



# Survival Guide

## EUROPE DIRECTORY

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# Europe Directory A-Z

## Accommodation

Europe offers the fullest possible range of budget accommodation, from camping grounds, hostels and student dormitories to private rooms, guest houses and cheap hotels. Plus there are more novel options, such as farm stays and couch surfing. In this guide we've listed reviews by author preference.

Unless otherwise stated in individual reviews or in country directories, all hotels and hostels in this book include a private bathroom and do not include breakfast.

## Categories

Accommodation options in this book generally range from no stars to two stars, with the occasional smarter 'splurge' option. The very cheapest options are dorms or hostels with shared bathrooms and toilets, while

at the upper end there are self-contained rooms with en suite facilities, TV and free wi-fi.

## Price Icons

Each sleeping option has an indicative price category next to it (from € to €€€) – these correspond to the price of the room relative to that country's price breakdown.

## Reservations

During peak holiday periods, particularly Easter, summer and Christmas – and any time of year in popular destinations such as London, Paris and Rome – it's wise to book ahead. Most places can now be reserved online. In general, always try to book directly with the establishment; this means you're paying just for your room, with no surcharge going to a middleman as occurs with many hostel-booking websites.

## BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

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

## Seasons

Rates in this guide are for high season; rates often drop outside the high season by as much as 50%.

High season in ski resorts is usually between Christmas and New Year and around the February–March winter holidays.

## B&Bs & Guest Houses

Guest houses (*pension*, *Gasthaus*, *chambre d'hôte* etc) and B&Bs offer greater comfort than hostels for a marginally higher price. Most are simple affairs, sometimes still with shared bathroom facilities.

In private rooms with a local family, or in a small guest house, you benefit from greater contact with locals. You'll still have privacy and autonomy, but remember you won't be able to bring the party back to your place.

In some destinations, particularly in Eastern Europe, locals wait in train stations touting rented rooms. Just be sure such accommodation isn't in a far-flung suburb that requires an expensive taxi ride to and from town. Also check that both parties are clear on price beforehand, and remember that in these cases it's unwise to leave valuables in your room when you go out.

Many B&Bs (bed and breakfasts) in the UK and Ireland aren't budget accommodation at all. Even the lowest tend to have midrange prices and a new generation of 'designer' B&Bs are positively top end.

## Camping

Camping is the cheapest accommodation option. It's newly trendy in parts of Europe, such as the UK (albeit with designer tents, ecotents and Airstream caravans; see, for example, [www.coolcamping.co.uk](http://www.coolcamping.co.uk)). In other countries, such as the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, it has never gone out of fashion.