

8 Reading

Before Reading

What do you know about youth hostels?
What do you know about S.A.Y.H.A.?

The Place to Stay

Many young people traveling around the world are backpackers or students on a low budget. They want to see the world, but they can't afford to pay for regular hotels. So youth hostels are the perfect solution for travelers without a lot of money to spend. Today there are more than 4000 hostels in over 80 countries, and the Saudi Arabian Youth Hostels Association (S.A.Y.H.A) offers accommodations in 21 cities across the Kingdom.

The accommodations in hostels are inexpensive because guests usually share rooms and bathrooms. Most hostels have a laundry room, telephones, Internet connection, and a restaurant. Some hostels also offer cooking facilities, such as a kitchen with pots and dishes. Youth hostels are usually in interesting places where young people can learn about the local monuments, history, and culture. Some hostels are even inside old historic buildings, castles, and on boats.

Hostels are definitely the place for socializing. The guests, who are from different cities or countries, have the opportunity to meet other young people and share experiences. Many hostels organize tours and fun activities. For example, S.A.Y.H.A. holds sports and painting competitions, and there are also prizes for the best community projects. So when traveling, youth hostels are the best place to stay and make new friends.

After Reading

Answer **yes** or **no**.

1. ____ Young tourists are usually rich.
2. ____ The rooms in youth hostels are usually cheap.
3. ____ You can't cook in any youth hostels.
4. ____ Hostels are good places for meeting people.

Discussion

Where do you stay when you travel? Describe the places where you stay.

