

Choosing the Room

Cheap guesthouse rooms do not differ too much from each other and good price/quality-ratio is always valued among the traveling kind. But even at the most basic cave one should always consider these points before paying for the night.

- **Locks.** Are you able to lock the door properly? If not, can you use your own padlock on it? Yes, if you carry your own Abloy and the door has mountings, it's a good option to use your own lock. At the shadier digs, screw your own mountings on the door and the lintel.
- **Locking the windows.** If there is a hole in the wall, are you able to shut it?
- **Electricity, lights, fan.** Make sure they work. Of course, electricity is not always a must.
- **Insects.** Do you see mosquitoes or other insects flying or squashed on the wall in large numbers? Does the room come with a Mosquito net or a place to hang your own net? Is the mattress stained with killed insects – read more about small bedbugs in the chapter **Health**.
- **Bed.** Can you sit on it without breaking it down? Is it even reasonably comfortable? Does it creak so bloody much that you will wake even yourself up if you move during the night? Is the mattress unreasonably filthy? In any case, we recommend using your own lungi or spreading the sleeping bag on the bed, if the sheets don't look clean.
- **Location.** Does the window give to the street? Is the room on the street level? Is there a popular drinking hole located downstairs? Even if the street seems quiet during daytime, unexpected ruckus and hullabaloo may begin at 5 AM.
- **Toilet and shower.** If you should have such luck as to have your own bathroom, does it mean that actual water comes out of the faucets? If you are charged for hot water, the shower better work. Is the toilet functioning? Same points apply to the communal toilets and showers.

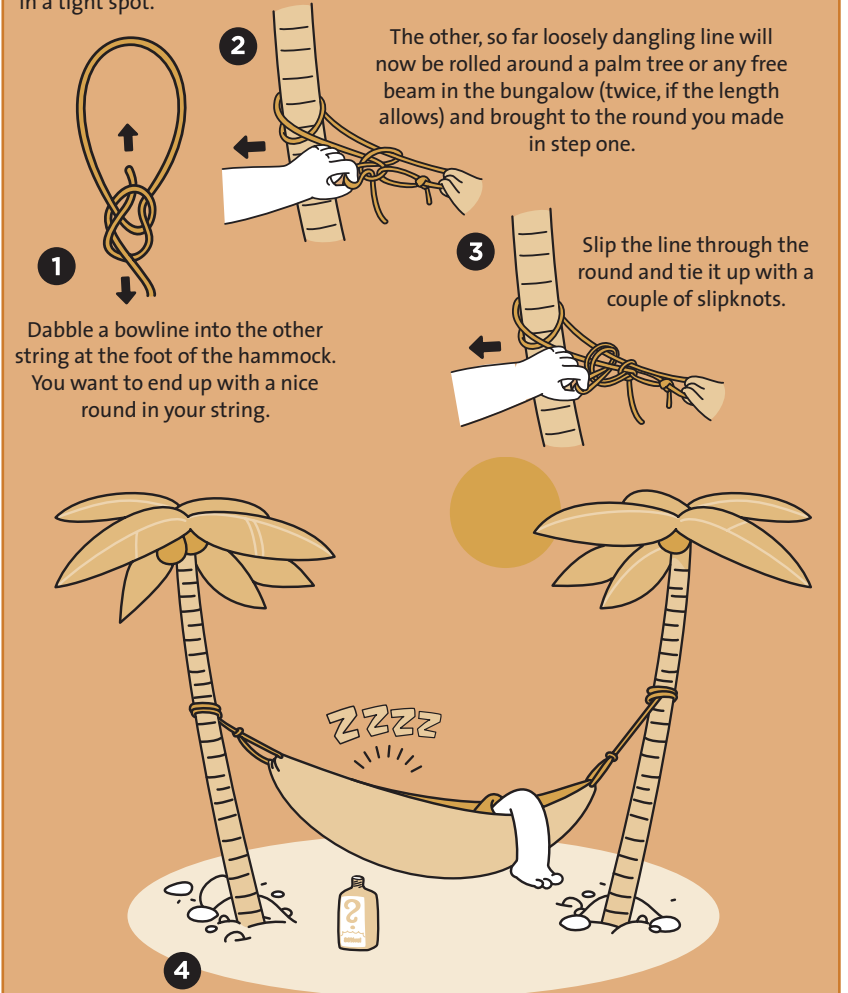
Cheapest option of the guesthouse rooms is the *dormitory*, also known as communal accommodation. You can find these at some guesthouses and hostels. Interview residents to find out the conditions. The most important thing in a dormitory is to have a lockable place of your own, a locker or luggage storage. Lonely traveler can always count on finding company in the dorms and the spirit of togetherness can be absolutely great.

In the countryside you are most likely to stay in a village guesthouse, a room rented from some local's home or your own bungalow. When you rent these cottages and shacks, consider these points:

- If the area is known to have bugs, inspect the holes in the bungalow mosquito net or choose a place where you can attach your own net.
- Bathroom and toilets lure the insects. Do you really need to have those facilities in your accommodation? The ones in communal use are hygienic enough.
- If the bungalow has electricity for at least the part of the day, do the sockets and the possible fan actually function?
- Can you lock up the shack? Don't let the opportunity make a thief, even if leaning into them can breach the walls of your room.
- And the most important thing of all: is the porch large enough for chillaxation in the comfortable manner: does it have room for your hammock?

How to Attach the Hammock

Don't mock the hammock. It is the best friend of the independent traveler. Attach it to a palm tree or a bungalow in a way that is easy to sever in case of the quick migration. Trust us, you don't want to fight those overhand knots with a Leatherman or a lighter in a tight spot.



The other, so far loosely dangling line will now be rolled around a palm tree or any free beam in the bungalow (twice, if the length allows) and brought to the round you made in step one.

Dabble a bowline into the other string at the foot of the hammock. You want to end up with a nice round in your string.

Slip the line through the round and tie it up with a couple of slipknots.

Carefully place your carcass on the hammock to tighten the knots. Start slowly by proceeding to recline for only 1–2 weeks at first. Remember to eat every once in a while.