

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Backpackers can now see their hostel before they book

Budget travellers planning a trip down under no longer have to run the chance of staying in a dodgy hostel.

The hostel review website BUG ([www.bug.co.uk](http://www.bug.co.uk)) is filming hundreds of backpackers' hostels and youth hostels across Australia and New Zealand and publishing the videos online. Each video shows the exterior plus common areas and the dormitory rooms.

The videos supplement the reviews written by BUG's own reviewers and reviews submitted by other travellers to provide more information about each hostel for the traveller. Tim Uden, BUG's managing editor, says "a video shows what a hostel is really like and gives the traveller a much better idea about a hostel than they could get from just reading what our reviewers write or the reviews that other travellers write about a place".

BUG is currently researching new editions of its travel guidebooks to Australia and New Zealand, which will be available in bookshops from October. "Our authors are visiting virtually every hostel in Australia and New Zealand anyway, so why not give each author a video camera?" says Tim.

The first videos to go online are in Western Australia and the New Zealand regions of Marlborough, Taranaki and Wellington although hundreds of hostels have been filmed with the rest of the videos going online in the next couple of months.

BUG is already making plans to film hostels in North America and the more popular European destinations.

### Background information

BUG – the Backpackers' Ultimate Guide – was established in 1997 and was the first website to offer interactive hostel reviews where travellers are able submit their own reviews of hostels they have stayed at.

BUG's hostel reviews can be found at [www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/index.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/index.htm).

Videos in the following destinations are already online with many more being uploaded shortly:

- **Broome, Western Australia**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Broome/index.htm>
- **Derby, Western Australia**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Derby/index.htm>
- **Kununurra, Western Australia**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Kununurra/index.htm>
- **Wanganui, Manawatu-Wanganui, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Manawatu-Wanganui/Wanganui/index.htm>
- **Blenheim, Marlborough, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Blenheim/index.htm>
- **Havelock, Marlborough, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Havelock/index.htm>
- **Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Marlborough-Sounds/index.htm>
- **Picton, Marlborough, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Picton/index.htm>
- **New Plymouth, Taranaki, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Taranaki/New-Plymouth/index.htm>
- **Martinborough, Wellington Region, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Martinborough/index.htm>
- **Wellington, Wellington Region, New Zealand**  
<http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Wellington/index.htm>

Examples of BUG's hostel videos can be found of the following hostels:

- **Beaches of Broome – Broome, Western Australia**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Broome/sbr/date\\_desc/7732/beaches-of-broome.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Broome/sbr/date_desc/7732/beaches-of-broome.htm)
- **Derby Lodge – Derby, Western Australia**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Derby/sbr/date\\_desc/2964/derby-lodge.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Derby/sbr/date_desc/2964/derby-lodge.htm)
- **Kimberley Croc Backpackers YHA – Kununurra, Western Australia**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Kununurra/sbr/date\\_desc/2967/kimberley-croc-backpackers-yha.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Australia/Western-Australia/Kununurra/sbr/date_desc/2967/kimberley-croc-backpackers-yha.htm)
- **Juggler's Rest Backpackers – Picton, Marlborough, New Zealand**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Picton/sbr/date\\_desc/1678/the-jugglers-rest.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Marlborough/Picton/sbr/date_desc/1678/the-jugglers-rest.htm)
- **Kate's Place – Martinborough, Wellington Region, New Zealand**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Martinborough/sbr/date\\_desc/1640/kates-place.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Martinborough/sbr/date_desc/1640/kates-place.htm)
- **Nomads Capital – Wellington, Wellington Region, New Zealand**  
[http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Wellington/sbr/date\\_desc/1634/nomads-capital.htm](http://www.bug.co.uk/reviews/hostels/Pacific-Islands/New-Zealand/Wellington-Region/Wellington/sbr/date_desc/1634/nomads-capital.htm)