



# Scotland Lodging Tips

An Outlandish Extra PDF

[OutlandishScotland.com](http://OutlandishScotland.com)

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

# Outlandish Scotland Journey

## Scotland Lodging Tips

[Updated in October 2019]

A multitude of marvelous lodgings are available throughout Scotland. When looking for a place to stay in major cities such as Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Inverness, however, it can be a challenge to find affordable lodgings that also are safe and sanitary.

Obviously, you can Google the type of accommodation you're looking for, such as: "Edinburgh, Scotland Hotels" ... "Glasgow, Scotland B&Bs" ... "Inverness, Scotland Hostels," and the like.

Unfortunately, this type of lodgings search is a crapshoot and may not yield reliable information. The photos and descriptions posted on any accommodation's website may be decidedly different from the property's real-world appearance and quality. In fact, the super cheap Hotel and Hostel listings within large UK/Scottish cities may be quite nasty.

Even **Trip Advisor**—the best resource for finding high-quality, low-cost lodgings in and near any Scottish village or small city—often *isn't* helpful when looking for a safe and sanitary place to stay in Edinburgh or Glasgow. These two cities are so huge, and have so many accommodation listings, it can be extremely confusing and time-consuming to sort through them.

Below, Please Find Our Seven Tips for Booking Your  
*Outlandish Scotland Journey* Accommodations.

### **Tip #1:** Book Lodgings within Edinburgh or Glasgow Only for the Days You'll Actually be *Touring* These Cities

CD Miller enjoys lodging in the area she'll reach at the end of each day's itinerary. Thus, she packs up and moves almost every day when visiting Scotland.

"I keep my suitcase locked in the boot of my rental car, taking only my laptop computer and a small tote bag—essential toiletries and one change of clothes—into each evening's accommodation. This makes it easy to check in and out of each lodging. It also means that I don't have to back-track to a 'Home Base' every evening."

Some travelers, however, prefer to minimize the amount of packing up and moving required during a holiday. Just don't use a major city's lodging as the base from which you travel to locations outside the city over several days.

- Lodgings within Edinburgh and Glasgow usually are far more expensive than those found outside the city.
- Even if you can afford to book city lodgings with guaranteed parking available, driving in and out of any major city on a daily basis can be a nightmare.
- Bussing or cabbing between the city and a peripheral Park-and-Ride lot at the start and end of several days can be terrifically time-consuming.

Instead, book a less expensive accommodation *outside* the city, in a village centrally located to places you'll be visiting on two or more consecutive days of your itinerary, and make that your Home Base.

In our **Edinburgh Lodgings** PDF we provide Home Base lodging suggestions for visiting the Outside-Edinburgh sites discussed in **Part 5** of *Outlandish Scotland Journey*—a Home Base that also would be convenient for visiting four of the **Part 4** Great Sites near Edinburgh.

<http://outlandishscotland.com/EdinburghLodgings.pdf>

**Tip #2:** Wherever You Travel, Your Very Best Bet is to

**Lodge at a Place Recommended by a Friend or Family Member.**

If someone you know has enjoyed staying in an Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Inverness lodging—or an accommodation anywhere else in Scotland, for that matter—*that* is the place you should book.

If none of your friends or family have ever lodged in these cities, do not worry. You have some brand new Outlandish friends who *have*—US!

Within many of *Outlandish Scotland Journey's* Great-Site-rated chapters, we offer links to lodgings we are personally familiar with and recommend.

If we're not personally familiar with accommodations in or near a major Great Site location, we provide links to lodgings we've already spent hours of time investigating—places we believe to be reputable and safe.

If the places we suggest don't appeal to you, or are already booked during your holiday, follow the tips we provide after acquainting you with Visit Scotland.



[www.VisitScotland.com](http://www.VisitScotland.com) is the official website for Scotland's National Tourist Board, and a respected resource for everything Scottish—including accommodations.

