

Hidden hotel fees - and how to avoid them

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The clerk prints out your bill, you shove it into your bag as you sign the credit card slip, and you're on your way. You may never even look at the bill. That's what the hotel is counting on.

Were you to scrutinize the itemized list of charges and fees, you might notice that here and there the hotel has slipped in a few extras that you were never told about and never could have anticipated, and if you're really unlucky, there could be enough of them to jack up your bill by up to 20%.

Ten years ago, this article would have been titled "the most annoying hidden hotel telephone fees," but now that cellphones are ubiquitous, most travelers have learned to avoid the outrageous phone fees for which hotels have long been excoriated. Forced to find creative new ways to perk up the bottom line now that the telephone cash cow has been slaughtered, hotels have peeked into every corner of the building looking for things for which they can levy a surcharge.

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