**Hotels And Meal Plans**

*Overview*

According to the European hotel rating system there are **one-star** to **five-star** hotels.

There are also other rating systems in the world. Hotel rating is complex. The criteria include:the quality of food and beverages, the quality of rooms, hotel facilities and services and the location of the hotel.

There are different types of hotel buildings, too. **Low-rise hotels** are those with only one or two floors. **High-rise hotels** are those with many floors.

A group of hotels with the same owner is called a **hotel chain.** Some famous hotel chains are: Hilton Hotels, Marriott International, Intercontinental Hotel Group, Best Western, Global Hyatt.

**A boutique hotel** is a relatively small hotel which strives to be unique and to provide a personalized high –level service. Boutique hotels may have from 10 to around 100 rooms.

**An eco-lodge** is a type of accommodation where the building s are made of natural materials, everything is eco-friendly and employees are local people. Food is often produced in the garden that belongs to the hotel.

**HV1** and **HV2** are abbreviations for Holiday Village. These hotels consist of villas in the park and the central building with restaurants, pools and other facilities.

**Meal plan** is an arrangement for your meals at a hotel.

**Full board** is also called **American Plan**. It includes 3 meals: lunch, dinner and breakfast.

**Half board** is also called **Modified American Plan**. It includes two meals: breakfast and dinner.

**Room only** is also called **European Plan**. No meals are included.

**Bed and breakfast** is also called **Continental plan**. It includes breakfast only.

**French breakfast/continental breakfast** is light breakfast and includes croissants, butter, marmelade, coffee, orange juice.

**American breakfast is** heavy breakfast and includes hot and cold cereals, eggs, bacon, cold meats, fresh fruit, pancakes, coffee, tea, juices.

**English breakfast**  is heavy breakfast which contains eggs (poached, fried eggs, or scrambled), baked bean, sausages, bacon, mushrooms, grilled tomatoes, cheese, bread and toast with butter, beverages (tea, coffee, hot chocolate, milk).

**Buffet** is a type of serving meals where all food is displayed at large tables so that guests can choose what to eat.

**All inclusive** includes all three meals, snacks, a wide choice of beverages and sports activities. **Ultra all inclusive** includes all inclusive service plus imported alcoholic beverages and additional services like eating a la cartein hotel restaurants. **A la carte** is a type of serving meals where guests can choose items from the menu.

**Set menu** is a limited choice of dishes with two courses that guests can combine.

*Reading 1*

I Read the text about the differences between a boutique hotel and a chain hotel. Before you read match the words that you will find in the text with the explanation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. benefits | 1. place |
| 1. downsides | 1. make better |
| 1. loyalty program | 1. advantages |
| 1. venue | 1. benefits for regular clients |
| 1. upgrade | 1. cost of staying in a room |
| 1. room rate | 1. disadvantages |

**What are the Benefits of Boutique Hotels vs. Chain Hotels?**

There are some pretty **substantial** (**considerable)** differences between boutique hotels vs. chain hotels. Oftentimes, these can be seen in the benefits and service offerings. Location, facilities and amenities, and **venue** space also serve as the main differentiators. Here, we’ll show you the main **benefits** (and **downsides**) of boutique hotels vs. chain hotels.

**Benefits of boutique hotels**

Many boutique hotels are trending as travelers are seeking the authentic experience of living where they’re visiting. Lack of a lengthy corporate structure and guidelines allow boutique hotels to offer a personalized experience. Owners can change interiors or **upgrade** amenities when they see fit. Good boutique hotels also know how to take advantage of the surrounding area. This includes locally sourcing food from nearby providers, as well as other items like flowers, furniture, etc.

A boutique hotel can offer anywhere between 25 to over 100 rooms to its guests. This allows them to enjoy a more cozy experience that lacks the **vastness (enormous size)** of a chain hotel.

Travelers looking for a unique, one-of-a-kind stay are the most likely to benefit from a stay at a boutique hotel. Some boutique hotels may even be located in renovated homes or innovative, modern buildings. They can **feature (include as its characteristic)** trendy artwork, bands, music, or other unique amenities, too.

**Benefits of chain hotels**

Predictability can be a great **asset** when traveling. A chain hotel lets you know what to expect before you even check in, as we have all most likely stayed at one at one time or another. Chain hotels have multiple locations and can offer hotels nationally and internationally – they must be doing something right to have such **expansive business (widely spread)**.

Unfortunately, there is rarely a **loyalty program** for boutique hotels versus chain hotels. Just about every chain hotel offers miles or reward points that can offer benefits such as a free night, free meals, and other amenities. Staying at the same chain over and over can really add up, even if you travel to different cities.

