

Directory

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ACCOMMODATIONS

This guide includes recommendations for all budgets, but it emphasizes midrange accommodations. Unless otherwise noted, 'budget' is considered under \$80 per room per night, 'midrange' \$80 to \$200 and 'top end' over \$200. Accommodation rates are based on standard double-occupancy in high season (usually during summer from late May to early September). These rates are a general guide only. Special events, busy weekends, conventions and holidays can drive prices higher; in some places, low-season rates can be significantly lower. Note: *prices do not include hotel tax*, which can add 10% to 15%, or more. When booking, always ask for the rate including taxes.

Since nearly every US hotel has nonsmoking rooms, the nonsmoking icon (☒) is used only when a property bans smoking entirely. Accommodations that cater to families are marked with the child-friendly icon (👨👩👧👦). The wi-fi icon (📶) is used when wireless internet access is available, whether free or paid. The internet icon (💻) denotes an online computer terminal is available for guests' use. To find ecofriendly accommodations, consult the GreenDex (p1212).

For all but the cheapest places and the slowest seasons, reservations are advised. In high-season tourist hot spots, hotels can book up months ahead. Walking in off the street without a reservation gets you a good deal only when things are really dead. In general, many hotels offer specials on their websites, but low-end chains sometimes give a slightly better rate over the phone. Chain hotels also increasingly offer frequent-flyer mileage deals and other rewards programs; ask when booking. Online travel booking, bidding and comparison websites (see p1154) are another good way to find discounted hotel rates; also check out **Hotels.com** (www.hotels.com) and **Hotwire** (www.hotwire.com).

B&Bs

In the USA, many B&Bs are high-end romantic retreats in restored historic homes that are run by personable, independent innkeepers who serve gourmet breakfasts. These B&Bs often take pains to evoke a theme – Victorian, rustic, Cape Cod and so on – and amenities range from merely comfortable to hopelessly indulgent. Rates normally top \$100, and the best run \$200 to \$300+. Many B&Bs have minimum-stay requirements, and some exclude young children.

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider low-down on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

PRACTICALITIES

Electricity

- AC 110V is standard; buy adapters to run most non-US electronics

Newspapers & Magazines

- National newspapers: *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*
- Mainstream news magazines: *Time*, *Newsweek*, *US News & World Report*

Radio & TV

- Radio news: National Public Radio (NPR), lower end of FM dial
- Broadcast TV: ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS (public broadcasting)
- Major cable channels: CNN (news), ESPN (sports), HBO (movies), Weather Channel

Video Systems

- NTSC standard (incompatible with PAL or SECAM)
- DVDs coded for Region 1 (US and Canada only)

Weights & Measures

- Weight: ounces (oz), pounds (lb), tons
- Liquid: oz, pints, quarts, gallons (gal)
- Distance: feet (ft), yards (yd), miles (mi)

To convert weights, liquid measures and distances to the metric system, see the inside front cover.

Still, European-style B&Bs exist: these may be rooms in someone's home, with plainer furnishings, simpler breakfasts, shared baths and cheaper rates. These often welcome families.

B&Bs can close out of season and reservations are essential, especially for top-end places. To avoid surprises, always ask about bathrooms (whether shared or private). B&B agencies are sprinkled throughout this guide. Also check listings online:

Bed & Breakfast Inns Online (www.bbonline.com)

BedandBreakfast.com (www.bedandbreakfast.com)

BnB Finder (www.bnbfinder.com)

Pamela Lanier's Bed & Breakfast Inns (www.lanierbb.com)

Select Registry (www.selectregistry.com)

Camping

Most federally managed public lands (see p1134) and many state parks offer camping. First-come, first-served 'primitive' campsites offer no facilities; overnight fees range from free to under \$10. 'Basic' sites usually provide toilets (flush or pit), drinking water, fire pits

and picnic tables; they cost \$5 to \$15 a night, and some or all may be reserved in advance. 'Developed' campsites, usually in national or state parks, have nicer facilities and more amenities: showers, barbecue grills, RV sites with hookups etc. These run \$12 to \$35 a night, and many can be reserved in advance.

Camping on most federal lands – including national parks (p114), national forests, Bureau of Land Management land and so on – can be reserved through **Recreation.gov** (☎ 518-885-3639, 877-444-6777; www.recreation.gov). Camping is usually limited to 14 days and can be reserved up to six months in advance. For some state park campgrounds, you can make bookings through **ReserveAmerica** (www.reserveamerica.com). Both websites let you search for campground locations and amenities, check availability and reserve a site, view maps and get driving directions online.

Private campgrounds tend to cater to RVs and families (tent sites may be few and lack atmosphere). Facilities may include playgrounds, convenience stores, wi-fi networks,