

A Brief Word about Expenses



By now, you're probably wondering what all this minibar madness is going to cost you. This is a perfectly reasonable question to ask. The fact is, even seasoned travelers are deeply terrified of their minibars, seeing them as inexhaustible pits of expense that can turn a simple \$100 overnight stay into a \$3,000 T&E-budget-busting extravaganza. To set your mind at ease, here's a representative list of minibar prices (remember to add the 8.25% sales tax, a 15% in-room service charge, and a 30% "Where else in this two-bit town do you think you're going to stay?" surcharge).

Looking at the minibar as you walk into your room	\$5
Thinking about using the minibar	\$7
Gingerly opening the minibar, then thinking better of it and slamming it shut again	\$10
Removing a single green M&M, crinkling the package shut, then stuffing it back into the minibar and hoping no one notices	\$30 and a call to your mom
Generic-brand potato chips	\$5
Fancy-brand potato chips	\$10
2.5-ounce bottle of no-name vodka	\$15
2.5-ounce bottle of a vodka you've actually heard of	\$25

See? Nothing to be worried about. (Although now may not be the best time to mention the latest trend in minibar technology: touch-sensor pads wired directly to the front desk of the hotel, alerting the staff when you've so much as breathed in the vicinity of a bag of pretzels.)

Seriously, though. Although raiding your minibar probably won't