

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

- Hotel Banys Orientals (p234)
- Hotel Axel (p238)
- Alberg Mare de Déu de Montserrat (p241)
- W Barcelona (p235)
- Hotel Omm (p236)
- Hostal Goya (p239)
- Hotel Neri (p231)
- Hotel Constanza (p238)
- Comtes de Barcelona (p237)
- Hostel Mambo Tango (p241)

SLEEPING

There has been little let-up in Barcelona's hotel-building boom since the early 2000s. This is good news for everyone. Some fine, up-to-the-minute hotels in a broad price bracket have opened in historic buildings and key locations, the number of options near the sea has increased and high-end digs have popped up in various strategic spots. Between 1997 and 2007 alone, hotel space in the city doubled.

As competition grows, many of the more established spots are obliged to upgrade – at the upper levels, this means more hotel pools, spas, designer bars and chic dining. The economic downturn that hit Spain even harder than many other countries from 2008, has dampened enthusiasm in the hotel business, putting a brake on price increases. Some places have even cut rates since 2008. Oddly, while many budget places offer free wi-fi, the bulk of top-end hotels charge a hefty extra fee.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

The city has hundreds of hotels in all categories and a good range of alternatives, including numerous youth hostels.

If dorm living is not your thing but you are still looking for a budget deal, check around the many *pensiones* and *hostales*. These are family-run, small-scale hotels, often housed in sprawling apartments. Some are fleapits, others immaculately maintained gems.

Hotels cover a broad range. At the bottom end there is often little to distinguish them from better *pensiones* and *hostales*, and from there they run up the scale to five-star luxury.

A cosier (and sometimes more cost-effective) alternative to hotels can be short-term apartment rental. A plethora of firms organise short lets across town. Typical prices are around €80 to €100 for two people per night. For four people you might be looking at an average of €160 a night.

Among these services are: **Aparteasy** (Map p106; ☎ 93 451 67 66; www.aparteasy.com; Plaça del Doctor Letamendi 10); **Feelathomebarcelona.com** (Map p74; ☎ 651 894141; www.feelathomebarcelona.com; Carrer Nou de la Rambla 15); **Barcelona On Line** (Map p106; ☎ 902 887017, 93 343 79 93; www.barcelona-on-line.es; Carrer de València 352); **Friendly Rentals** (Map p82; ☎ 93 268 80 51; www.friendlyrentals.com; Passatge de Sert 4); **Lodging Barcelona** (Map p106; ☎ 93 458 77 58; www.lodgingbarcelona.com; Carrer de Balmes 62); **Rent a Flat in Barcelona** (Map p106; ☎ 93 342 73 00; www.rentaflatinbarcelona.com; Carrer de Fontanella 18); **Oh-Barcelona.com** (Map p106; ☎ 93 467 37 82; www.oh-barcelona.com; Spain House, Carrer de Roger de Llúria 50); and **MH Apartments** (☎ 93 323 87 90; www.mhpartments.com).

If your budget is especially tight, look at the economical options on **Barcelona 30.com** (☎ 902 585680; www.barcelona30.com).

For a fuller list of officially recognised organisations renting holiday apartments in the city and province Barcelona, have a look at the **Associació d'Apartaments Turístics de Barcelona** (Apartur; Map p82; ☎ 902 052303; www.apartur.com; Passatge de Sert 4).

If you fancy sleeping on a yacht tied up in Port Vell marina, have a look at the **Barcelona Boat Company**.

If you're looking to do a short-term house swap, check out the ads on www.loquo.com. Want to sleep on a local's couch? Try your luck at www.couchsurfing.com. For long-term rentals, see Moving to Barcelona (p263).

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT TIMES

Always confirm your arrival, especially if it's going to be late in the afternoon or evening. Generally there is no problem if you have paid a deposit or left a credit-card number. While you can check in at any time of the morning, you may not get access to your room until after noon. Most of the time you will be able to leave your luggage at reception and go for a wander until the room is ready.

Check-out time is generally noon, although some places can be a little draconian and set a leaving time of 11am or, in rare cases, even 10am!

RESERVATIONS

Booking ahead is recommended, especially during peak periods such as Easter, Christmas/New Year, trade fairs and throughout much of summer (although August can be quite a slack month owing to the heat). You