

HOSTEL AS ONE OF THE MODERN ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

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Annotation: Hostel accommodations have evolved to cater to a diverse range of preferences and privacy needs, while still maintaining their signature communal atmosphere. The traditional hostel setup features dormitory-style accommodations, where guests share rooms and bathrooms, often with bunk beds and communal storage areas. This arrangement is particularly favored by solo travelers and groups of friends looking for an economical way to stay in prime locations. In addition to dormitories, many modern hostels now offer private rooms, providing a more secluded option for those who prefer a balance between the social hostel environment and personal space.

Key words: tourism, accamodation, hostels, guests, breakfast.

The origins and evolution of hostels are deeply rooted in the early 20th century when the first youth hostel was established in Germany, marking the beginning of a new era in budget-friendly travel accommodations. Initially designed to provide affordable lodging for young travelers, this concept rapidly gained popularity and spread throughout Europe, eventually reaching a global audience. As the needs and preferences of travelers evolved, so did hostels, adapting to cater to a broader spectrum of guests, including backpackers, students, and those conscious of their travel expenses. In today's modern era, hostels have undergone a significant transformation, moving beyond their basic, economical roots. They now boast a variety of amenities such as free Wi-Fi, communal kitchens, and often unique, themed decor, catering to the desires of a new generation of travelers. These contemporary hostels blend the traditional aspects of affordability and simplicity with modern comforts and conveniences, making them appealing to a diverse clientele. They are strategically located in both bustling urban centers and serene rural settings, offering guests a choice of experience that aligns with their travel aspirations, whether seeking the vibrancy of city life or the tranquility of countryside retreats.

Benefits of Staying in a Hostel

Affordability

Hostels stand out in the travel industry primarily for their affordability, making them an ideal choice for travelers with limited budgets. By offering basic yet functional accommodations at a fraction of the cost of traditional hotels, hostels enable guests to allocate more of their resources to experiences rather than lodging expenses. This cost-effectiveness does not come at the expense of comfort or safety; instead, hostels provide a practical and accessible means for travelers to explore destinations without incurring substantial accommodation costs. They often have options to suit various budgets, from shared dormitories to private rooms, catering to different preferences while maintaining affordability.

Opportunities for Socializing and Networking

The socializing and networking opportunities provided by hostels are unparalleled. Unlike more isolated forms of accommodation, hostels are designed to encourage interaction and camaraderie among guests. They often feature common areas such as lounges, shared kitchens, or cafes where travelers can meet, converse, and connect. This environment is ideal for solo travelers seeking companionship, adventurers looking to exchange tales and tips, or anyone keen to expand their social circle with people from diverse backgrounds. The hostel setting naturally fosters a community atmosphere, making it easier to form new friendships and networks that can last beyond the trip.

Cultural and Local Experiences

Hostels also excel in offering cultural and local experiences, connecting guests with the essence of the destinations they visit. Many hostels organize events, tours, and group activities, providing an immersive local experience. These can range from city walking tours and cultural workshops to group outings to local attractions. By participating, guests can gain a deeper understanding of the local culture and history, often guided by knowledgeable staff or local experts. These activities are not only informative but also provide a shared experience for guests, further enhancing the communal feel of hostel stays. Hostels thus act as gateways to authentic local experiences, allowing travelers to explore and understand the places they visit in a more meaningful and engaging way.

Often, in order to achieve success in the rapidly developing tourism industry, one must abandon the fear of changing the established rules of doing business. An example of a rejection of the usual ideas of doing business in the field of hotel services is such an accommodation facility as a hostel.

A hostel is a budget accommodation facility of the dormitory type (public hotel), providing guests primarily with short-term accommodation, usually a sleeping place without additional amenities in the room.

In the West, the history of the hostel movement goes back decades. The prototypes of hostels were roadside taverns that offered the picky traveler an inexpensive place to stay for the night. The first hostel in the modern sense of the word appeared in 1909. German teacher Richard Schirmann decided to organize Sunday walks in the countryside with his students. Since they were poor, it was difficult for them to find a suitable place to stay and they were forced to sleep in schools that were free on weekends or during vacations. So the teacher came up with the idea of organizing permanent places for students to spend the night, and R. Schirmann began inviting young travelers to spend the night at the school where he himself worked. At night, desks and chairs were taken out of classrooms, and bags of straw were placed on the floor. In the morning, each school guest helped put the furniture in place and remove the remaining straw. Later the hostel was moved to Al-tena Castle, where it exists to this day

In the early 20s, several more hostels opened in Europe. The desire to travel and the willingness to settle for minimal amenities has significantly increased the popularity of hostels.

Over the decades, hostels have undergone significant changes. Just twenty years ago they were just a place to stay overnight. Nowadays, the range of services in hostels has expanded significantly. The list of amenities may include air conditioning in the rooms, telephones with long-distance and international calls, satellite television and computers connected to the Internet.

Today, the International Youth Hostelling Federation (HI - Hostelling International), operating under the patronage of UNESCO, unites more than 400 hostels around the world. This non-governmental and non-profit organization develops and approves standards common to all hostels, sets criteria for obtaining accreditation, and also conducts audits of the level of quality of services provided by hostels. Hostels that are members of the Federation are subject to the same standards, and owners cannot ignore them. These standards relate to the culture of communication and reception, cleanliness and order, safety, convenience, and the right to privacy. In addition, the International Youth Hostel Federation annually initiates the release of two catalogs: "America, Asia and Africa" and "Pacific Countries and Europe", containing complete information about hostels located in these regions

Usually in hostels there are rooms of various sizes with amenities in the room or in a block of several rooms. There are also spacious rooms designed for ten guests, with amenities on the floor. Naturally, the fewer amenities, the cheaper the accommodation will be. According to uniform standards, the presence of cold and hot water in a hostel is mandatory. Bed linen is sometimes paid separately. Breakfast may be included in the price, but more often the hostel has a self-service kitchen where guests can prepare their own meals. An important feature is that the hostel must have either locked lockers or a secure room where guests can leave their belongings and have access to them at any time.

Hostels are clean and often have even stricter rules than five-star hotels. Many hostels do not allow smoking, and some do not allow guests to arrive after midnight. However, in large cities, hostels are open 24 hours a day. The checkout time usually falls within the time period from 8:00 to 11:00.

The bulk of hostel guests are young people and students. Often these are young adults over 25 years old, singles traveling the world, discovering new countries. Hostels also attract older people. The audience choosing hostels are energetic people, literally from childhood, accustomed to this lifestyle, preferring independent tours according to an individual program. These are people who want to communicate, learn a lot of new things, make friends around the world

Hostel accommodation is usually chosen by people on a limited budget. However, this is far from the only reason. A hostel offers not only low prices, but also a special atmosphere; they even have rooms for communication and dating. For people choosing hostels, the quality of the trip directly depends on what kind of people they meet on their trip. And hostels provide an opportunity to meet like-minded people, people with similar life values. For this, travelers who choose hostels are willing to sacrifice the luxury of a standard hotel room and even personal space.

Additionally, hostels are mostly self-catering. Guests are provided with all the necessary infrastructure. For independent travelers, this is also an advantage, as it provides them with greater freedom. For such people, a democratic atmosphere is very important. Guests, for example, are not required to come to breakfast or dinner at a certain time; instead, they can prepare their own food in the kitchen at any time.

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