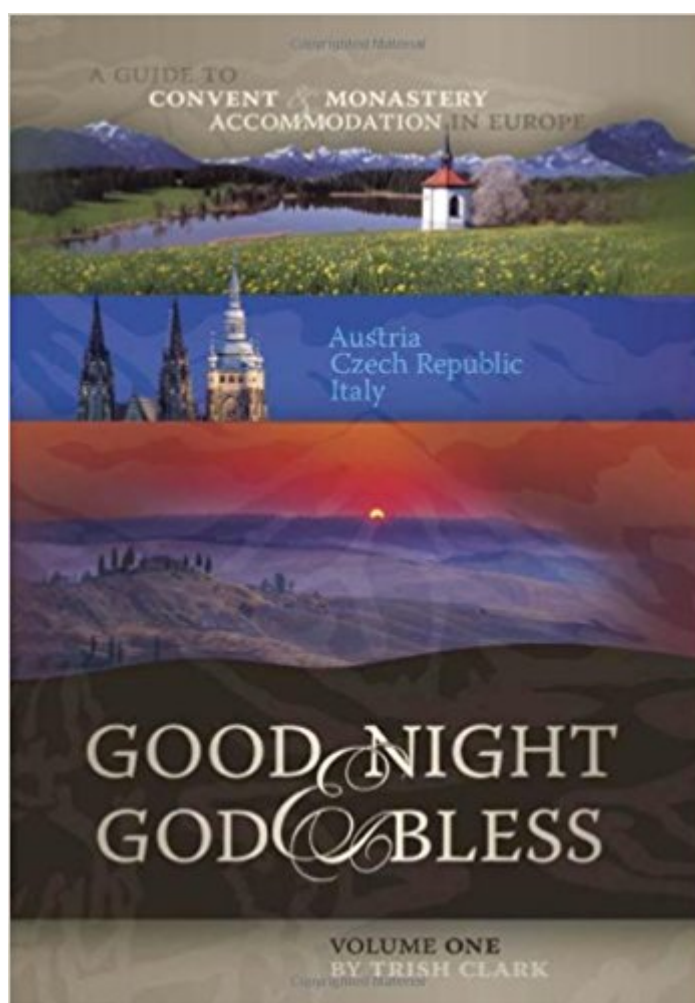


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Good Night And God Bless: A Guide To Convent & Monastery Accommodation In Europe: Austria, Czech Republic, Italy



Synopsis

Ever Slept in a Bishop's Bedchamber? Good Night and God Bless is the modern traveler's Bible. This unique guide lists details of atmospheric and affordable accommodation in convents, monasteries, abbeys and Christian hotels across Europe. It is aimed at tourists and travelers seeking a unique experience as well as those pursuing a pilgrimage or religious retreat. Most of these alternative accommodations are run by various mainstream Christian religious denominations. Religious orders have traditionally offered hospitality as part of their ministry and a bed and a bite to eat was provided for the cost of a donation. However, these days offering hospitality has become a means of survival. Taking in overnight guests is a practical way for religious orders to raise revenue and a cheap, safe, clean and often well-located accommodation option for travelers. The book appeals not only for its quirky, eye catching, pick me up title but equally and more importantly for its very concept. It is an informal and user-friendly travel guide which brings together tantalizing cultural tidbits and tourist trivia amidst the popular and sometimes controversial, but always fascinating, backdrop of history and religion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Trish Clark is the former owner and manager of a highly successful travel marketing business in Australia. She has traveled extensively, including to Europe, Asia and the USA. She has stayed in many convents and monasteries in Europe over the years, and continues to do so. She has five adult children and lives in Sydney with her husband.

The print is very small and hard to read. Organizations is difficult. I probably bought for the wrong reason because I wanted info about Monasteries to stay at them. That information is probably in there but it is difficult to find.

it's a very well made book - almost like a child's board book but the info is easily and IMO better obtained on the web, of course this is a good reference book and I truly like the author (don't know her) as I read about her so that being said, it's ok, but rather expensive and i could have found out most of it easily by search, however she does point out some cool stuff (like a children's driving school in Rome (?) near a place so I'm giving it a fair/good bc of those " extras" just don't think it is that usable- ref material to me.

We just got back to the USA and spent 4 nights at Casa del Clero san Tomaso in Milan. The hospitality was great but they didn't turn on the heat for a couple of days. The convent was undergoing renovation. I found it in the back of this book along with other listings but it would have been better if the lodging , etc had been explained instead of just listed. The places in the body of the book went into greater detail.

I wish they had a book for Spain.

Staying with the sisters or mixing with the monks may not be everyone's idea of a home-stay or a hotel vacation, but hang on a minute, how many people actually know that you can? Well Trish Clark's excellently presented and beautifully researched little 'bible', Good Night and God Bless, has news for you. In this, her first book, she looks at monasteries and Christian run hotels in Austria, the Czech Republic and Italy and ensures that this hitherto 'niche market' will now become much better known to many more intrepid travellers, who are looking for cheap, clean, comfortable, and centrally located lodgings throughout Europe. And they all come with a take-it-or-leave-it religious fare which allows the lodger to partake in age old ceremonies, prayer or pilgrimage, or simply as a place to stay for a night or four, in single, double multiple rooms - and generally within a bell-ring of attractions that every tourist wants to see. Good Night and God Bless is well set out with brief but generally more practical and helpful information on places of lodgement than you would find in most tourist guides. But there is more. There is information on spiritual retreats and pilgrimages as well as a potted history of each facility, but there are also introductory passages on cities and regions and a further section on the attractions of each locale including sites, hikes and ski-trails, spas and health

facilities, and of course a very useful good food guide, There are practical tips for travellers including guidance on customs, when best to visit, and shopping. It is a delightfully easy and chatty read with a good index and well set out references, addresses and telephone numbers, and best of all, it fits easily into a carry-on or a back-pack. Good Night and God Bless has pioneered an insight into a different sort of travel and surely, given the spread of religious institutions over many centuries, and now the propensity of people to travel as never before, the old role of monasteries taking in travellers will now appeal to a whole new group of 'pilgrims'. Austria, the Czech Republic and Italy are but a new beginning and I am sure that a whole host of countries beckon a similar treatment from Trish Clark's great knowledge of religion and its institutions, and her keen eye for detail. Winfred Peppinck Bahrain

Traveling around Europe on a budget doesn't have to mean skimping on accommodations. Sure, you could stay at a youth hostel, but you might find it more cozy at one of the many convents and monasteries who accept overnight guests. And you'll be surprised by the many health spa amenities they offer, in addition to lodging. In Good Night and God Bless, Trish Clark provides a guide to travel in Austria, the Czech Republic, and Italy. Within each geographic section, there are open houses who welcome everyone, some that are only open to women or men, and those who also offer spiritual refreshment to travelers. Descriptions and contact information for each of the convents and monasteries is provided, along with some interesting sites to see while visiting. Overall, this is a great travel guide with lots of information that would be hard to find anywhere else. But there were two things this book lacked, in my opinion. I would have loved to see some photos of the accommodations offered, and website addresses would have been helpful, even though many of the sites are written in other languages. Trish Clark clearly did a lot of research on this subject, and has created a helpful and comprehensive travel guide. If you're thinking of visiting these countries and are interested in great, inexpensive lodging or a spiritual retreat, I highly recommend this book. Reviewer: Alice Berger

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