

PAYING GUEST VS HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

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HOSTELS

There is good and bad in every situation and the same holds true for hostels. While some may exude a comfortable image, some factors can be a nuisance. Nevertheless, let us focus on the good stuff first and then pinpoint the aspects that you have to keep in mind.

FACILITIES

Most hostels offer a package that includes room and board, food, utilities, and some extra facilities such as Wi-Fi, access to a games room, telephone and cable services, etc. This means less haggle and more convenience in most cases as you are sure of what you are going to get in return for what you are paying. However, not all hostels are as well-equipped and some may not provide adequate access to required facilities, which means that you have to be careful when choosing. As a paying guest living in someone else's home, you may need to tell your landlord which facilities you need. If they are not willing to provide them, you may either have to compromise or spend extra to provide them for yourself.

RELIABILITY

If the Wi-Fi is not working or if you have a runny tap, your landlord in a paying guest arrangement may not be able to attend to it immediately and may stall, especially if they are lazy. However, as hostels are commercial facilities and are catering to a number of tenants, the management there is likely to be much quicker in this regard. Therefore, you can count on more reliable services in hostels. However, exceptions do exist. Some landlords are even more efficient and responsive than hostel managers.

COMPANY

If you agree with the idiom, it is not about the food, it is about the company, then you will understand the importance of living with people your own age. You are likely to meet some cool people while living in a hostel facility and this can lead to everlasting friendships. However, there is no hard and fast rule. There is also the likelihood of meeting some particularly annoying individuals that you would prefer staying away. It all depends on what you do and how lucky or unlucky you are. So how cool are paying guest arrangements in comparison?

ECONOMY

Why spend a buck when you can spend a penny? Even if you are not a tightwad, you would probably be concerned about the amount of money you are spending on accommodation. On average, an adequate hostel facility charges approximately PKR 7,500 per month and they can be because they are catering to a large number of people. Usually, paying guest arrangements are slightly more expensive but then it does all come down to where you live, what they are offering you, and how generous your landlord is.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

PAYING GUEST ARRANGEMENTS

Paying guest arrangements can be super awesome but there are some aspects where things can go terribly wrong. Let us check out what they have to offer.

PRIVACY

If you love having your own room, being a paying guest is probably the best choice. While some hostels also offer individual rooms, this arrangement is most easily found as a paying guest. Hence, whether you want to watch a chick flick on your laptop or want to dance around your room, you are probably good to go. However, if your landlord is a nosy person who insists on peeping into your room from time to time to give you unwanted advice, then you have a problem.

RESTRICTIONS

Some hostels may have rules and restrictions about what can and cannot be. Yet, some landlords are not very uptight and may not inflict a curfew upon you. They may also allow you to invite people over during reasonable hours. This can be very accommodating but then again, some landlords may be very specific about what is allowed and what is a complete no go! That may mean no visitors, lights out at 10, and absolutely no noise after 12.

FAMILY TREATMENT

Having a home away from home is endearing and you may find a second family in your landlords. While this may be comforting at times, it can also get annoying if your landlords start putting restrictions on you as they do with their own children. Ouch!

BETTER FOOD

Some hostels may have magical cooks but this is unlikely in most circumstances. If you are living in a hostel, you might have to make do with an average cook or try to be a magical cook yourself. In addition, if you spend an hour trying to chop onions, this can be problematic. If your landlord is a good cook and likes variety, you may be treated to better food as a paying guest. However, if they are horrible cooks and sometimes choose not to cook altogether, then you may also have to starve.

There you go! Now decide for yourself and when you do, remember to consider the points that most matter to you. After that, it is all about luck and circumstances.

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