

CYPRUS RAPE CASE

Cyprus rape case: I woke to find man on me at hotel

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The room at the centre of the alleged rape at the Pambos Napa Rocks hotel JAMIE LORRIMAN

A female guest of the hotel at the centre of the Cyprus “rape” case complained of finding a man on top of her in her bedroom weeks before the young woman in the case alleged she had been sexually assaulted.

The guest’s complaint is one of many critical comments warning holidaymakers to avoid the hotel because of concerns over security, dirty bedding and poor facilities in the rooms.

The adults-only Pambos Napa Rocks hotel in the party resort of Ayia Napa was where the 19-year-old British teenager alleged that she was raped by [12 Israeli men](#) in July last year.

She was convicted of lying about being gang-raped at the budget hotel, which hosts pool parties described as “wild” and which “create carnage”. The men were staying at the hotel.

An estimated 80,000 UK tourists visit Ayia Napa every year with young people attracted to its party atmosphere and hedonism.

Among the 119 reviews giving the Pambos Napa Rocks a “terrible” rating on Trip Advisor, are some warning potential guests never to stay at the two-star hotel, where a twin-bed room with balcony costs £71 a night in July.

During a trip about a month before the British teenager made her allegation, one 18-year-old said that visiting the hotel with ten other girls had been the “worst decision” of her life after she awoke to find a man on top of her.

The woman said in her post on the website that she had gone to bed early feeling unwell during a stay in June last year. She said: "I was woken up to a man on top of me (who had broken into the room through the balcony door) he had flipped me over and had me pinned to the bed attempting to rape me. I managed to get away."

The post said her friends reported the incident to reception but that they "couldn't care less" and said it was nothing to do with them. The post added that apart from the reception area, there was no CCTV in the hotel.

A post under the heading "Disgusting" said that the doors did not close properly. Others warned of lax security, saying that balcony doors did not lock.

Although there are 119 "terrible" reviews, 50 give the hotel an "excellent" rating with guests describing it as a great place for a party. One post by a reviewer identified as Beth said: "Best hotel in Napa for the parties, etc. Free/discounted entry to so many events it's so worth it! Pambos pool party was sooo good will deffo return!"

The mother of the [convicted British teenager](#) has backed calls for a tourism boycott of the island, telling the BBC that Ayia Napa was "absolutely not safe". She said: "And if you go and report something that's happened to you, you're either laughed at, as far as I can tell, or, in the worst case, something like what's happened to my daughter may happen."

There have been calls on social media for a boycott. Almost four million tourists visit the Mediterranean island a year, including about one million Britons. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, tourism accounts for 22 per cent of Cyprus's GDP.

Travel industry bosses said last night that a boycott of Cyprus could be very damaging for its tourism sector.

"From experience, how effective a boycott is, is largely dictated by how long a case runs for and for how long it is in the headlines," Noel Josephides, chairman of Sunvil and former chairman of the Association of British Travel Agents, said. "When cases run for a long time a boycott can badly damage the tourism sector — you only have to look at past examples such as the boycott on travel to Myanmar."

The Times has tried to contact the hotel for a comment.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/cyprus-rape-case-i-woke-to-find-man-on-me-at-hotel-3jm6l02lr>

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