"Working closely with private businesses, public agencies and local authorities, we strive to ensure that our visitors experience the very best of Scotland and that the country makes the most of its outstanding tourism assets and realizes its potential."

There are several Scotland accommodation Internet directories that *sell space* to lodging businesses wishing to market their properties. Those websites do not, however, inspect or investigate the properties listed. "That's up to the Scotland Tourist Board ... Visit Scotland." Because of this, we prefer using Visit Scotland's accommodation directories.

All accommodations listed by Visit Scotland have been vetted by them, and are required to maintain standards that will reflect well on Scotland's travel industry in order to continue being included in their directories.

**Please Note:** If you book an accommodation listed on VisitScotland.com and have an unsatisfactory or unpleasant experience there, let them know about it! How else will Visit Scotland learn that the quality of one of their promoted properties has slipped?

It is equally important to advise Visit Scotland when you have an exceptionally *pleasant* accommodation experience at one of their listed properties. How else can they upgrade the rating of a property that has done an excellent job of promoting Scottish tourism?

Basically, if you are motivated to post *any* kind of **TripAdvisor** review of a Scottish accommodation—whether positive or negative—use the Email address below to also send a review to **Visit Scotland**. Be sure to include the full name and address of the establishment you're commenting on, and the date(s) of your experience.

[QA@visitscotland.com](mailto:QA@visitscotland.com)

### Tip #3: Consider the Different Types of Lodgings

You may want to vary the type of accommodations you book during your holiday.

#### Scottish Hostels

No matter where you travel, hostels offer the cheapest beds available and are a wonderful way to save money. After all, each night's accommodation is simply a place where you *sleep* between days spent exploring exciting Outlandish Scotland sites.

Then, again, not every Outlanderite wants to stay exclusively in hostels while visiting Scotland.

CD Miller strongly prefers lodging in B&Bs, but books a hostel stay at least once during every trip she takes to the UK.

"Although I've never had a *bad* experience when lodging in an English or Scottish hostel, I don't often stay in one. I appreciate privacy when sleeping; enjoy in-room amenities such as my own toilet and shower, TV and electric kettle; and, I prefer having more sleeping space than that offered by even the most comfortable of bunk beds.

"That said, I make a special point to lodge at least one night at a hostel, *midway* through every UK trip. Why? So I can DO MY LAUNDRY!

"Yes, no matter where you stay, a sink is fine for washing a few undergarments and socks. But being able to launder *everything* you've packed—jeans, shirts, etc—in the middle of a UK trip makes it much easier to pack light. The more space-limited and expensive it becomes to check luggage when traveling across the pond, the more you need to schedule at least one 'laundry lodging' during your holiday.

"Very few B&Bs (or hotels) offer self-service laundry facilities, but almost every hostel has at least a couple of coin-operated washers and dryers on site. This is—by far—the most convenient way to wash all of your clothes midway through a trip. It is also much safer than trekking to a city laundromat (called laundrettes or laundrettes in the UK).

"One caveat about hostel laundries: not all have detergent available for purchase. Be sure to check on this when booking. If needed, pack a small zip-lock bag of detergent (*powdered*, to avoid leaks) and a few dryer sheets to combat static cling.

"If you forget, not to worry. Go to the hostel's common room and ask if anyone has a cup of detergent you can buy. Don't be surprised if someone simply gives it to you. People who stay in hostels can be extraordinarily friendly and helpful."

### A Few Generic Questions to Ascertain Before Booking Any Hostel

- Is bed linen & pillow provided? (Usually, the answer is “yes.”)
- Is a towel provided? (They may charge towel fee of £1 or £2.)
- Are storage lockers available?  
Is there a fee for using them?  
Do I have to bring my own lock to secure the locker?
- Are laundry facilities available?  
Is laundry detergent available?

### \*Important Point!

Some of the properties listed as “hostels” within major UK cities (including Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Inverness) are little more than skanky flophouses. The only sure way to avoid unpleasant places is to book a hostel that is affiliated with a reputable hostel organization, such as those listed below.



