

DIFFERENT TYPES OF TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is a basic need of tourism activity. Without accommodation it will be difficult to develop tourism even in the beautiful places of the world. Early hotels and inns were little more than an available bed and something barely palatable to eat. The emergence of tourism in the latter half of the 19th century brought with it an improvement of the standards of the early inns. Some pressure was placed on these facilities to offer some minimum standards where the consumer was able to identify a property with specific amenities. The rating system emerged out of efforts by the Automobile and cycling clubs in Europe, who in their tourism books displayed hotels, which they recommended to their membership, based on the guaranteed facilities which these hotels/inns offered. Tourism led to the establishment of rating systems such as the Automobile Association (AA) and its American counterpart the (AAA) and the Michellin tyre company's – Michellin Red Guide and other mobile guides.

After World War II National Tourist Boards began to consider some form of hotels registration/classification system. There was some difficulty in doing so. By 1970 only five European countries had national classification systems, by 1980 tourism number increased to 22 European countries and 60 countries worldwide.

The criteria applied by the classification systems were, and still are not uniformed. There were various meanings attached to registration, classification and grading.

Registration: Form of licensing which may or may not demand a minimum standard, Signifies some conformation with health fire safety legislation Implies minimum criteria.

Classification: separation of different types and ranges of accommodation into several categories based on a range of criteria. Hotel accommodations can allow for five to seven categories to be applied. – Other forms of

accommodation e.g. motels, guest-houses and self catering apartments seldom justify more than two or three classes.

Grading: Often combine with classification; tourism is a quality assessment awarding a symbol to denote an above average service to an accommodation facility. E.g. Green Globe Classification systems for environment concerned property.

Popular Classification Systems

- **Official Hotel and Resort Guide (OHRG):** Travel Industry classification system ratings are deemed as being comparable around the world, making it easier for professionals in the travel trade. Ten Quality levels which can be divided as Deluxe, Super Deluxe, Deluxe, Moderate

Deluxe, First Class, Superior First Class, First Class, Limited Service First Class, Moderate First class Tourist, Superior tourist class, tourist class, moderate tourist class.

These rating combine two elements

1. Quality of guest accommodations: room size, quality of furnishings
 2. Extent of hotel facilities: Number and size of public rooms and meeting facilities.
- **AA rating system (British System):** Tourism system focuses on a consumer's perspective on accommodation properties. The objective was to introduce a classification system easily understood by the consumer. Tourism system is part of the description of properties seen in travel books. The American version is the AAA system.

Minimum Requirements for AA Recognition

One Star Hotels: Hotels in tourism classification are likely to be small and independently owned, with a family atmosphere. Services may be provided by the owner and family on an informal basis. There may be a limited range of facilities and meals may be fairly simple. Lunch, for example, may not be served. Some bedrooms may not have en suite bath/shower rooms. Maintenance, cleanliness and comfort should, however, always be of an acceptable standard.

Two Star Hotels: In tourism classification hotels will typically be small to medium sized and offer more extensive facilities than at the one star level. Some business hotels come into the two star classification and guests can expect comfortable, well equipped, overnight accommodation, usually with an en-suite bath/shower room. Reception and other staff will aim for a more professional presentation than at the one star level, and offer a wider range of straightforward services, including food and drink.

Three Star Hotels: At tourism level, hotels are usually of a size to support higher staffing levels, and a significantly greater quality and range of facilities

than at the lower star classifications. Reception and the other public rooms will be more spacious and the restaurant will normally also cater for non- residents. All bedrooms will have fully en suite bath and shower rooms and offer a good standard of comfort and equipment, such as a hair dryer, direct dial telephone, toiletries in the bathroom. Some room service can be expected, and some provision for business travelers.

Four Star Hotels: Expectations at tourism level include a degree of luxury as well as quality in the furnishings, decor and equipment, in every area of the hotel. Bedrooms will also usually offer more space than at the lower star levels, and well designed, coordinated furnishings and decor. The en-suite bathrooms will have both bath and fixed shower. There will be a high enough

ratio of staff to guests to provide services like 24-hour room service, laundry and dry-cleaning. The restaurant will demonstrate a serious approach to its cuisine.

Five Star Hotels: Here you should find spacious and luxurious accommodation throughout the hotel, matching the best international standards. Interior design should impress with its quality and attention to detail, comfort and elegance. Furnishings should be immaculate. Services should be formal, well supervised and flawless in attention to guests' needs, without being intrusive. The restaurant will demonstrate a high level of technical skill, producing dishes to the highest international standards. Staff will be knowledgeable, helpful, well versed in all aspects of customer care, combining efficiency with courtesy.

Instead, there are various other types of accommodations are also available bases on their certain virtues.

