



**FEAST**  
*of Tabernacles*

**2020 Housing Brochure**

# Welcome to the Feast of Tabernacles 2020 Festival Housing Guide

It seems like just yesterday we were all gathered together as God's family for the Feast of Tabernacles. And yet here we are on the cusp of Feast planning for 2020. No doubt we have been talking with our families and friends about where we would like to go for this year's Feast of Tabernacles. It may seem early, but before we know it, we will all be gathered at sites around the world to keep the Feast of Tabernacles!

We plan and save our second tithe to go to "the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name" (Deuteronomy 14:24). We are excited and eager to make arrangements for accommodations for our family. Since we spend so much time in our housing at the Feast, this part of our Feast planning is extremely important to us! As you and your family make your plans and prepare to select and reserve housing for 2020, we recommend you review all available housing at the site you will be attending. To assist you in this endeavor, we have included websites for the housing establishments listed in this brochure. Please check out those websites, as they will allow you to preview the facilities secured by the Church and the amenities offered at each. This will greatly assist you in avoiding unpleasant surprises such as extra charges and incidental costs.

We again want to remind you of the benefits the Church experiences when our members use the housing establishments that are listed in the COGWA Festival housing brochure. By doing so, it enables us to secure fair prices with the housing establishments and is central in our ability to secure quality meeting space at sites where we meet in a hotel or resort property. We also realize that you may have specific needs or desires that are not available among the listed housing options. In such cases, you may be able to secure what you are looking for by doing your own Internet search. For example, you may have multiple generations of your family all desiring to share one large condominium unit or perhaps a house. Please feel free to do your own search and book what you would like. The housing options we have listed are properties

that desire to work with the Church by providing a discounted rate for attendees.

As you make your housing arrangements, please remember these important reminders:

1. In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is Monday, **May 4, at 10 a.m. in the time zone of the site you are attending.** The establishments have been asked to **not accept reservations prior to the agreed-upon time.**
2. Those with disabilities, health problems or other special needs that require specific types of facilities may make early housing reservations beginning Sunday, **April 26.** (Check with your local Feast adviser for guidelines.) Some sites may require a password in order to make early reservations.
3. When making your reservations, identify yourself as a member of the "Church of God, a Worldwide Association." In some cases the housing locations will use the acronym "COGWA." Be sure to give your arrival and departure dates, be prepared to give a deposit, and be sure to ask for a confirmation number.
4. Please take notice of the maximum number of occupants allowed in a room, and do not exceed that number. Reserving a room for four people and then putting six to seven people in the room is not allowed. It causes extra work for the housekeeping staff and violates the agreements we have made.
5. PLEASE make only one housing reservation at one Feast site. Making duplicate reservations blocks housing from others looking for housing. If your plans to attend that site change, be sure to cancel your housing reservations as soon as possible to free up housing.

**Jon Pinelli**  
**Festival Planning Team**

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What if I have a large family and need a larger facility, such as a house, to have enough space. Can I rent “outside” our housing list?**

A. If there is no satisfactory housing on our housing list, you are certainly free to rent something else. Most of the large, home-type facilities are “one of a kind,” and it would cause more potential problems than it would solve for us to list a large number of one-of-a-kind facilities. And once such a facility was reserved, it would be a waste of time for any other members who tried to reserve the facility.

**Q. What if I’m torn between two different housing properties (maybe even at two different sites). What is wrong with reserving them both until I decide and then releasing the one I decide not to use?**

A. This situation probably happens more often than most would think. It causes difficulties on more than one level. First, it removes a room from the available block that may eventually go unused if you cancel just before the Feast. Second, it may cause a facility to assume it is full and turn down possible bookings only to later have one or several cancellations by people who had double-booked rooms. This causes us problems when we go to book blocks of rooms for the following year.

**Q. My extended family is all attending the same site, yet we find we are paying different tax rates on our rooms. Why is that? It seems confusing!**

A. Some Feast sites have facilities in different communities, each with different lodging tax rates. Some facilities have a “county tax,” while others have a “county tax” and a “city lodging tax.” Generally, the difference isn’t that great, but it may be 4 to 5 percent different.

**Q. What about “extra fees” that appear on my bill in addition to the basic room charge?**

A. Some facilities have extra charges for things such as “resort fee,” or “fee for Internet service in sleeping rooms” (in some facilities, the Internet is free only in the public areas). Most of these should be listed in the housing brochure, but it is good to ask about any extra fees that the facility charges when making your room reservation. When in doubt, ask, so you aren’t surprised when you check out.

**Q. I have found an establishment that I feel would be a great fit for our housing block. How do I go about giving this input to the right person?**

A. At times, members may find a facility that we may have overlooked or that may be under new management. There are a couple of ways you can give input in this area. First, since we may already have our room blocks set for this year, you can write in your suggestion on your copy of the Housing Survey, which is passed out at each site. The Festival coordinator for that site will see it and can follow up on it. Second, you can email the suggestion to the Festival coordinator for that site or to a member of the Festival Planning Team. But either way, please do not try to negotiate with the establishment on behalf of the Church.

