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## Bitcoins for room cards

### A&O will be the first hotel chain to offer Bitcoin as a payment option

A&O will now be the first-ever hotel chain to offer its guests the option of paying for their booked hotel rooms online by Bitcoin at aohostels.com.

"The digital currency Bitcoin is one of the most important payment innovations of recent years. We are therefore very proud of being the first hotel provider to offer this payment option to our customers" says a delighted Oliver Winter, CEO of the A&O Group. "Bitcoin as a payment method is an important step in making the booking and payment process even more convenient. True to our motto: There are no complications here with us at A&O - from booking to check-out", adds Winter.

#### And this is how it works!

The guest selects the payment method "bitpay" if they wish to pay over aohostels.com using Bitcoin. The customer then receives a QR code or, optionally, a corresponding link. They can then make the payment using their digital Bitcoin wallet. Based on the current exchange rate (September 2017), 50 euros for a single room corresponds to approx. 0.015 Bitcoins.

The data base system of the so-called blockchain forms the technological basis of digital currencies such as Bitcoin. "The blockchains are decentrally organized and can therefore contribute to the improved security of transactions, e.g. within our booking system, compared to centralised systems. We are currently working very intensively with this technology and introducing payment via Bitcoins is the first step in this direction for us", emphasizes the Head of A&O, Winter.

Bitcoins expand our range of existing payment methods at aohostels.com, which includes credit card, Paypal, Amazon Pay, instant transfer, direct debit, iDeal and GroupPAY. Overall, more than half of A&O bookings are made online and above all directly via aohostels.com.

To find out more, please visit [www.aohostels.com](http://www.aohostels.com).

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Company press and download area  
<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 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 Reisetz, 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.

# PRESSEMITTEILUNG



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