HOSTELWORLD LAUNCHES NEW IN-APP CHAT FUNCTION, 'HOSTEL CHAT'

Hostelworld, the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social travel experiences, has today launched a new in-app chat function called 'Hostel Chat'. The new feature can be found in the My Trips section of the app and has been designed to bring together travellers who are staying in the same hostel.

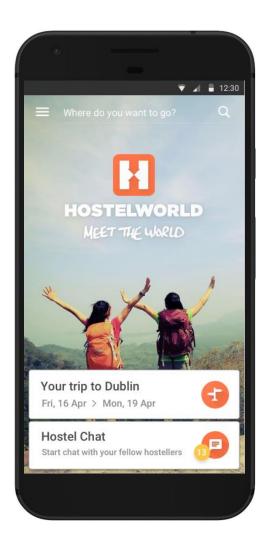
Users are able to join Hostel Chat 48 hours before checking into the hostel, offering the opportunity to talk to fellow travellers and make plans during their stay. To ensure chats are always topical and relevant for those staying in the hostel all messages will be refreshed after 48 hours.

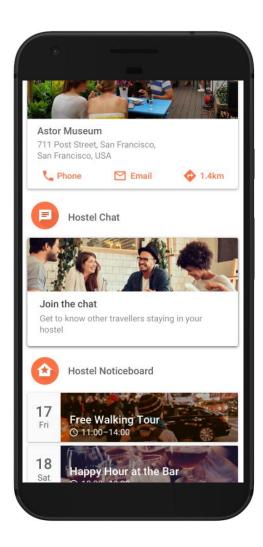
Hostel Chat complements recent Hostelworld in-app additions including Hostel Noticeboard and Speak The World to further encourage sociability and bring together travellers from across the globe.

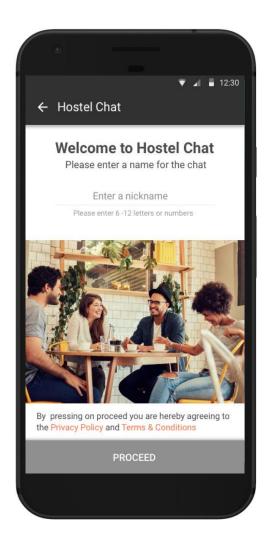
Breffni Horgan, Head of Product at Hostelworld, said: "We know that one of the key drivers behind why our customers choose hostels is because they lend themselves to a naturally social atmosphere. In order to offer people another way in which to meet new people and have unforgettable experiences we created Hostel Chat; a space where hostel guests can come together and meet the world."

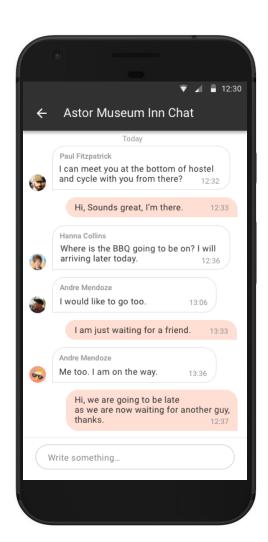
Initially launching in English for 50 hostels around the world, Hostelworld plans to roll the technology out hostel wide in the near future.

The Hostelworld app is free to download from both the App Store and Google play.









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About Hostelworld:

Hostelworld, the largest online hostel-booking platform sparking social experiences, inspires passionate travellers to see the world, meet new people and come back with extraordinary stories to tell. Hostelworld customers are not your average tourists; they crave unique experiences that Hostelworld facilitates with the best choice of hostels around the world. It's the social nature of hostels that turbo-charges their global adventures and empowers them to Meet the World.

Hostelworld has more than nine million reviews across 35,000 properties in more than 170 countries, making the brand the leading online hub for social travel. The website and mobile app operates in 19 different languages.

The Hostelworld Group went public in November 2015, listing on the main London and Dublin stock exchanges. Headquartered in Dublin, Hostelworld has offices around the world in London, Shanghai, Sydney, Seoul and Porto and was recently recognized as a Best Workplace for 2016 by the Great Places to Work Institute.