



Survival Guide

DIRECTORY A-Z	1202	TRANSPORT	1215
Accommodation	1202	GETTING THERE	
Books	1204	& AWAY	1215
Business Hours	1204	Entering Europe	1215
Customs Regulations	1204	Air	1215
Discount Cards	1205	Land	1216
Electricity	1205	Sea	1216
Embassies & Consulates	1205	GETTING AROUND	1216
Gay & Lesbian Travellers	1206	Air	1216
Health	1206	Bicycle	1217
Insurance	1206	Boat	1218
Internet Access	1207	Bus	1218
Legal Matters	1207	Car & Motorcycle	1219
Maps	1207	Hitching	1221
Money	1208	Local Transport	1222
Photography & DVDs	1210	Taxi	1222
Post	1210	Train	1222
Safe Travel	1210	LANGUAGE	1225
Telephone	1211		
Time	1212		
Toilets	1212		
Tourist Information	1212		
Travellers with Disabilities	1212		
Visas	1212		
Volunteering	1213		
Weights & Measures	1213		
Women Travellers	1213		
Working	1214		

Directory

A-Z

Accommodation

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

Unless otherwise stated in individual reviews or in country directories, all prices for 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 three stars, with the occasional smarter four- or five-star 'splurge'

option. The very cheapest options are dorms or hostels with shared bathrooms and toilets, while at the upper end there are boutique or luxury hotels and self-contained accommodation with en suite facilities, TV and free wi-fi.

Price Icons

Each sleeping option has an indicative price category (from € to €€€€) – these correspond to the price of the room relative to that country's price breakdown. See each chapter's Directory for more information.

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 be reserved online.

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

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

Seasons

Rates are for high season and often drop outside 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 & Guesthouses

Guesthouses (*pension, gasthaus, chambre d'hôte* etc) and B&Bs (bed and breakfasts) offer greater comfort than hostels for a marginally higher price. Most are simple affairs, normally with shared bathrooms.

In private rooms with a local family, or in a small guesthouse, 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. Check that both parties are clear on price beforehand and remember that it's unwise to leave valuables in your room when you go out.

B&Bs in the UK and Ireland often aren't really budget accommodation – even the lowliest tend to have midrange prices and there is a new generation of 'designer' B&Bs which are positively top end.

Camping

Camping is the cheapest option. It has been rediscovered of late by trendsetters in western Europe, such as the UK (albeit with designer tents, ecotents and Airstream caravans; for example, www.coolcamping.co.uk). In other countries, such as the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland, it never went out of fashion.