
Cheap hotels: budget accommodation for visits to London

The expansion of Asian hotel chain Tune into London has given expats planning a quick break in the capital more choice than ever. But what budget brands get the balance right - and can you really get more for less?

By Suzi Dixon

Published: 9:34AM BST 25 Oct 2010

1 [Comment](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/offshorefinance/8075776/Cheap-hotels-budget-accommodation-for-visits-to-London.html#disqus_thread) (http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/offshorefinance/8075776/Cheap-hotels-budget-accommodation-for-visits-to-London.html#disqus_thread)

TUNE

Asian brand Tune opened its first London hotel to great fanfare this summer and it is certainly off to a flying start. Operating at 99 per cent capacity already, you need to book in advance to secure a £35 room in this travellers' and MPs' outpost, but that's a rate rarely found elsewhere in the capital, even in the grotty B&Bs around Victoria I've patronised many a time.



A standard room at the first UK branch of 'no frills' Asian brand Tune

Related Articles

[A glimpse inside the restored Savoy](/expat/expatpicturegalleries/8061220/The-Savoy-in-London-a-glimpse-inside-the-restored-iconic-hotel.html) (/expat/expatpicturegalleries/8061220/The-Savoy-in-London-a-glimpse-inside-the-restored-iconic-hotel.html)

[Inside the Tune hotel, 'Westminster', London](/travel/hotels/7966244/Inside-the-Tune-hotel-Westminster-London.html) (/travel/hotels/7966244/Inside-the-Tune-hotel-Westminster-London.html)

[Finding the best-value accommodation](/travel/hotels/7975538/Travel-advice-finding-the-best-deals-on-accommodation.html) (/travel/hotels/7975538/Travel-advice-finding-the-best-deals-on-accommodation.html)

[Beat the Budget blues](/travel/columnists/7848891/Holiday-spending-How-to-beat-the-Budget-blues.html) (/travel/columnists/7848891/Holiday-spending-How-to-beat-the-Budget-blues.html)

[Budget rooms with a view](/travel/hotels/ukhotels/7480846/Britains-best-budget-hotels.html) (/travel/hotels/ukhotels/7480846/Britains-best-budget-hotels.html)

[Beauty spot: top beauty tips](/fashion/7859225/Beauty-spot-top-beauty-tips.html) (/fashion/7859225/Beauty-spot-top-beauty-tips.html)

The concept is you only pay for what you use. Your room rate includes a very comfy bed, a powerful shower and air conditioning. Towels are extra, £1.50. A hairdryer, £2. Television, £3 per day. It puts the customer in control of costs and, for a pre- or post-flight overnigher, it's refreshing to just get the basics.

It's close to Waterloo and an £8 cab ride from Victoria - useful for both the [Gatwick Express](http://www.gatwickexpress.com/) and [Eurostar](http://www.eurostar.com/). If you're travelling by tube, Lambeth North station is a stone's throw away, with handy lifts if you're laden down with luggage.

The reception is bright and airy, the staff polite and the hallways sparkling. Of course, it's a new hotel. But the well-thought out décor and hi-tech, card-swipe door locks are an early sign of high standards.

Yes, the bedrooms are small - you can walk round the bed but that's it, floorspace wise. Some of the rooms don't have windows, specified at the time of booking. Use of copious amounts of white paint and mirrors give the illusion of space so only the most claustrophobic couple would feel uncomfortable.

But the best part is that, once you've stayed once, you know what to expect. With 15 more Tune hotels due to open across the UK, it may well become the budget brand of choice for expats visiting home.

Factfile

Room rates vary from £30 up to £70 and up. Book now to secure a £40-£45 room in January, £35-£40 in February, and so on. Book online at <http://www.tunehotels.com> (<http://www.tunehotels.com>)

IBIS

Ibis Hotels are part of the French **Accor** (<http://www.accorhotels.com/>) family, Europe's largest hotels group. But how does their London Euston St Pancras branch cater for tourists from Europe and further afield?

It's hard to beat on location. You can walk from Kings Cross, Euston or Euston Square Tube, which makes it perfect for international travellers flying into Heathrow or taking the Eurostar to St Pancras.

The hotel has a global feel and you'll hear all sorts of languages during your stay. There are a few useful touches for expats. A currency exchange at reception. Lockers to charge mobiles (how often do you go on holiday to find you've forgotten your charger?). Breakfast served up until midday. Small things that make your stay so much easier.

There are two sections to the hotel and the newer rooms are fabulous, spacious and plush.

You may think of Ibis Hotels as a "no-frills" chain. But in my experience, there were plenty of frills, lots of innovative ideas and service worthy of a hotel twice the price.