The Scottish Youth Hostel Association  
(SYHA)

<https://www.hostellingscotland.org.uk/>

The Scottish Youth Hostel Association—aka Hostelling Scotland—is the most reputable hostel association in Scotland.

“Established in 1931, SYHA Hostelling Scotland is a self-funding charity operating a network of over 60 exceptional youth and affiliate hostels for the benefit of all those wishing to learn and experience what Scotland has to offer. Our unique sites provide affordable, comfortable, safe and quality-assured accommodation with a warm friendly welcome, local knowledge, activities and services for guests traveling around Scotland.”

**Please Note:** Although many of these accommodations are labeled “Youth” hostels, hostel establishments throughout the UK and Europe offer lodgings to individuals of *all* ages—children, teens, adults, and seniors. These days, some even offer single family accommodations and a few private individual rooms. (The earlier you book, the more likely you are to find these options available.)

If you’re unfamiliar with hostels, the SYHA has a particularly informative Frequently Asked Questions page: <https://www.hostellingscotland.org.uk/the-experience/faqs/>



## Scottish Independent Hostels (SIH)

<https://www.hostel-scotland.co.uk/>

In the past decade, the Scottish Independent Hostels association has earned a reputation for reliability and quality equal to that of the SYHA.

“SIH is a Membership Association of independently owned Hostels in Scotland. It is the largest Hostel network of its type in the world, with 130 Hostels located from Scotland’s Highlands and Islands to the vibrant cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen and Inverness within its membership. Each one of our Hostels is unique, providing hospitality from independent owners that is excellent value. ...

“SIH is a not-for-profit Company to support Independent Hostel Members and to promote Independent Hostelling in Scotland. ... Hostels are welcome to join SIH as long as they are **quality assured by Visit Scotland** or sign up to the **SIH Guest Review System.**”



## Hostelling International (HI)

<https://www.hihostels.com/search/hostels?q=Scotland>

Hostelling International is another highly respected UK and European hostel organization. Affiliated with the Youth Hostel Association (YHA) of England and Wales, as well as the SYHA and hostels in Ireland, HI lists only safe and sanitary hostels—with a particular focus on hostels housed within historic buildings.

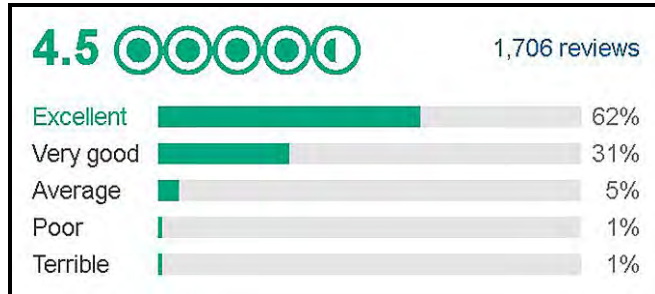


## Hostel World (HW)

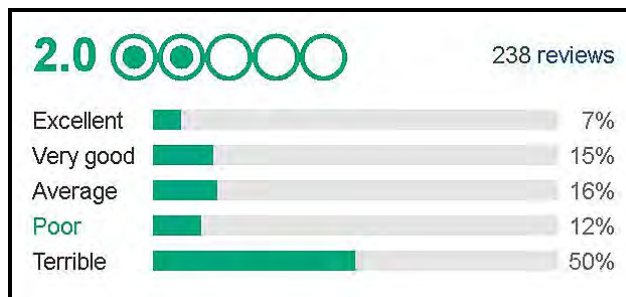
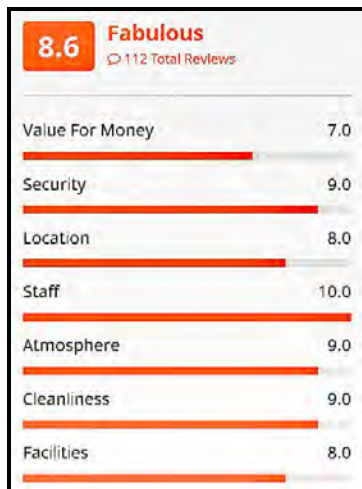
<https://www.hostelworld.com/>

Hostel World’s directory provides a greater selection of major city budget accommodations to choose from than any other directory. Unfortunately, this greater number of listings seems to stem from HW including *any* accommodation that registers with them as a hostel or budget hotel. Thus, some not-so-nice places may be listed. Additionally, it appears that you cannot always trust HW’s property ratings.

