

Independent Traveler Infos # 08 TGAC

Private Rooms, Pensions, Inns and Vacation Apartments in Germany – from moneysavers to exclusive luxury accomodation: Especially for individual travelers, families and small groups, Pensions, Inns, Private Rooms or Vacation Apartments are a worth-wile alternate to regular Hotels in Germany. A Pension or boarding-house (Pension) is kind of homely family-run hotel. Inn or Guesthouse (Gasthaus) is mostly a combination of a family-run restaurant and a small hotel – often to be found in small towns and villages off the beaten tourist track. An insider tip especially for couples and families, who want to stay more than one or two nights at one place, are private Vacation Apartments. Regarding the quality and prices, there is the entire range available from very basic moneysaver Private Rooms over farmhouse accomodation to high-class luxurious apartments in romantic historic castles. Pensions, Inns, Private Rooms and Vacation Apartments have one characteristic in common: very few rooms and therefore a limited capacity and availability especially during high season. But what's an exclusion criterion for larger groups, is an advantage for independent travelers and small groups: exclusivity, more relaxation, the personal attention of the host (Gastgeber) and great deals on the price compared to regular Hotels. As an example, average prices for an overnight stay in and around Thuringia's capital Erfurt range from 40 Euros to 60 Euros per night for a double room in Pensions/Inns and from 35 Euros to 50 Euros per night for a double room in Private Rooms – mostly breakfast is included! Vacation Apartments can usually house between 2 and 8 people and charge per night. They have a kitchen with a fridge, microwave and/or oven and a dining area. Self-catering is a great moneysaver particularly for families with children and with the benefit of a much more private ambience. Even romantic Vacation Apartments in historic castles are not necessarily very expensive, but they are very much in demand – and mostly booked by German leisure travelers who are familiar with the destination. Those places can be hard to find for foreigners or to book from abroad. It can be both a language problem or an issue of accessibility. Helpful are the local Tourist Information Centres, which can be mostly contacted online and in english – at least in larger towns and cities. Alternatively you can rely on the expertise of The German American Connection and take advantage of our **Individual Travel Service**.

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