

Breakfast without the bed! (aka Good morning, would you like some free breakfast?) -xacrox

Most hotels, inns, and motels have free breakfast in the mornings. Usually from 6am-10am (call them first to verify!). Most of the time the day staff is different from the night staff. So they have no idea who came in the night before. Usually it is just kids anyway who don't care and probably get paid minimum wage. The best hotels to do this at are mid-quality hotels (super 8, la quinta, ramada, quality inn, etc.). These places are usually better because the rooms are detached from the actual lobby instead of being a part of the lobby. Hotels like Hilton may get suspicious if you are coming from off the street for breakfast when the rooms are a part of the same building. But if you think you are suave enough, go for it. Basically, I would try to dress conservative enough to pass as a tourist or traveler. Avoid patches, excessive dirt, general awesomeness, etc. Then, just walk into where they have the free breakfast. The lobby is usually where they have it. But they may have it in a different area. Again you can always call and ask where it is, and start grabbing food. They are usually all you can eat, but be careful not to be too gluttonous....

Easy Living on the Road!*

(aka: A bunch of stuff you can do at hotels while you are on the road!*)

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***For informational purposes only!**

I need my internet! -xacrox

IF YOU HAVE A COMPUTER.

If you don't know this already and you have a portable computer/laptop with a wi-fi card. Most businesses offer free wi-fi now-a-days. Cafes/coffee shops are always a good source of free internet. Some cafes require you to purchase a coffee in able to use the internet. But most places just offer it for free in hopes that you will buy something. You still may need to ask for a password...

If you are vegan, some of the places don't have much to offer. But you should be able to at least grab free coffee, tea, orange juice, apple juice, etc. Most places also have peanut butter, jelly, and bread/bagels. So PB&J's are where it is at! Some nicer places offer soy milk for cold cereal, you can also find hot cereal that is vegan at some of these places. You'll usually have to make it yourself, but they provide the free hot water (luxurious I know).

For the non-vegan's, you should go vegan, but you shouldn't have a problem. Mostly everything they serve at these places is ovo-lacto vegetarian, because they want to keep it cheap (ie: Pancakes, Muffins, Waffles, Cold cereal, etc.). I wouldn't visit the same place more than twice in the same month to be safe. I'd say eat there 1-3 days in a row, then move to the next hotel.

Repeat, ad infinitum.

I'm sick of sleeping outside! -xacrox

Sometimes when you are on the road or a tour, and you can't find a place to crash, and the weather is miserable, and you are sick of sleeping in the van, and you just want to find a place to stay. You don't really care about spending money on a nice warm hotel bed & hot shower. If you want to sleep in a hotel for free, you're pretty much screwed as I haven't yet found a good way, without just sneaking in through a door/window which was left open by a maid/guest (although this is rare, and will probably never happen for you) or lifting some of the keys from the front desk (they usually notice when keys go missing, and will probably go investigate.) You'd also have to determine the room wasn't occupied. I also wouldn't know what you would do to avoid being walked in on by someone renting the room for the night or a member of the staff. I guess just be like "WTF! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? GET OUT OF MY ROOM!".

Then Run like hell! This is more of a way of getting cheap hotel rooms for multiple people. Hotels tend to charge more for multiple people, and multiple beds. So, you will need one conservative looking friend to go in and ask for a 1 bed hotel room for himself for the night. Then have everyone chip in and sleep on the floor and share the bed. You will all have to sneak in later. Just keep quiet, don't be stupid, and leave early or sneak everyone out in the morning. You should all still go get free breakfast. Why the hell not? Just be careful of letting the staff see multiple people entering/exiting the room. Best hotels/motels to do this at are ones with the rooms on the outskirts. It would be pretty hard to explain who all the people are that are heading up to your room (and do you really need a high class hotel, who the hell do you think you are?).

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A COMPUTER?

There are also many places that will simply let you use their computers. Some may require you to sign-up. Others will simply let you just log on. Your best bet are libraries, but I have also seen computers you can use in computer stores, coffee shops, and hotels. I know the apple store will basically let you use the computers for anything. You can edit a full length film, and they will help you, because they want you to experience their computers so you will buy them. For the hotels they usually have them in the lobby.

Just do some snooping. If all else fails, if you see a computer, just get on, do what you need to do, and apologize and say you thought it was for customer/guest use, if you get caught.

EASY WAYS TO GET THINGS:

If you do some snooping around a hotel, motel, or where ever. You may be able to find an unlocked gym room. Sometimes the gym rooms will have clean towels sitting to the side to wipe yourself off while working out. Just open the door, take the towels. Put them in your bag & off you go. You may also be able to find an open maid/laundry room. Inside you can find all sorts of items. You could easily go home with new bed sheets, towels, wash clothes, cups, plates, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, and even coffee. The things hotels give away for free to each guest is insane. Your best bet may be to go during normal maid hours. Just keep an eye out for cameras, maids, guests, another staff member for something you need. Usually smaller items only, like soap, towels, etc.

HARDER WAYS TO GET THINGS:

The cute factor. As bad as it sounds. I have seen it work like a charm a number of times. Sticking your hands in your back pockets and flirting like hell can get you many things. This may take practice. But here is a perfect opportunity to try it out, see what happens and maybe get some small things out of it. Hey you may even start a real relationship, you never know. Try it in the future for even grander things. Just don't be a jerk.

Lets go swimming! -xacrox

Hate those hot summers? Why not go for a swim? Most hotels, inns, motels, and apartments offer free swimming pools to their guests & tenants. Mid-grade hotels are the best to go swimming without drawing the most attention to yourself. Occasionally they will be unlocked and you can just go in and start swimming. Another option is wait for someone to open the locked gate/door or ask another person who is in the pool area if they can open it for you (if they ask why, make up a reason. i.e. "I left the key in my room & don't want to go back up there" "My buddy/partner went to the store & took the key and I was just wanting to go swimming while s/he was out.").

I HATE SWIMMING WITH STRANGERS!

Not a fan of swimming with others? Often times, hotels will have their pools open late and/or 24 hours a day. Apartments usually don't want tenants out in the pool past a certain area, but depending on the area you may be able to get away with it. How? Simple, hop the fence, open the gate for your friends (I thought you didn't like swimming with others?)...

Try to keep quiet and not excessively loud. Just know, this is the easiest of the ways to draw attention to yourself and get caught. Actual Tenants, managers, and owners will sometimes get angry and call the police. So be prepared to either run, or possibly get a ticket. Most cops will let it slide unless they are in a bad mood. I doubt anyone would be going to jail (unless they had a warrant). But it's always best to be prepared for it. I recommend the first way.

OK, I AM WET NOW WHAT DO I DO?

See "Free Bed, Bath... and Beyond!" section.

Ice Ice Baby! -xacrox

Pretty simple, most hotels, motels, and inns have ice machines on the outside. Just go up, look around (only because they don't like you filling up coolers and such for "off property consumption"), and fill up your cooler, bag, bucket or other ice carrying device.

Free Bed, Bath... and Beyond! -xacrox

Most hotels, inns, motels, etc. have basic items which can easily be acquired with minimal skill and/or wit. For example if you are in need of a towel after your free trip to the swimming pool. Then you can easily go into hotels, even higher end ones and get the items you need.