We would steer you *away from* using Hostel World’s website were it not for one thing: HW is the *only* hostel directory that includes what we’ve decided—based on extensive research—is our *favorite* Edinburgh City Centre hostel; Castle Rock Hostel. (You’ll learn more about Castle Rock Hostel in Part 5’s Edinburgh Planning Directory.) Below are a couple examples of what we discovered during our Edinburgh Hostel World research.



In April of 2018, Hostel World’s rating for Edinburgh’s Castle Rock Hostel (above, left) was confirmed by the hostel’s TripAdvisor ratings (above, right). The hostel’s website—and its location—offers additional reasons for declaring this our favorite Edinburgh hostel. Yet, Edinburgh’s Castle Rock Hostel it is *not listed* on the SYHA, HI, or Visit Scotland Hostel directories.



During our research, however, we investigated another HW Edinburgh listing; **Park View House Hotel**. The HW rating for this accommodation (above, left) was promising. The description and photos provided to HW made the property seem like a perfectly lovely place to stay. When checking Park View House Hotel on TripAdvisor, however, we found a very different story (above, right). After reading the most recent scathing reviews, we permanently crossed Park View House Hotel *off* of our list of Edinburgh accommodation considerations!

**Lesson Learned:** Hostel World is a helpful resource, in that it provides a greater selection of hostel and budget hotel listings in major cities than other directories do. But, beware! Obtain a second opinion—via TripAdvisor—before booking any HW-listed property.



LERWICK HOSTEL &gt;



STIRLING YOUTH HOSTEL &gt;



KIRKWALL YOUTH HOSTEL &gt;



GLENBRITTLE YOUTH HOSTEL &gt;

Visit Scotland's **HOSTEL Directory** is Useful for *All Other Areas of Scotland (even Small Villages or Cities)*, Especially Places Without a SYHA or SIH Property

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/hostels/>

- From the basic to the boutique, Scotland has a vast range of hostels offering varying facilities.
- Ideal for families, groups, clubs, backpackers and individuals, both young and old.
- Everything from economy dormitories to chic and spacious private rooms with en-suite facilities.

Visit Scotland's "Unusual Scottish Hostels" Webpage is Especially Interesting

<https://www.visitscotland.com/blog/scotland/unusual-hostels-scotland/>

[Disregard the listing for the Belford Hostel in Edinburgh (if it remains on this site). It has very, very negative TripAdvisor reviews.]



## Scottish Bed & Breakfast / Guest House Establishments

From CD Miller:

"As previously stated, I much prefer lodging in B&Bs when visiting the UK. This preference is based on UK journeys made by friends and family in the late 1990s, and my personal experiences during several trips to England and Scotland, beginning in 2002.

"In 2006 I traveled to the UK with my friend, Ruby. When perusing the plans I'd started before she came onboard, Ruby balked at lodging in B&Bs. She preferred the luxury of staying in 3- and 4-star *hotels* when traveling. Consequently, Ruby paid for all our lodgings, and I picked up the rental car and petrol tab.

"Throughout the first 14 days of our 16-day trek through England and Scotland, Ruby booked us into major hotels everywhere we went—even a couple of castles! When arranging our final 2-night stay in Edinburgh, however, the hotel rooms available were far too expensive. Thus, she lowered her standards and booked us into the B&B I'd originally researched and selected.

