



# Survival Guide

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# Directory A-Z

Readers should note there are two types of directories in this book: the Regional Directory and individual country directories. The bookwide Directory A-Z serves as a comprehensive resource for the whole of Western Europe. The country directories appear at the end of each country chapter and are a round-up of specific details pertaining to that country. Some subjects will be covered in both directories (eg general accommodation options are outlined here, but prices are covered in the country directories).

## Accommodation

Where you stay in Western Europe may be one of the highlights of your trip. Quirky family-run inns, manic city hostels, and low-key beach resorts are just some of the places where you'll make both new memories and, more than likely, new friends.

The cheapest places to stay in Western Europe are camping grounds, followed by hostels and accommodation in student dormitories. Cheap chain hotels are popping up across the region,

but pensions, private rooms and B&Bs have much more character and are often good value. Self-catering apartments and cottages are worth considering when travelling with a group, especially if you plan to stay somewhere for a while. During peak holiday periods, accommodation can be hard to find, and it's advisable to book ahead. Even camping grounds can fill up, especially in or around big cities.

Accommodation listings in this guide have been listed in order of preference. See the country directories for more details about local accommodation.

## B&Bs & Guest Houses

There's a huge range of accommodation above the hostel level. In the UK and Ireland, B&Bs – where you

get bed and breakfast in a private home – are real bargains. In some areas every second house will have a B&B sign out the front.

In other countries, similar private accommodation – though often without breakfast – may go under the name of pension, guest house, *Gasthaus*, *Zimmerfrei*, *chambre d'hôte* and so on. Although the majority of guest houses are simple affairs and not the potpourri-scented luxuries North Americans may be used to, there are more expensive ones around.

With this type of accommodation especially, make certain that the place is centrally located and not in some dull and distant suburb.

## Camping

Camping is immensely popular in Western Europe and provides the cheapest form of accommodation. There's usually a charge per tent or site, per person and per vehicle. National tourist offices often provide booklets or brochures listing camping grounds throughout their countries.

In large cities, most camping grounds will be some distance from the centre. For this reason camping is most popular with people who have their own transport. If you're on foot, the money you save by camping can quickly be eaten up by the cost of commuting to and from a town centre. Many camping grounds rent bungalows or cottages accommodating from two to eight people.

Camping other than at designated camping grounds

## BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

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