**Q. I have several ideas on areas that I feel would make wonderful Feast sites. How do I go about giving input on possible locations?**

A. We are always keeping our eyes open for possible Feast sites. Our main criteria for site selection is desirable locations within a reasonable distance of the majority of our people in a region. We will occasionally have a specialty site on a one-time or a

periodic basis, but due to manpower and expense, we mostly focus on regional sites across the United States and regional sites in the international areas as well.

The Festival Planning Team is always open to suggestions for possible future sites and welcomes input from interested members. If you know of a specific facility in a particular area, feel free to mention it in an email to a member of the Festival Planning Team. But please do not contact the facility directly or discuss possible terms with the facility, as if you are representing the Church. Doing so can cause confusion. Send in your ideas, and we will look at and consider them in light of current needs, contracts and other relative conditions.

**Q. What do I do if I check into a facility selected from the housing guide and, after checking in, I find the conditions to be totally unacceptable?**

A. While this situation seldom happens, it is a possibility. Before you actually occupy the room, go back to the management and tell them the conditions are totally unacceptable and ask for either another room that is acceptable or for a refund. Most facilities will work with you. In the event that you still have a situation, feel free to contact the Festival coordinator for the site or, if you know his name, the housing officer. Either of them will be able to help you with the situation.

## KEY DATES FOR 2020 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

**April 12-26, 2020**  
Online registration

**July 6, 2020**  
Activity information posted to website

**April 26, 2020**  
Early housing reservations begin  
(check with your local Festival adviser  
for guidelines)

**Oct. 3-9, 2020**  
Feast of Tabernacles

**May 4, 2020**  
General housing reservations begin

**Oct. 10, 2020**  
Last Great Day

**Registration begins April 12**  
[feast.cogwa.org](http://feast.cogwa.org)

# Satellite Site

## Fort Myers, Florida

Fort Myers, Florida, is a satellite site and has been primarily secured for Florida members who find traveling to the site in Orange Beach to be too expensive or too time-consuming.

This coming year, however, Fort Myers will be open to any non-Floridians who wish to attend. We have set the capacity at 220 for 2020.

The beauty of the Gulf Coast of Florida, the many attractions for brethren to visit, and the excellent venue for accommodations and services made this a clear choice again for 2020.

Services will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Gulf Coast Town Center, which is a beautiful property located on a lake. There are over 30 top-of-the-line restaurants at the Town Center for brethren to choose from. Most people may wish to stay at the Holiday Inn, where a buffet breakfast comes free with your room.

This area of southwest Florida offers many attractions. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates, which include the Edison Botanic Research Laboratory and the Estates Museum, are open daily for tours. The causeway to Sanibel and Captiva Islands is 30 minutes away and so is the bridge to the island and city of Fort Myers Beach. All have beautiful white-sand beaches. The very popular Naples Zoo is 35 minutes away. Boat tours of the many millionaires' homes in Naples and guided boat tours in the western Everglades National Park's Ten Thousand Islands are just one hour away.

The temperatures in October should be from the mid- to the upper-80s.

**Fragrance-controlled room available:** Yes.

**Tax rate for accommodations:** 11 percent.

**Closest airport:** Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW), 5 miles.

**Jim Haeffele**

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### **Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport at Town Center**

239-561-1550

[hifftmyersairport.com](http://hifftmyersairport.com)

9931 Interstate Commerce Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

waterfront (lake), outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, elevator, free Wi-Fi, fridge, microwave, fitness center, full buffet breakfast included.

*Distance from meeting hall: on-site*

\$109 1 king bed, 1-2 people

\$109 2 queen beds, 2-4 people

*Note:* When making reservations, call 877-666-3243 and reference Church of God. You will need to provide a credit card to reserve the room. All rooms will be available to members unless otherwise booked. All reservations must be made on or before July 31, 2020. One night's room deposit required within 10 days of reservation to hold any room. Deposit refunded in full if reservation is canceled two days before check-in. These rates are available three nights before and after the Feast. Applicable taxes: 11%.

*Amenities:* Restaurant on premises, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped,



# International Feast Sites

## Africa

Mugina, Burundi  
Man, Côte d'Ivoire  
Douala, Cameroon  
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Elmina, Ghana  
Kenya  
Salima, Malawi  
Flic-en-Flac, Mauritius  
Benin City, Nigeria  
Giti, Rwanda  
Uvongo, South Africa  
Kpalimé, Togo  
Mapoko, Zambia  
Gweru, Zimbabwe

## Asia/Pacific

Mooloolaba, Australia  
Sigatoka, Fiji  
Kolkata, India  
Taupo, New Zealand  
Negombo, Sri Lanka  
Philippines

## Caribbean

Dover, Christ Church, Barbados  
St. George's, Grenada  
Lethem, Guyana  
Runaway Bay, Jamaica

## Europe & Middle East

Torquay, Devon, England  
Montagnac, France  
Loutraki, Greece  
Jordan

## Latin America

Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia  
Lican Ray, Chile  
El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia  
Antigua, Guatemala  
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico  
Huanchaco, Peru

**Note: Not all locations in this list are final. Please check [feast.cogwa.org](http://feast.cogwa.org) for up-to-date information on international sites.**

**Online Registration**  
**April 12-26**  
**[feast.cogwa.org](http://feast.cogwa.org)**

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