"The Gifford House B&B in Edinburgh ended up being Ruby's *favorite* lodging experience of the entire trip! She found it far more comfortable and pleasant than any of the expensive hotels we'd stayed in—as did I. While this was a surprise for her, it was not a surprise for me. I adore UK B&Bs."



### UK B&Bs (sometimes called “Guest Houses”) are wonderful places to stay.

- The vast majority of B&Bs are far cheaper than hotels—especially those within major cities.
- Few hotels offer breakfast as part of the accommodation tariff, whereas *all* Bed-&-Breakfast accommodations do.
- Best of all, while staying at these establishments you get to meet knowledgeable local people (the B&B operators), as well as fellow travelers from all over the globe.

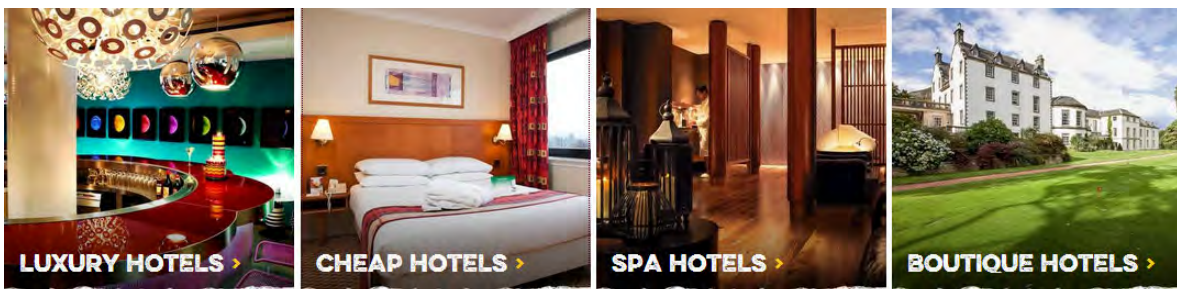
When lodging in hotels, people tend to ignore those around them—both in the hallways and in the public rooms. The homey atmosphere of a good B&B encourages lodgers to introduce themselves and strike up a conversation. The benefits of this kind of social interaction cannot be overstated.

From CD Miller:

“The diversity of people you interact with when staying in B&Bs—or Hostels—will amaze you, and their stories are always incredibly interesting. When staying in a Hotel, it somehow seems rude to speak to the strangers seated at a nearby table in the dining room. In a B&B, however, doing so feels completely natural.”

TripAdvisor is great when looking for a B&B/Guest House in small Scottish cities and villages. Use Visit Scotland to search for B&Bs/Guest Houses in major Scottish cities.

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/bandbs-guesthouses/>



### Livable to Luxurious Scottish Hotels

If you prefer staying in a hotel when you travel, and have a major hotel chain membership, go to that company’s website and search for their hotels in Scotland. The following hotel chains, for example, have properties in Edinburgh and Glasgow:

- Best Western
- Hilton (Waldorf Astoria, Doubletree, & Carlton)
- Holiday Inn
- Marriott
- Travelodge

When searching for hotels in Scottish villages or small cities, use **TripAdvisor**. It proves to be a better directory than Visit Scotland for these areas.



**Tip #4:** When Searching For *Any* Type of Accommodation in a Major City, Visit Scotland’s Accommodation Directory is a Great Place to Start

<https://www.visitscotland.com/accommodation/>

On their accommodation directory’s main page (link above), identify the major Scottish city you wish to stay in. Then use the “Refine Results” options provided on the left side to indicate the type of lodging you’re looking for, selecting other preferences to additionally narrow the number of properties offered.

We usually narrow our search by clicking on B&B, Guesthouse, WiFi, and City Centre. If you have other needs—such as Level Access, Pets Welcome, or a payment method preference—click on those options as well.

After refining your search parameters go to the “Sort by” box at the far right of the Visit Scotland “Search Results” header. This box allows you to sort the list displayed in order of “Official Rating: High-Low,” or “Distance: Closest,” Low-to-High or High-to-Low price.

