

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travellers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to [lonelyplanet.com/hotels](https://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels) and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Lánchíd 19 (p174)
- Papillon Hotel (pp177)
- KM Saga Guest Residence (p185)
- Gingko Hostel (p179)
- Hotel Astra (pp175)
- Hotel Parlament (pp180)
- Andrásy Hotel (pp182)
- Atrium Hotel (pp184)
- Radio Inn (pp182)
- Home-Made Hostel (pp181)

SLEEPING

Accommodation in Budapest runs the gamut from hostels in converted flats and private rooms in far-flung housing estates to luxury guesthouses in the Buda Hills and five-star properties charging upwards of €300 a night for a double. The low season for hotels runs roughly from mid-October or November to March (not including the Christmas and New Year holidays); there are often some bargains to be had during the late autumn and winter months. The high season is the rest of the year – a lengthy seven months or so – when prices can increase substantially. The rate quoted for hostel and hotel accommodation almost always includes breakfast. If you're driving, parking at many of the central Pest hotels will be difficult.

The accommodation options in this guide are listed by area and cost from most expensive (top end) to cheapest (budget). For prices at a glance see the box on [opposite](#).

It's difficult to generalise but accommodation in the Buda neighbourhoods is more limited than on the other side of the Danube River, though you will find quite a few luxurious big-name hotels along with some small, atmospheric guesthouses and many rather institutional hostels open in summer time.

Pest has the lion's share of accommodation in Budapest – with everything ranging from the five-star, palatial Four Seasons Gresham Palace Hotel to most of the city's new breed of hostels for the 21st century.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

Hotels

Hotels, called *szállók* or *szállodák*, can be anything from the rapidly disappearing run-down old socialist-era hovels to luxurious five-star palaces.

A cheap hotel will usually be more expensive than a private room in Budapest, but it may be the answer if you're only staying one night or if you arrive too late to get a private room through an agency. Two-star hotels usually have rooms with a private bathroom; it's almost always in the hall in a one-star place. Three- and four-star hotels can be excellent value compared with those in Western European cities.

Serviced Apartments

Budapest is chock-a-block with serviced apartments and apartment hotels. They all have private bathrooms and usually kitchens – at the very least. Some are positively luxurious (eg Marriott Executive Apartments, [p178](#)) while others are bare-bones (eg Peter's Apartments, [p181](#)).

Guesthouses

Budapest has scores of *panziók* (guesthouses or pensions), but most of them are in the outskirts of Pest or in the Buda Hills and not very convenient unless you have your own (motorised) transport. Pensions are popular with Germans

and Austrians who like the homey atmosphere and the better breakfasts. Often pensions can cost as much as a moderate hotel, although there are some worthwhile exceptions.

Hostels

Accommodation at Budapest's *ifjúsági szállók* (youth hostels) is available year-round and one of the biggest growth areas in accommodation here is new modern hostels with internet access, laundry facilities, sometimes a bar and an upbeat atmosphere. During the university summer holidays (generally mid-June or July to late August) the number of hostels increases exponentially. During this time, private outfits rent vacant dormitories from the universities and turn them into hostels so you can afford to shop around a bit.

Dormitory accommodation in both year-round and summer hostels costs from a low of 3000Ft to as much as 6000Ft per person, depending on room size. For hostel doubles count on anything between 7500Ft (€25) to 15,500Ft (€50). High season usually means April to October.

A Hostelling International (HI) card or equivalent ([p207](#)) is not required at any hostel in Budapest, but it will sometimes get you a discount of up to 10% or an extra night's stay; make sure to ask beforehand.

Hostels usually have laundry facilities (around 1500Ft to 2000Ft for a wash and dry), a fully equipped kitchen, storage lock-