

TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION

a) A hotel



www.bellavistalignano.it/img/sl/hotel/hotel-b

A hotel is an establishment providing paid accommodation. Hotels used to offer basic accommodation in the past, but nowadays they mostly provide rooms with modern facilities, en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, a telephone, a TV set, an Internet connection; a mini-bar including a small refrigerator with drinks and snacks; often there is a facility for making hot drinks in the room (an electric kettle, cups, spoons, instant coffee and tea bags, sugar, milk). Hotels usually have at least one restaurant and a swimming pool and they provide childcare and conference services.

The quality of the hotel and its services is usually marked by stars according to the five stars classification. There have been attempts at unifying the classification system to become a reliable standard, but still large differences exist in the quality of accommodation, food and service. Most countries have an official body to set criteria for classifying hotels; unfortunately, to some degree, the criteria differ from one country to another. Generally, hotels without a restaurant are named »garni hotels«.

The general five star classification system for hotels determines the following objective criteria, satisfactory cleaning and maintenance being a basic requirement for all five categories:

*** One star hotels – (tourist hotels - low budget hotels)**

Hotels are mostly small and privately owned, services may be provided by the owner and the family. Meals may be fairly simple. Rooms are small (single 8m², double 12 m²). All rooms have a shower and a toilet in the room (German standard). / Some rooms may not have en suite bathrooms. All rooms have a hand-basin with hot and cold running water (English, Danish standard) and

heating. Telephone is available. Breakfast is available. Drinks are offered. Guests can enter or leave any time of the day or night.

**** Two star hotels – (standard hotels - budget hotels)**

Hotels are small to medium sized (single rooms 12 m², double 16 m²). They are well equipped, offering comfortable accommodation with en-suite bath/shower rooms. Reception staff is professional, food and drinks are offered. (German standards require buffet breakfast). Cashless payment is possible.

***** Three star hotels – (middle class hotels – comfort hotels)**

Usually hotels of a size to support higher staffing levels (single rooms 14 m² and double 18 m²). They have spacious reception with seats and other public rooms. Their employees speak at least one foreign language. Their restaurants normally also cater for non-residents. All rooms have en suite bath and shower rooms with toiletries and good equipment, such as a TV set, a hair dryer, direct dial telephone. They usually offer room service and some business services. If the hotel has more than two floors, it has a lift. Access to the net is available. Credit cards are accepted.

****** Four-star hotels – (first class hotels)**

They maintain a high quality of furnishings, decorations and equipment. Bedrooms are spacious (single 16 m², double 22 m²) and well designed, with en-suite bathrooms with a bath and shower. There is enough staff to provide all necessary service; there is a 24-hour room service, laundry and dry-cleaning; a lobby, an a la carte restaurant and a bar. All rooms are equipped with mini-bars and access to internet. There are armchairs or couches in the room. Shoe polish implements can be expected in the rooms.

******* Five-star hotels – (luxury hotels)**

Accommodation is spacious (single 18 m², double 26 m²) and luxurious, matching the best international standards. There are safe-boxes, access to internet and air conditioning in every room. Personalized guest welcome with flowers/sweets can be expected. Suites are available. The hotels have special interior design and elegant furnishings. Service is formal and flawless, round-the-clock rooms service is available. These hotels have a lift if there is more than one floor. Their restaurants offer high quality cuisine. The staff is very efficient, courteous and helpful. An indoor swimming pool is available, as well as porter service, laundry, dry-cleaning, ironing and sale of gifts.

Many 3-, 4- and 5-star hotels offer conference facilities, which can also be classified. The classification of conference facilities is carried out according to a special set of criteria.

