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A&O allows group bookings without pre-payment

A&O is introducing the new GROUPPay payment tool by mamooole to allow group travellers to book without one of them paying the bill in advance

This makes A&O the first hostel group to roll out the GROUPPay payment tool: The trip organiser books group travel on the A&O website. But there's no need for any kind of pre-payment, as the embedded tool automatically opens a virtual piggy bank into which the participants deposit their shares. The booking is confirmed, but payment is made incrementally.

"We already allow travellers to use the A&O website to track group bookings in real time. So even now we are pioneers in this field. But the new payment option makes direct bookings on our website even easier – from the first click to the last payment", says a visibly delighted Phillip Winter, Chief Marketing Officer at the A&O Hotel Group. "The real advantage? Organisers of group travel are no longer asked to settle the whole bill or go to the effort of laboriously collecting the money from each member. It's all about convenience at A&O – from booking to check-out", adds Winter.

Easy payment in a virtual piggy bank

The tool couldn't be easier to use: The booker selects the GROUPPay payment option. A&O holds the booking for a maximum of 14 days, and the booking tool collects the individual payments from the group members until the total bill is settled.

Organisationally, the booker is directed to the GROUPPay website, registers there and enters the e-mail addresses of the other group members. The tool automatically splits the bill into equal amounts, which it requests from the individual members. It is also possible to adjust the amounts afterwards. The group members immediately receive a message – several if necessary – which directs them straight to the booking platform, where they transfer their dues online (by MasterCard, Visa, Cardbleue, Giropay, SOFORT Überweisung or bank transfer). The booker can always see who has settled up, as all incoming payments are marked immediately in the booking overview.

Overall, more than half of A&O bookings are made online and above all directly via aohostels.com. Around 19,600 school and group trips put their trust in the A&O service each year.

To find out more, please visit www.aohostels.com.

Company press releases and downloads:
<https://www.aohostels.com/de/presse/>

About A&O HOTELS and HOSTELS

A&O HOTELS and HOSTELS has been managing 33 establishments in 21 cities and six countries (Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Denmark, and Italy) since 2000. Europe's largest provider of hostel accommodation, A&O reports annual growth of more than 15 percent. In May 2017, A&O Copenhagen Nørrebro opened its doors, and in July A&O Venice Mestre. In addition, an opening in Bremen is also planned for 2017. A&O posted revenue of around €114 million with around 24,000 beds and more than 3.7 million overnight stays in 2016.

The chain always provides hotel accommodation at central locations that are easy to reach and offer unbeatable value for money to guests. A&O focuses on a wide range of en-suite room categories to ensure that target groups with a love of travel can all be accommodated under one roof, including single travellers, couples, families and large groups. Our guests' reasons for travelling include leisure/city breaks (40 percent), group/school trips (37 percent), family holidays (15 percent) and business trips (8 percent).

The company is particularly strong in direct sales and online marketing: 52 percent of guests book their accommodation online; aohostels.com is the most popular booking channel. Travellers benefit from custom options such as group bookings in real time without restrictions. Around 19,600 school and group trips have come to rely on the service and quality we offer.

The Group has its own academy and a dual degree course programme to offer its staff a range of attractive career options. The company is particularly open to taking on newcomers.

The hotels and hostels are 4-star QMJ certified, TÜV certified in accordance with the Youth Hostel Quality Standard and hold the youth travel quality seal by Reisenetz, the active network for Youth Travel in Germany.

The A&O Group has received the double-A rating from the TREUGAST Solutions Group for the third year running now.

The chain is actively involved in sports and education and has been supporting SOS Children's Villages since 2004, as well as youth sports at 1. FC Union Berlin since 2010 and youth sports at SK Sturm Graz since 2014.

PRESS RELEASE



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