**We avoid using TripAdvisor to find Major City Accommodations.**

There are far too many of them listed, and it often is difficult to identify where in the city they are.

Similarly, using a search engine such as Google or Yahoo to find “Edinburgh B&Bs,” or “Glasgow Hotels,” or the like, will only be confusing and waste a lot of time.

**Tip #5:** After Finding a Visit Scotland Property that Seems Perfect for Your Needs, Go to TripAdvisor and Check the Lodging’s Reviews *Before* Going to Its Website



Gifford House - UPDATED 2018 Prices & Guest house ... - TripAdvisor  
<https://www.tripadvisor.com> > ... > Scotland > Edinburgh > Edinburgh B&Bs / Inns ▼  
 ★★★★★ Rating: 4.5 - 150 reviews

**Reviews are TripAdvisor’s forte!** Almost all Scottish accommodations have a TripAdvisor reviews page. Here’s the secret to finding them quickly.

Type “[Property Name], [City] TripAdvisor” into any Internet search engine and click Go. A link to the most recent reviews for that particular lodging will be at or near the top of the results list. (Pic above, right.) This method is *much* faster than starting out on TripAdvisor.com’s home page. Click on that link and explore the property’s reviews.

**Tip #6: After Finding an Accommodation with Positive TripAdvisor Reviews,  
Now is the Time to Visit the Property's Website**

Once on the property's website, look for answers to the questions below—and any *other* questions you may have. Prior to booking a room, Email the accommodation to ascertain answers not found on their website.

- Does the “free breakfast” room tariff include a hot, “Full Scottish breakfast,” or is there an extra charge for this amenity?

A few “Guest House” accommodations in major cities charge extra for a hot breakfast.

- What time is breakfast served?

If your itinerary requires heading out before the B&B's breakfast service, request a discounted room rate—one *without* breakfast included. If the proprietor is unable to adjust the rate, they'll often provide you with a packed breakfast to eat in your room or take away with you.

- Is high-speed WiFi with a **good signal guaranteed** in the room you are assigned?

Many B&B/Guesthouses, Hotels and Hostels, are located within older buildings. While this is marvelous—staying in an historic building is part of the enjoyment—the composition and thickness of ancient walls can interfere with a Wi-Fi signal that isn't boosted.

Happily, *most* accommodations have installed a booster to provide a good WiFi signal throughout the entire building. Being Internet-blinded at any time during your stay in Scotland can be inconvenient, as well as emotionally traumatic for some.

- If a major city centre accommodation touts “free parking” on their website, but doesn't specify *where* the parking is located, ask them to clarify. Is the free parking offered in a private lot on the lodging's property? Or, are they referring to parking space on the street nearby?

Especially within the cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, street-side parking may be reserved for those with a special permit. If metered, street-side parking may only be free on the weekend.

**Tip #7: Always Book Directly With the Hotel, B&B/Guesthouse, or Hostel—  
Not a Third Party Booking Service!**

There are innumerable third party hotel booking websites—aka Online Travel Agencies (OTAs)—such as Priceline, Booking.com, Orbitz, Hotels.com, Expedia, Travelocity, *et cetera, et cetera, ad infinitum*.

Beginning in 2014, even TripAdvisor jumped on the online booking business bandwagon by partnering with a few prominent OTAs. We actually like this TripAdvisor feature, but *not* for the purpose it was created—as you'll soon learn.

Below are just a *few* of the many reasons it is best to book directly with the Hotel, B&B/Guesthouse, or Hostel.

“According to the experts, hotels tend to save their best rooms in every price bracket for people who book with them direct. That's because they have to pay between 10 and 30 percent commission to booking sites [OTAs] for every reservation that comes through them—a big chunk of their income.

“However, if you book with the hotel direct, all of the payment goes to them. This means they are far more likely to be generous with [room assignments,] upgrades, WiFi, and all of the other add-ons.”

