

THE TIMES



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Chic and cheap city breaks

How to get the best out of Europe pages 46-47

Twenty stylish European city breaks on the cheap



Good impression This stylish and popular hotel in Amsterdam is the city's second citizen

Cosmopolitan breaks can still be done on a budget, if you know where to look. From Paris to Brussels, we round up the best places to stay for under £50pp

Paris Bed and Breakfast

Quai Branly, 7th arrondissement
€95 for two
You don't get much better views than this, lying in bed and looking out on to the Eiffel Tower, which is only a minute's walk away. This first-floor B&B has a shared bathroom.
Details Alcove & Agapes (00 331 44 85 06 05, www.bed-and-breakfast-in-paris.com)

Hotel de Nesle

7 rue de Nesle, 6th
From €75 for two
It's fabulously kitsch in this hotel, owned by a former hippy whose son has painted murals in the 20 rooms. Now, the hotel is more hip than hippy. The Molière room has a chaise longue, candelabra and a bed behind a velvet curtain. One room has its own steam room, but not all have private bathrooms. If you want something a bit different and full of character, this is the place.
Details 00 331 43 54 62 41, www.hoteldenesleparis.com

Mama Shelter

109 rue de Banolet, 20th
Doubles from €89
Hear the phrase "designed by Philippe Starck" and it sounds expensive. But Mama Shelter, which opened with 172 rooms last year, proves you can have chic and cheap. In the east of Paris by the Pere Lachaise cemetery, it is a bit of a design statement, with concrete walls, bedside lights made from torches and masks, and quotations scrawled on the dining room ceiling. But rooms, with kitchenettes, are sleek and modern.
Details 00 331 43 48 48 48, www.mamashelter.com

Property 405123

Bourse, 2nd
From €80
Self-catering in the centre of Paris staying in this one bedroom apartment ten minutes' walk from the top tourist sites — the Louvre, Notre Dame and the Seine. It's just been kitted out in dark modern furniture, with a well-equipped kitchenette opening on to the living room where you can squeeze two more on to the sofa bed — which makes for a really cheap break when you split the cost. Minimum stay three nights.
Details 00 331 45 08 97 67, www.holiday-rentals.co.uk

Brussels

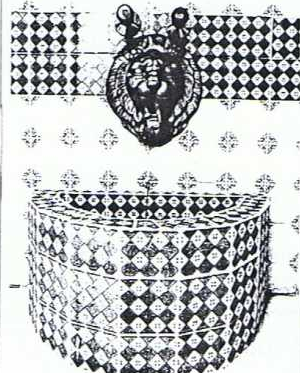
La Casa BXL
116 rue du Marché au Charbon
€76 for two
In the perfect spot for sightseeing and nightlife in the trendy, central St Jacques district. The only snag is the walk up to the third floor with your luggage to this stylish two-room B&B. The rooms each have double beds, en suite shower rooms, polished wood floors and are decorated with contemporary art and Arabian-style furniture.
Details 00 32 4 7529 0721, www.lacasabxl.com

L'Art de la Fugue

38 rue de Suede
From €96 for two
In a quiet street handy placed for the Eurostar and an easy walk from the historic centre. The three guest rooms are whimsically named Farinelli (canopied bed, chandelier and "opera red" walls), Indochine (with Far Eastern antiques) and Lawrence of Arabia (on two floors with a double and two single beds and African masks).
Details 00 32 47869 5944, www.lartdelafugue.com

Dublin

COMPTON DOWNS 443
Rathmines
€450 for four staying two nights
With stunning views over the Dublin skyline and sur-



All steamed up Le Hammam at Hôtel de Nesle in Paris is a room with its own steam room

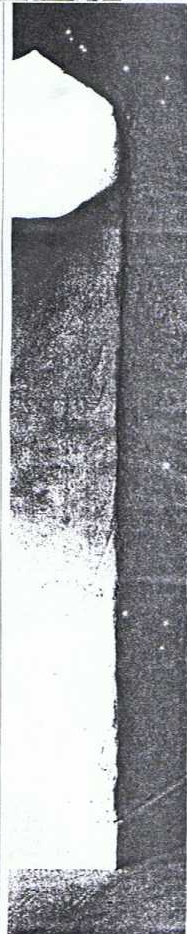
rounding mountains, this top-floor self-catering apartment comes with all the goodies. The downside is that it is about 3km from the city centre, five minutes on the tram. There are two bedrooms, one double, one twin.
Details 00 3531 497 2693, www.aiscoverireland.ie

Baggot Court Guesthouse

92 Lower Baggot Street
B&B doubles from €59
In the heart of Georgian Dublin, home to the Lord Mayor of the city in 1844, now a townhouse B&B with 17 rooms of varying sizes. Recommended for its handy location, it is a few minutes' walk from St Stephens Green and Merrion Square. Stay two nights and a ticket for the hop on, hop off Dublin City Sightseeing Tour is included.
Details 00 3531 661 2819, www.baggotcourt.com

Trinity Capital Hotel

Pearse Street
Doubles from €80
Recently refurbished, modern three-star-plus hotel located between Trinity College and the Liffey. Your room



Staying in style The trendy Royal Windsor Hotel in Brussels attracts moveed hipsters — but it offers budget rooms too

“If you want something a bit different and full of character, this is it”