bench, and the decorative flowers and plants make every stay an aesthetically pleasing experience, to name but a few. Whenever we visit, I wander through the house taking pleasure in all the tiny details that I had forgotten about, or that have been updated since our last trip.

On arrival there is always a generous bowl of provisions to offer sustenance at the end of our journey to my favourite destination; this time we were met with Welsh cakes, Gower honey, sourdough bread, and there was milk, Welsh butter and a bottle of Prosecco in the fridge, as well as teabags in the cupboard. There is also a coffee machine, and even special dog treats (two kinds) for our canine companion, Leo the cockapoo. (He adores Oaklands House too, especially the deck area where there are different Welsh sniffs, sights and sounds from those he's used to). The wooden deck also has wonderful seating, a barbecue, and impressive olive trees which withstand the Mumbles breeze. It is ideal for that first morning cup of tea or coffee. I love to get up early and sit out there when nobody else is awake – just the amazing views of the bay and the fabulous sound of woodpeckers from the woods at the top of Oakland Road. What a perfect way to start the day.

The location of Oakland House in the heart of Mumbles village is ideal – a drive, bus ride, cycle, run or walk from Swansea. You are close to excellent cafes, bars, and restaurants. My favourites for refreshments are: Microlot Mumbles coffee, Verdi's (the best pizzas and pasta in town), and of course, Joe's ice-cream parlour which is famous throughout Wales and beyond. There are many gorgeous shops too – Oyster Gallery for art, homeware and gifts, and the local branch of Fat Face is the best I have come across. There are plenty of other boutiques full of treasures whether you are browsing, looking for gifts, or treating yourself. And the charity shops on Newton Road have some good books and jigsaw puzzles for rainy days. There are plenty of other boutiques full of treasures whether you are browsing, looking for gifts or treating yourself. Mumbles is also the gateway to the stunning Gower coast which offers all manner of walks, water sports and Welsh beauty spots to explore. And even if it's raining there is much to keep you occupied with the selection of books, magazines and games provided in this creative and comfortable haven made special with luxurious and special homely touches. I should also mention that the owners are kind and caring too – messaging to check that all is well on arrival and offering excellent suggestions for your stay.

I can't wait to return.