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/travel/3383916/why-you-should-never-book-a-hotel-room-through-a-third-party-website-if-you-want-a-good-view/>

“When hotels overbook—as they increasingly do—the guests who get thrown to the curb are often ones who paid via third-party online booking services such as Expedia and Hotels.com. That is because hotels prefer reservations booked directly with them, since such bookings aren’t subject to agent fees and help build loyalty with travelers.”

<http://www.startribune.com/why-third-party-hotel-bookings-can-be-bad/418565453/>

BTW: This caveat is not limited to accommodation booking in the UK or Europe.

**“Caution: Do not use 3rd party travel booking sites unless you enjoy throwing your hard earned money away! BONUS: [Directions for how] to get a refund on a non-refundable 3rd party reservation!**

“It’s rare I use third party booking travel sites (Expedia, Priceline, etc.) because I’ve been ‘burned’ too many times. Clearly, the stove wasn’t hot enough because I’m on fire again.

“**Here’s the scoop:** We (my husband, daughter and I) had an upcoming trip planned to Chicago the 1st week of June to attend a graduation. Naturally, I did the planning and booking for our hotel and rental car; this was back in January. Turns out, after 5 months, I cannot go on the trip after all, but my husband and daughter are still going as planned. ...

“Our FULLY PAID hotel and rental car reservations are in my name, booked through Priceline. Despite being married and having the same last name, neither the hotel, rental car company, or Priceline would allow me to transfer or modify the reservations into my husband’s name, nor would they refund us. ...

“Long story short, through a round-a-bout, discombobulated way Priceline did cancel and refund our hotel [(the author describes how she accomplished this feat)], but we had to take the car rental loss completely.

“Now, my husband has to search for a last minute, new hotel and rental car for travel during one of busiest weeks in Chicago.”

<https://www.serenaonthego.com/3rd-party-travel-booking-sites/>

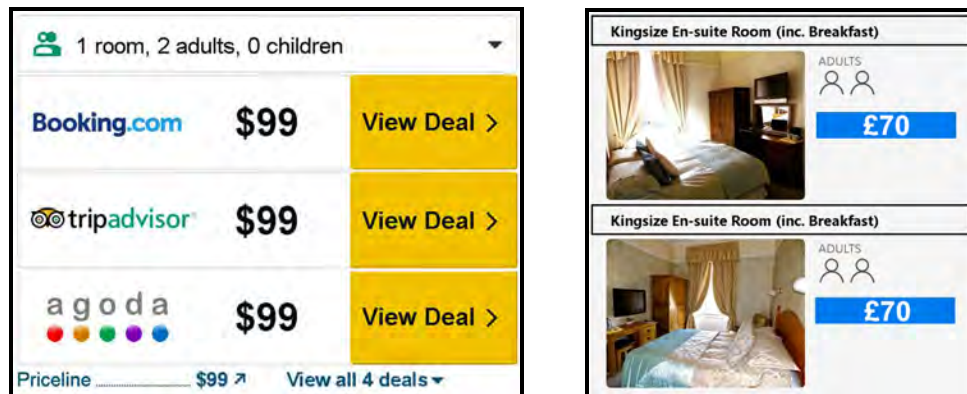
**Probably one of the most compelling reasons NOT to book your accommodation via an OTA:**

If there are any problems with the booking—*any* problems, including the lodging not having a record of your reservation—you have to go through the OTA to solve them. The Hotel, B&B/Guest House, or Hostel cannot access or alter an OTA booking. If the problem isn’t discovered until you’re at the lodging’s check in desk, you are out of luck ... maybe even out of a room!

