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Europe

Hip city hostels – from £17 a night

Enjoy a cheap and chic break at one of Europe's new wave of hostels with private rooms

Oops! Hostel, Paris

This is a colourful affair with lime-green walls in public areas and designer wallpaper in dorms and private rooms. It's close to Place d'Italie and just south of the Jardin du Luxembourg. There's free wi-fi and breakfast is included.
Details Oops! Hostel (oops-paris.com) has four-bed B&B dorms from £30pp and private B&B doubles from £53.
Getting there Catch the bus from London Victoria from £39 return (www.eurolines.co.uk). Flybe (flybe.com) flies to Paris from Exeter, Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Southampton.
Good-value eating Le Relais de Venise (271 Boulevard Pereire, relaisdevenise.com) has a steak, chips and salad combo for €25. You'll have to queue.

Lisbon Calling, Lisbon

For a really stylish hostel in a European capital, Lisbon Calling stands out. It's bang in the city centre in an old building with exposed stone walls and arches, old leather armchairs and bright sofas. There's a kitchen and an antique dining table.
Details Lisbon Calling (lisboncalling.net) has four-bed B&B dorms from £18pp.
Getting there EasyJet flies to Lisbon from Bristol, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Gatwick and Luton.
Good-value eating Get half a grilled chicken for about €6 at Bonjardim (12 Travessa de Santo Antão).

St Christopher's at the Mosaic House, Prague

The comfortable private double rooms at St Christopher's are decorated in purple with subdued lighting and tiled shower rooms. There are also neat dorms with bunks as well as the lively downstairs Belushi's Bar, which serves burgers and "gourmet sandwiches". It's central and has free wi-fi.
Details St Christopher's (st-christophers.co.uk) has four-bed dorms from £28pp and private doubles from £40pp.
Getting there Jet2 (jet2.com) flies to Prague from Edinburgh, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle. BA (ba.com) flies from Heathrow.
Good-value eating Ask for the daily specials at the Lobkowitz Palace café (Jiriska 3, www.lobkowitz.cz). Soup with a view of the city will set you back €4

The Circus, Berlin

The lobby of this slick hostel in the former East German side of Berlin, about a



kilometre northeast of the Brandenburg Gate, looks as if it might belong to a boutique hotel, with designer lights, leather chairs and mirrors. There is a mixture of dorms, small private rooms and self-catering apartments.
Details The Circus (circus-berlin.de) has ten-bed dorms from £17pp and double-bed apartments from £25pp.
Getting there Ryanair (ryanair.com) flies to Berlin from East Midlands, Edinburgh and Stansted.
Good-value eating Grab a currywurst (sausage in sweet curry sauce) and chips from the historic Konnopke's Imbiss (Schönhauser Allee 44a).

Långholmen, Stockholm

It's a renovated prison, which may not sound enticing, but there are some comfortable and stylish private two-bed rooms at Långholmen. It's on Södermalm, the lively island that's home to lots of students in the south of the centre of Stockholm, and right next to a little beach. There's a cosy inn-pub connected to the hostel.
Details Långholmen (langholmen.com) has four-bed dorms from £29pp, private two-bed doubles from £29.
Getting there Ryanair flies to Stockholm from Edinburgh, Gatwick, Stansted and Liverpool. SAS (sas.com) flies there from Heathrow.

Good value eating Make yourself a picnic lunch from the stalls at Östermalms Saluhall (Östermalmsgården, saluhallen.com).

Venissa, Venice

With six private rooms — beautifully designed with exposed beams, red-brick walls and low-level oriental-style beds — Venissa is a good value and chic little place on the island of Mazzorbo on the Venetian lagoon. Some of the rooms have shared bathrooms down the hall.
Details Venissa (venissa.it) has rooms from €30-€65 a night.

Clockwise from top: Lisbon Calling, Lisbon; LOL Hostel, Syracuse; Långholmen, Stockholm; and The Circus, Berlin

Getting there Ryanair flies to Venice from Leeds, Stansted, Bristol and East Midlands. Jet 2 flies there from Leeds, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Good-value eating Go for the €15 set lunch at Dalla Marisa (Cannaregio 652b). There's no menu, you'll be told if it's meat or fish that day.

LOL Hostel, Syracuse, Italy

This charming hostel is in a converted 19th-century palace in the heart of Syracuse. There are dorms with up to 20 beds as well as private rooms with double beds and flat-screen TVs. There is free wi-fi and exposed stone walls.
Details LOL Hostel (lolhostel.com) has four-bed B&B dorms from £23pp, private B&B doubles from £26pp.
Getting there EasyJet flies to Catania, an hour's bus ride from Syracuse.
Good value eating Try the fresh fish at Il Fermento (via crocifisso 46). Get two courses for €20.
By Tom Chesshyre and Will Hyde

For information on all the hostels mentioned here, and others, see hostelbookers.com. For interesting hostels in the UK, take a look at *The Independent Hostel Guide* (£5.95, independenthostelguide.co.uk), or visit the Youth Hostel Association website (yha.org.uk)



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