Three basic kinds of hotels are:

- **commercial hotels** – for business travellers and people on short trips; they often have large meeting rooms and catering for different events;
- **resort hotels** – for tourists and holiday-makers; they often offer sports and sightseeing; most of them are seasonal (mountain resorts, seaside resorts);
- **residential hotels** – guests can rent rooms for long periods of time; they are a lot like apartment houses, but they also provide meals and other hotel services.

b) A motel



www.welchmotel.com/images/motel_front.jpg

The word is an abbreviation of motor – hotel and the concept originates from the USA. Motels differ from hotels in their location: they are mostly situated along highways. Usually they are in a shape of connected rooms with their doors facing the parking lot. Sometimes they are a series of small cabins with a common parking. They have small reception rooms and not much attention is paid to the interior of the buildings. Some motels also have restaurants and dining rooms or even swimming pools.

c) A youth hostel



photos.igougo.com/images/p22712-Luxembourg_Ci...

This is a kind of cheap accommodation for travellers. Guests can rent a bed or a bunk bed in a dormitory and share a bathroom, a lounge and possibly a kitchen. Private rooms are often available. Besides being cheaper, hostels are also less formal than hotels. There is a lot of opportunity to socialize. But they offer less privacy than hotels, there might be disturbances caused by individual guests. Regardless of their name the hostels are no more intended for young travellers only. Hostels mostly provide breakfast, some also offer other meals. Many have shops where guests can buy food.

d) A campsite



www.carto.net/.../144_our_campsite.jpg

A campsite is a place used for overnight stay outdoors. The campsite can be:

- a) an incidentally chosen place (where backpackers or hikers decide to stop and stay overnight), or
- b) an area equipped for camping, with various facilities; it is usually called a campground.

Campgrounds charge a user fee. They might have a few or many facilities, including the following:

- fireplaces to build campfires (holes, enclosures, concrete spots);
- pit toilets/flush toilets
- bathrooms with showers and sinks
- road access for vehicles
- piped potable water
- picnic tables
- utility hookups (gas, water, electricity, sewer)
- a small convenience store
- wood for cooking and campfires
- gravel or concrete parking pads
- garbage cans

Most campgrounds also have a set of rules concerning noise and behaviour of campers. Camping outside designated campsites is often forbidden.

e) An inn



www.pressomatic.com/.../Ashby%20Inn%20Sign.jpg

An inn is an establishment which offers travellers food, drink and lodging. Inns were first established in the Roman times when a lot of roads were built. At the time inns were also community gathering places. Nowadays, they have lost their leading role in tourism, as there are numerous hotels, restaurants and pubs. Many hotels or bars use the word »inn« in their names (Holiday Inn). The difference among inns, pubs and taverns is becoming less noticeable. In Europe inns still provide lodgings, whereas the rest of the facilities stated above do not.

f) A guest house



www.kinrosshouse.co.uk

A guest house is a private house converted into a lodging facility for tourists. Bed and breakfast are usually offered at guest houses, the owner and his family often live in another building in the vicinity.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the basic types of accommodation?
2. What does a hotel usually provide for the guests?
3. How is the quality of the hotel marked?
4. Describe the main characteristics of a three star hotel.
5. Describe the main characteristics of a five star hotel.
6. What kind of hotels do you know according for their business purpose?
7. How does a motel differ from a hotel?
8. What is available for the tourists at youth hostels?
9. What facilities can one expect at the campsite?
10. What is an inn?
11. How are guest houses usually organized?

EXERCISE

Match the types of accommodation and their definitions:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. a garni hotel | ___ a hotel with spacious rooms, air conditioning, access to internet ... |
| 2. a one star hotel | ___ cheap accommodation with dormitories and shared bathrooms |
| 3. a four star hotel | ___ a hotel without a restaurant |
| 4. a motel | ___ a family-owned facility for tourists |
| 5. a youth hostel | ___ a place to stay outdoors overnight |
| 6. a campsite | ___ a hotel with small rooms which do not all have en-suite bathrooms |
| 7. an inn | ___ an establishment offering food, drink and lodging to travellers |
| 8. a guest house | ___ a hotel with an easy access to the parking lot |

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hotel>
<http://www.visitdenmark.dk>
<http://wiki.answers.com>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/motel>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hostel>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/campsite>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/inn>