



Survival Guide

DIRECTORY A-Z... 998

Accommodation.....	998
Activities.....	1000
Business Hours.....	1002
Children.....	1002
Discount Cards.....	1002
Electricity.....	1003
Embassies & Consulates.....	1003
Gay & Lesbian Travellers.....	1003
Health.....	1003
Holidays.....	1004
Insurance.....	1004
Internet Access.....	1005
Maps.....	1005
Money.....	1005
Photography & Video.....	1006
Post.....	1006
Safe Travel.....	1007
Telephone.....	1008
Time.....	1009
Toilets.....	1009
Tourist Information.....	1009
Travellers with Disabilities.....	1009
Visas.....	1010
Women Travellers.....	1010
Work.....	1010

TRANSPORT..... 1012

GETTING THERE & AWAY.....	1012
Entering Eastern Europe.....	1012
Air.....	1012
Land.....	1013
Sea.....	1013
GETTING AROUND.....	1014
Air.....	1014
Bicycle.....	1014
Boat.....	1015
Bus.....	1015
Car & Motorcycle.....	1015
Hitching.....	1017
Local Transport.....	1017
Tours.....	1017
Train.....	1018

LANGUAGE..... 1021

Directory

A-Z

Accommodation

There's accommodation to match every budget in Eastern Europe, from Soviet-era concrete behemoths, five star luxury palaces and international hotel groups to rural campsites and homely grandmother-run private rooms. In this guide we've listed reviews by author preference and prices are quoted in the currency used in each country.

Categories

We have divided our accommodation selections into the following three categories:

Budget Bare-bones hostels and hotels, often with shared bathrooms and very limited amenities.

Midrange Hotels and guesthouses with private facilities and more often than not, television and wi-fi.

Top end Well-appointed, high-standard hotels with all the amenities and creature comforts you'd expect.

See individual country chapters to see how the price categories are broken down, as in a region as large and diverse as Eastern Europe, it's not been possible to come up with one book-wide price range for each category.

Price Icons

The price indicators in this book refer to the cost of a double room in high season, including private bathroom (any combination of toilet, bathtub, shower and washbasin) and excluding breakfast unless otherwise noted.

Reservations

Reservations are generally a good idea in high season and can usually be made by phone or, less regularly, on-

line. Hostels and cheap hotels fill up very quickly, especially in popular backpacker destinations such as Prague, Budapest and Kraków. In most cities in Eastern Europe, there's a shortage of good-value midrange accommodation options. Some tourist offices may be able to make reservations on your behalf (some charge a small fee for this service), but in general, do not expect a Western European standard of service from tourist offices in Eastern Europe. Many countries, such as Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Kosovo have no tourist offices at all.

Seasons

» Rates in this guide are high season (typically July-August).

» Rates often drop outside the high season – in some cases by as much as 50%.

» In business-oriented hotels in cities, rooms are most expensive from Monday to Thursday and cheaper over the weekend.

Camping

The cheapest way to stay in Eastern Europe is to camp, and there are many camping grounds throughout the region. That said, a large proportion of the region's attractions are found in cities, where there often simply aren't any camping grounds. Most camping grounds near urban areas are large sites, intended mainly for motorists, though they're usually accessible by public transport and there's almost always space for backpackers with tents. Many camping grounds in Eastern Europe rent small on-site cabins, bungalows or caravans for double or triple the regular camping fee; in the most popular resorts all the bungalows are usually full in July and August.

The standard of camping grounds in Eastern Europe varies from country to country. They're unreliable in Ro-

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews by Lonely Planet authors, check out hotels.lonelyplanet.com/EasternEurope. You'll find independent reviews, as well as recommendations on the best places to stay. Best of all, you can book online.