Business Hotels / City Hotels: Business hotels and City Hotels are everywhere. Even the smallest of towns seem to have some establishment calling itself a business hotel. You get a small room with a bed, shower/bath/toilet unit, a TV, and a cup of green tea. Many hotels also throw in a free breakfast.

In general City Hotels are nicer than Business Hotels, and have a lot more facilities. They are also a little more expensive. They may be small but they are clean and comfortable, and staying in them can save you hundreds of dollars.

Business Hotels are targeted at the needs of business travelers. Tend to be located in city centers and at airports. Guestrooms are equipped with spacious desks, and internet connection.

Capsule hotel: The guest space is reduced in size to a modular plastic or fiberglass block roughly 2 m by 1 m by 1.25 m, providing room to sleep.

Facilities range in entertainment offerings (most include a television, an electronic console, and wireless internet connection). These capsules are stacked side by side and two units top to bottom, with steps providing access to the second level rooms. Luggage is stored in a locker, usually somewhere outside of the hotel. Privacy is ensured by a curtain or a fiberglass door at the open end of the capsule. Washrooms are communal and most hotels include restaurants (or at least vending machines), pools, and other entertainment facilities.

Ryokan: Ryokan literally means “Traveler’s Inn”. Most rooms are Japanese Style, where you sleep on a futon on the mat floor, but a few are introducing western style rooms.

Minshuku: Minshuku means “People’s Accommodation”. Minshuku are similar to Ryokan, but are generally a more family-run type of business, and

are a little cheaper. From the outside many look like a large house, and you sometimes eat with the family.

Resorts: Cater primarily to leisure travelers. Generally found in four environments: at the beach, near ski areas, in the desert and near (or even in) theme parks and attractions. Usually have facilities for recreational activities such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, golf course and one or two dining facilities. When a resort is especially large, with many facilities and activities covering acres of land, it is called a mega-resort

Different Kinds of resorts:

1. **A spa resort:** Provides extensive facilities for massages, facials, fitness activities and healthy dining.
2. **A ski resort:** provides a site and facilities to serve the needs of winter sports enthusiasts.
3. **A themed resort:** One that has a strong identity. Often tied to some other place and time, Examples include the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City and Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. An all inclusive resort, charges one price that includes most or all of the costs of staying there.

Motel: A motel is a hotel designed for motorists, and usually has a parking area for motor vehicles. The term 'motel' in the United States is outdated and very few motel chains still exist (Motel 6 and Super8 are two of the most popular still in existence).

Motels, very popular starting in the 1960s when travel by car was on the rise, have now been replaced by budget chain hotels typically used by road warriors.

Limited-service Lodging: Modestly sized and economically priced properties. Have rooms that open onto an interior hallway. Rooms are simple with continental breakfast included. Tend to be situated near popularly priced restaurants, fast-food outlets and/or shopping center's. Rarely have pools or exercise facilities.

Hostel: An inexpensive alternative for students and budget travelers. Offer low-costing lodging, Common toilets, kitchen and bathing facilities are shared by all rooms on the floor.

Dude ranches: A unique form of lodging, Convey a theme of American West, Usually located in the resort areas featuring horseback riding, cattle roundups, outdoor barbeques and other cow-boy type activities.

Caravan: A vehicle that consists of beds, toilets and kitchen. Good for long distance travel, very popular in Europe & USA.

Guest House: A guest house normally has at least 4 letting bedrooms, some with en suite or private facilities. It is usually run as a commercial business. Breakfast is available and evening meals may be provided.

B&B: Accommodation offering bed and breakfast, usually in a private house. B&B s normally accommodate no more than 6 guests, and may or may not serve an evening meal.

Small Hotel: A small hotel normally has a minimum of 6 letting bedrooms and a maximum of 20. Most bedrooms have en suite or private facilities. Small hotels serve breakfast, dinner and, normally, lunch, and they have a drinks license (though it may be a restricted license). They are normally run by the owner(s) and reflect their own personal style.

Self-catering: A house, cottage, apartment, chalet or similar accommodation with self-catering facilities, which are let normally on a weekly basis to individuals, although shorter breaks may be available.

Serviced Apartment: Essentially self-catering apartments are where services such as cleaning are available. Meals and drinks may also be available, either to each apartment or in a restaurant and/or bar on site.

Lodge: Overnight accommodation, usually purpose-built and situated close to a major road or city centre. Reception hours may be restricted and payment may be required on check-in. There may be associated restaurant facilities.

Inn: Bed and breakfast accommodation within a traditional inn or pub. The bar and restaurant is open to non-residents, and provides food at lunchtime and in the evening.

Restaurant with Rooms: The restaurant is the most significant part of the business, and is usually open to non-residents as well as those staying there. Breakfast is usually provided.

Campus Accommodation: The accommodation provided by colleges and universities for their students is often made available - with meals - to individuals or groups at certain times of year, typically the summer, Easter and Christmas holiday periods.