

# Booking a room

This month, we start our new page on English for travel. ANNA HOCHSIEDER presents the words and phrases you need. To start with, we look at how to book a room.

easy 

## At the tourist office

- Hello! I'm looking for a **single room** for one night, not too far from the town centre.
- Are you looking for a **hotel**, a **guest house** or a **bed and breakfast**?
- I don't really mind, but I'd like a room with an **en suite** bathroom — and not too expensive.
- There's a very nice guest house just five minutes' walk from here. It's £40 for a **single**, including **full English breakfast**. Would you like me to check if they have any **vacancies**?

## Booking by phone

- Seaview Hotel. How can I help you?
- Hello! I'd like to make a reservation for next weekend, please.
- What sort of room did you want, sir?
- Well, there are three of us: my wife and I and our two-year-old daughter.
- I can offer you a **double room** with a **cot** for £98 a night, including **continental breakfast**.
- Sounds good. Yes, please! I'll take it.
- Fine. Now, if I could I just have your name and credit-card details, please...

<b>cot</b> [kɒt]	Kinderbett (US: Klappbett)
<b>en suite</b> [ˌɛn 'swi:t] UK	angeschlossen, zum Zimmer gehörig
<b>four-poster bed</b> [ˌfɔː ˌpəʊstə 'bed]	Himmelbett
<b>tax</b> [tæks]	Steuer; hier: Mehrwertsteuer
<b>vacancy</b> ['vækənsi]	freies Zimmer

## Tips

- You can say a "single/double room" or simply a "single/double".
- A bed and breakfast (B. & B.) is a private house, often in the country, where you can sleep and have breakfast. A guest house has more rooms than a B. & B., but is usually a private house, too, while a hotel has more services, like evening meals and alcoholic drinks.
- A full English breakfast, often called a cooked breakfast, usually means bacon and eggs, and toast with marmalade or jam. It is offered in many British B. & B.s, while hotels often serve only a continental breakfast.
- In the English-speaking world, you will often be asked about the kind of bed you would like. A double bed is a bed for two people, while twin beds are two separate, single beds. In the US, queen-size beds are slightly larger than normal double beds, while king-size beds are the largest. In Britain, a cot (US: crib) is a small bed with high sides for a baby or young child. In the US, a cot is a folding bed or sofa bed. In a luxury hotel, you might be offered a four-poster bed.



## At the motel US

- Hi! How are you today?
- Hi! Do you have a room?
- Sure. How long are you staying?
- Just one night, for the two of us.
- OK... What size bed would you like — **king-size** or **queen**?
- How much is king-size?
- \$78.50 for the room, plus **tax**.
- Could we see the room first, please?
- Sure. Here's the key. It's three doors down, on your left.