

HUFFPOST LIFESTYLE

San Francisco: Does The City Still Have Soul?

Lucy Sherrif; May 13, 2015

If you're keen to explore the city's East Asian dynamic, then book into Hotel Nikko, an Asian-inspired hotel on Powell Street. The rooms are spacious, and the lobby is a calm oasis - full of cascading water features, plush chairs and marbled decor. Not only does the Nikko boast spacious rooms, and possibly one of the most comfortable beds I've ever slept in, but it also has a swimming pool, spa centre, steam room, sauna and a gym. It's definitely a welcome break from the sometimes-hectic city, and the spa facilities are the perfect place to unwind after a day's exploring.



Hotel Nikko

It's no mean feat to find a pool in San Francisco, let alone one with a glass roof

The hotel's ANZU restaurant, although a little dark for my liking, also needs a mention. Even the typical American breakfast (think pancakes, applewood smoked bacon and eggs), has been given an Asian infusion. Not only is there fruit, pastries and cold meats on offer, there's even a Japanese buffet. Now I never thought I'd be eating pickled spinach, stir fry and steamed rice for breakfast, but I did and my goodness it was good.



Lucy Sherriff

The incredible Japanese breakfast

I was sceptical the restaurant's dinner would be able to live up to its breakfast, but as it had been recommended by a local San Franciscan, I figured I had to at least try it out. The sushi menu was eye-bogglingly vast. The wagyu beef, served raw with a hot Japanese river stone to cook the meat to your liking was ingenious. Next up; the short ribs, with delightfully smooth pureed celeriac, exquisitely light truffle foam and crunchy sauteed sprouts, were so tender no knife was needed. Paired with the house cocktail Anzurita, the meal was a tastebud-tingling delight, and showcased the best of both East Asian and American worlds.