

# Hostels: Not so hostile

“Hostelers become caring world citizens who are catalysts for intercultural exchange and understanding, and stewards of the earth.”

-Hosteling International USA,  
Gateway council

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J9R8nDIFW\\_A&feature=BFa&list=PL7BF0AE7804E7A35F&index=1](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J9R8nDIFW_A&feature=BFa&list=PL7BF0AE7804E7A35F&index=1)

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# Background

- Hostels started in 1909 by Richard Schirman<sup>1</sup>
- Purpose:
  - “To provide affordable housing to travelers around the world”<sup>2</sup>
  - Education
- Less amenities
  - Dorm style living

1)American Youth Hostels. 1979. Hosteling USA: the official American Youth Hostels handbook. Charlotte: Fast & Macmillan publishers.

2)<http://www.moonlightramble.org/council/>





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# Research Questions

- What are peoples perceptions of Hostels?
- Are these perceptions accurate?

# Methods

- Background research
- Surveys
- Interviews
- Attempted participant observation

# Survey results

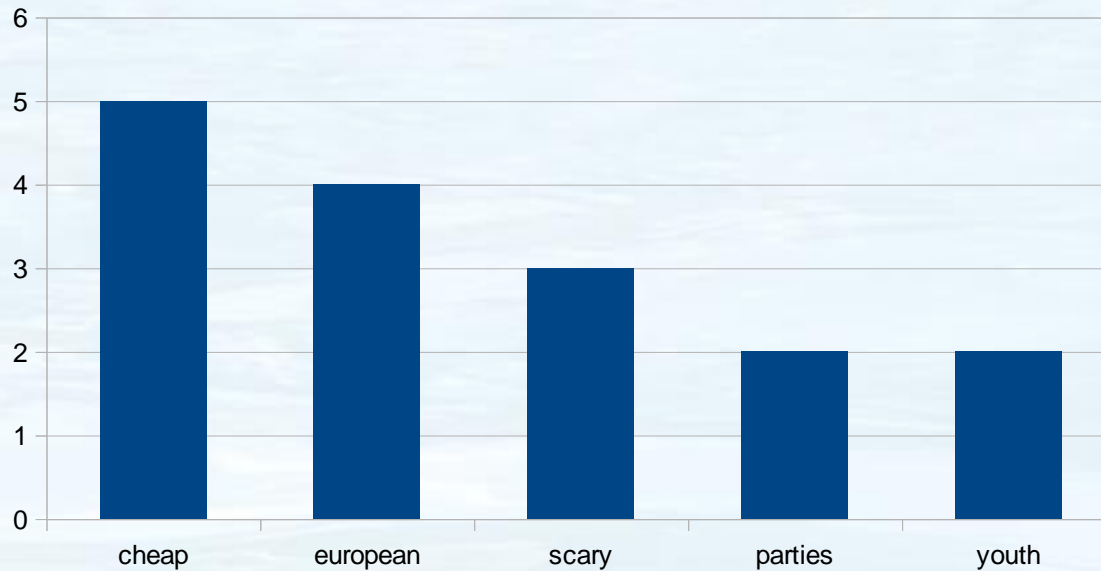
- 18 respondents
- 13 people have not stayed in hostel
- 5 have stayed in hostel



People who have not  
stayed in a hostel



Give 3 words that you think of when you hear the word “hostel”:



Other words given:

Danger, Strangers, Crowded, Dorm, Death

# Survey cont.

- What factors have prevented you from staying in a hostel?
  - 5- never been overseas
- Would you ever consider staying in a hostel? Why or why not?
  - 10-yes
  - 3 - no

People who have  
stayed in a hostel



Give 3 words that you think of when you hear the word “hostel”

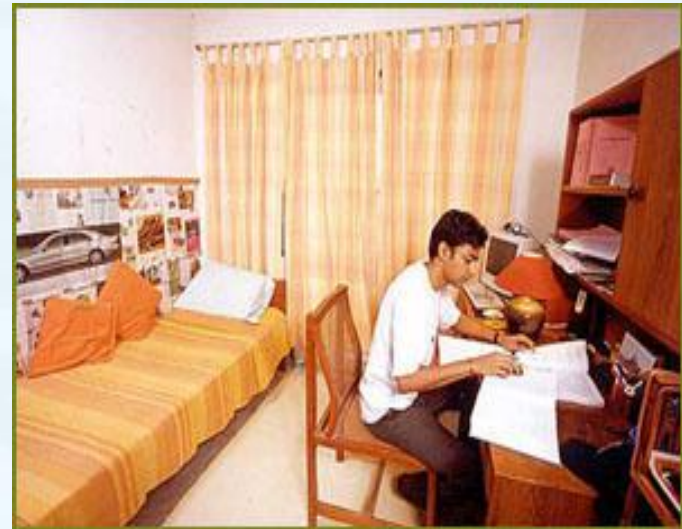
- Cheap
- Social
- Easy

What do you consider the benefits of staying in a hostel over a hotel/other vacation residence?

- easier to meet people so they are great if you are traveling on your own, cheaper
- They provide more activities, guided tours

# Misconceptions of hostels

- Share rooms with a ton of people
- Some hostels have private rooms





# Misconceptions of hostels

- Only for young people

“Elder” hostels  
Families



# Misconceptions of hostels

- Cheap with no amenities

Price usually includes breakfast

Most have restaurants or bars

Travel counter to help with booking tickets





# Misconceptions of hostels

Hostels are dirty



Hosteling  
International







# Benefits of Hosteling

- Cheap
  - Hostels range anywhere from \$15-30 a night
- Social
  - Great way to meet people when traveling
- Location
  - Usually near transportation and activities
  - Unique or historic buildings



# Pigeon Point Lighthouse Hostel, California





# Rogart Independent Hostel, Scotland



# Hostel Celica, Slovenia



Renovated prison cell



# Jumbo Hostel, Stockholm