[A chain hotel lets you know what to expect before you even check-in.](https://twitter.com/share?text=A+chain+hotel+lets+you+know+what+to+expect+before+you+even+check-in.&via=socialtables&related=socialtables&url=https://www.socialtables.com/blog/hospitality/boutique-hotels-vs-chain-hotels/)

Amenities also tend to be superior at a chain hotel. If you like having an Olympic sized swimming pool and full gym, a boutique hotel may not be for you. Those looking to hold an event can be assured a chain hotel is more **likely (probable)** to be able to handle your wedding, party, etc.

Business travelers can also benefit from a chain hotel. They can negotiate better **room rates** for employees who stay there often. Businesses can also get great deals when holding events and offering **attendees (people who take part in an event)** rooms.

The staff is similarly just as great as those at boutique hotels. However, chain hotels allow them to attract top hospitality talent by offering **generous** salaries, benefits, etc.

Boutique hotels vs. chain hotels: which would you choose?

One type of property is a good option for some, the other option is good for another, and some people like to mix options. Guests may like the standardized expectations of a chain whereas some may like the unexpected amenities of a boutique hotel. What both have in common is that both are a fine choice when it comes to having a solid guest experience.

*Reading 2*

Read the text about hotel meal plans. After reading answer the questions:

1. If you want to go sightseeing all day in Paris which meal plan would suit you?
2. If you want to relax at the hotel swimming pool all day what meal plan would suit you?
3. If you want to explore local cuisine and eat in local restaurants which meal plan would be the best for you?

**Understanding Hotel Meal Plans**

“You call yourself a traveler, do you? Say something interesting and intelligent about travel, then.” The language of hotels can sometimes sound like the code used by secret agents in a spy novel, with its many abbreviations and shortened terms, all hiding some sacred truth defining how you will be spending your long-awaited holidays. To help you have a successful “Operation Holiday,” let’s take apart the way hotels talk about how and what you eat during your stay.

RO

RO means “Room Only.” It’s a bit **deflating (disappointing)** in that you only pay for your room on booking, and no food is included in the price. This meal basis is common in hotels, hostels, and villas. It is ideal for people who don’t want to be limited to the hotel’s restaurant opening times for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

You can plan your day however you like without the risk of missing out on a meal that you have already paid for. You can either prepare your own food where you are staying or delegate that pleasure to the kitchen staff in the local restaurants and cafes.

BB

BB means Bed and Breakfast, which is the most common meal basis **encountered** **(seen, met)** in hotels. Breakfast is included in the room rate. There are two main types of breakfast: buffet and continental.

* Buffet breakfast is when a wide choice of hot and cold dishes, including cold cuts, cheese, sweets, and fruit, is displayed on tables and available for you to choose. You can eat as much as you like without limits.
* Continental breakfast comes in smaller portions and normally consists of toast, croissants, and coffee.

BB is best for those who aren’t morning people and don’t want to worry about preparing breakfast for themselves or having to choose somewhere to have breakfast served. You simply go to the dining room, and everything is done for you – all you need to do is eat it.

HB

Half Board is when both breakfast and evening meal are included in your room rate. Breakfast will normally include drinks (tea, coffee, juice, water), but this may not be the case for the evening meal. Drinks in the evening may cost several times more than what you could buy them for in the shops.

On the other hand, this meal plan is great for families with children or those on a special diet. You don’t have to worry about feeding yourself at the beginning and end of the day, but everything is according to strict restaurant opening times. You can have your lunch while you’re out sightseeing during the day.

FB

FB is short of Full Board and means that all three meals are included – breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This plan would suit those on a health trip and those who don’t want to move around much. As with half board, drinks are usually included at breakfast, and you have to pay extra at lunch and dinner.

HB+ and FB+

Some hotels offer **enhanced (improved)** versions of half and full board where they include some drinks at lunchtime and in the evenings. The drinks on offer and how much you are allowed to consume for the price you paid for the room will depend from hotel to hotel.

AI

All-inclusive will be familiar to those of you who often holiday in places like Turkey. It means that all meals are included as are all drinks, including locally produced alcoholic drinks. This is the kind of thing you will find in most of the resort hotels which resemble each other so closely wherever you go.They all have a similar set up: pools, beach, restaurants, bars and cafes all on site along with a fitness club, shops and much more – in short, they provide everything you could want for your holiday on the your doorstep so that you never need to leave the **hotel premises (hotel grounds, the area belonging to the hotel).** This kind of thing is ideal for those who simply want to laze about or for families with children, so that the younger travellers have something to keep them busy **from dawn till dusk (from morning till evening).**

UAI

Enhanced all-inclusive or Ultra all- inclusive is really just All Inclusive with a **wider range (wider choice)** of drinks, both alcoholic and **soft drinks** **(non-alcoholic drinks like fruit juices or fizzy drinks).**

So, now you know how to decode the secret language and you can choose your meal plan without making any mistakes. Dream, book, travel!