Factfile

Book at least 30 days in advance for Ibis Hotels "Happy 30" offer and receive 30 per cent off the usual room price. Rooms available across London from £53 per room per night: Ibis London Euston St Pancras from £82 per room per night. Book online at <http://www.ibishotel.com> (<http://www.ibishotel.com>)

TRAVELODGE

Travelodge was the first UK low-cost hotel chain to launch in the UK in 1985 and it's still the brand of choice for no-fuss family accommodation.

Expats flying into London may like to try the Waterloo branch, which is convenient from the Eurostar and easily accessible from Victoria, where the Gatwick Express finishes. It's also only eight miles from **London City airport** (<http://www.londoncityairport.com/>) .

It's a far cry from the motorway-side Travelodges of my childhood, with a lively bar, self-check-in computers and bright, airy rooms. Expats staying for any length of time can walk to popular attractions such as the London Eye, Tate Modern and Imperial War Museum.

The hotel gets very busy and is noisy on occasion, and prices do go up to £89.50-£91.70 if you don't book in advance.

But if you can secure a £29 room, even cheaper than Tune, you'll truly be getting a bargain. Whether you've used Travelodge in the past, or are a new customer, expect your expectations to be exceeded.

Factfile

Travelodge's famed £19 and £29 room sales take place regularly - this month, 10,000 £19 rooms were released for half-term. To get the best deals, book at least 21 days ahead. Book **online** (<http://www.travelodge.co.uk>) to find a £29 room at London Waterloo in December or January (you can view the calendar at http://www.travelodge.co.uk/saver_rooms/) (http://www.travelodge.co.uk/saver_rooms/)

BEST OF THE REST

More London hotels for less than £100 per room per night.

Novotel

Novotel Hotels are ideal for families and there are some great deals at airport hotels. For example, book a last-minute deal at **Novotel London Heathrow Airport** (<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1551-novotel-london-heathrow-airport/index.shtml>) and get rooms from £49. Perfect for making those early-morning or late-night flights home just a bit more manageable.

<http://www.novotel.com> (<http://www.novotel.com>)

LateRooms

LateRooms.com is a great website for short-notice and same-day hotel bookings. It covers a wide range of London hotels, from family-run B&Bs to larger hotel chains. Current bargains include **The Wimbledon Hotel** (http://www.laterooms.com/en/p8404/pv181046/hotel-reservations/98248_the-wimbledon-hotel-wimbledon-london.aspx), a four-star design hotel close to the high street, from £75 per room per night. Another four-star bargain, a little further out, is the **Croydon Park Hotel** (http://www.laterooms.com/en/p8404/pv181046/hotel-reservations/87447_croydon-park-hotel-croydon-nr-london.aspx), from £60 per room per night. If you are flying into Luton or Gatwick, an express train will take you to Kings Cross, where the **Macdonald Hotel** (http://www.laterooms.com/en/p8404/pv181046/hotel-reservations/7420_macdonald-hotel-london.aspx) starts from just £60 per room per night.

www.laterooms.com (<http://www.laterooms.com>)

Park Plaza

Park Plaza have some really luxurious London rooms on special offer. **The Park Plaza Victoria** (<http://www.parkplaza.com/london-hotel-gb-sw1v-1eq/gbvictor>) is ideal for expats, five-minutes' walk from the Gatwick Express train. The best available room rate is currently from £99 for weekends or £149 midweek.

www.parkplaza.com (<http://www.parkplaza.com>)

RELATED PARTNERS

Expert taxation, pension & investment advice when moving abroad (<http://www.expatswealth.telegraph.co.uk/>)

Save money on your international currency transfers (http://www.foreignexchange.telegraph.co.uk/?utm_source=tmg&utm_medium=relatdarticle&utm_campaign=moneycorp)

1 comments

Add a comment

Comment with a Telegraph account

Login (<https://auth.telegraph.co.uk/sam-ui/login.htm?logintype=communities&redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/offshorefinance/8075776/Cheap-hotels-budget-accommodation-for-visits-to-London.html>) | Register with the Telegraph (<https://auth.telegraph.co.uk/sam-ui/registration.htm?logintype=communities&redirectTo=http%3A%2F%2Fmy.telegraph.co.uk%2F%3FnI%3Dtrue%26variant%3D1>)

Alternatively...

Comment with one of your accounts



Showing 1 comments

Order by

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (#)

Follow with email (#) Follow with RSS

(http://telegraphuk.disqus.com/cheap_hotels_budget_accommodation_for_visits_to_london/latest.rss)



Jackthesmilingblack

5 minutes ago

Who would want to go to London of their own volition at those prices. And the people you have to rub shoulders with. Makes \$10-15 for the room in a range of Southeast Asian cities look a steal. Even in Japan the "Super Hotel" chain will more than match those prices, with no add-ons.

[Report \(#\)](#) [Recommend \(#\)](#)

Trackback URL

blog comments powered by **DISQUS** (<http://disqus.com>)

© Copyright of Telegraph Media Group Limited 2010