**Here’s How to Safely Book any Room at the Best Price**

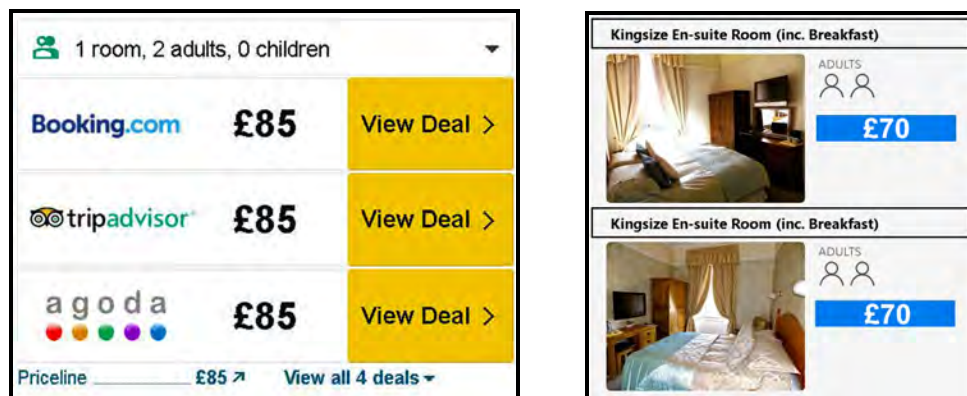
After checking a property’s reviews on TripAdvisor and finding them acceptable, go back to the top of the TripAdvisor page and note the OTA “deals” offered for lodging on the dates of your holiday.

In a separate window, go to the property’s website and check the rates *they* list for booking those same dates. Then, compare them. Below are example screenshots of what we found.



**Please Note:** To accurately compare available OTA deals with direct booking tariffs, you should change the TripAdvisor page **currency setting** to that used by the property’s website. The TripAdvisor deals above, for instance, are listed in U.S. Dollars, while the B&B’s website lists their tariff for the same dates in British Pounds.

Changing the “Currency/Region” displayed on the TripAdvisor page is easy. Go to the bottom right corner of the TripAdvisor page and select the correct currency. After doing that, we were able to accurately compare the OTA “deals” to the price actually charged by the B&B—as seen below.



In this particular instance, the OTA booking prices listed on TripAdvisor were *not* deals. Clearly, it was cheaper to book directly with the B&B.

Oftentimes, however, the OTA deals offered on TripAdvisor (and on other OTA websites) are quite tempting, because they are *less than* the prices found on the lodging’s website for the same dates. In those cases, it still is better to book directly with the Hotel, B&B/Guesthouse, or Hostel.

Almost 100% of the time, any type of lodging establishment will match the OTA deal offered, so that they don’t have to pay the OTA a booking commission. All you have to do is Email or call them, citing the OTA booking price, and asking them to offer the same “deal.”

## In Summary

- Tip #1: Book lodgings within Edinburgh or Glasgow *only* for the days you'll actually be *touring* the city. If you prefer to minimize the amount of moving required by periodically establishing a "Home Base," find an accommodation *outside* the city, in a village centrally located to places you'll be visiting on two or more consecutive days of your itinerary.
- Tip #2: Wherever you travel, your very best bet is to lodge at a place recommended by a friend or family member—or by *Outlandish Scotland Journey*.
- Tip #3: Consider the different types of lodgings available. You may want to vary the type of accommodations you book during your holiday.  
**Case In Point:** If visiting Inverness, *Outlandish Scotland Journey Site #13 is Culloden House Hotel*. Yes, it's expensive ... but, wouldn't it be fun to budget a splurge and stay in a Novel Location where Charles Edward Stuart—and *Herself* (Diana Gabaldon)—has stayed?!
- Tip #4: When searching for *any* type of accommodation in a major city, Visit Scotland's accommodation directory is a great place to start.  
TripAdvisor, however, is a better resource when initially searching for lodgings within small cities and villages.
- Tip #5: After finding a property that seems perfect for your needs, check the lodging's TripAdvisor reviews *before* going to its website.
- Tip #6: After finding an interesting accommodation with positive TripAdvisor reviews, visit the property's website.
- Tip #7: Always book directly with the Hotel, B&B/Guesthouse, or Hostel—*Not* a third party OTA.