

# **2023 Housing Brochure**

## Welcome to the **Feast of Tabernacles** 2023 Festival Housing Guide

ou shall dwell in booths for seven days." With those words in Leviticus 23, we are reminded of the temporary dwellings that we all will live in during the Feast of Tabernacles. As families, we talk about and plan where we want to go for the Feast and where we want to stay. We look forward to this time of the year. In order to make it a positive and memorable experience, we do not leave details till the last minute. We save our second tithe, we plan our budget, and we look to the Festival housing brochure to see what is offered at the various sites.

As you and your family make your plans and prepare to select and reserve housing for 2023, 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 encourage you to consider the choices at several sites that serve as anchor facilities for our daily Festival services. In many, if not most, cases, the Church benefits greatly with reduced meeting space charges when members stay on-site at these facilities.

Of course, if you do not find the housing you desire, you may find what you are looking for via an online search. 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:

In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is Sunday, May 21, 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.

- Those with disabilities, health problems or other special needs that require specific types of facilities may make early housing reservations, beginning **Sunday, May, 14**. (Check with your local Feast adviser for guidelines.) Some sites may require a password in order to make early reservations.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 a 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.

## **Feast of Tabernacles 2023 KEY DATES**

### April 9, 2023

### July 10, 2023

Registration for assigned sites begins

May 14, 2023 Early housing reservations begin (see local Festival adviser for guidelines)

#### May 21, 2023

General housing reservations begin

Activity information posted to website

#### Sept. 30-Oct. 6, 2023

Feast of Tabernacles

#### **Oct. 7, 2023** Last Great Day

**General registration for U.S. and international sites begins SUNDAY, APRIL 23** feast.cogwa.org



## Orange Beach, Alabama

The city of Orange Beach, Alabama, will again welcome the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, for the Feast of Tabernacles. We will meet in the beautiful Orange Beach Event Center, located in the Wharf District, which hosts many fine restaurants, shopping and lots of outdoor activities for the whole family.

With over 800 people anticipated, our planned activities offer wonderful opportunities for fellowship. Our senior luncheon will be a special treat for our members, which will be held in the Event Center like last year-providing convenience and a fine meal!

We will host teen and young adult drop-ins at the beginning of the Feast to encourage fellowship and provide ways to make new friends and lasting memories. For those who enjoy the outdoors, we will also have a golf scramble and a teen outing on the beach.

Family Day is always a highlight of the Feast. With several hundred people attending, we'll provide carnival games, novelty Olympics, a sing-along and a host of games and activities, all in an afternoon of sun and fun!

There are multiple beach locations—stretching across several miles—that allow for parasailing, diving, deepsea fishing, glass-bottom boat and dolphin tours, beach volleyball and a host of other Gulf-related activities. If your interest isn't beautiful white sand, then just minutes from the beach are golf, sailing and several theme parks for the young at heart.

If sand, surf and sun are calling you this year, we encourage you to join us for God's Feast of Tabernacles in beautiful Orange Beach, Alabama!

#### Fragrance-controlled room available: No.

**Lodging tax rate:** 13%. (Be sure to read details on each property listed in the housing information. Some Orange Beach accommodations include taxes and fees in their rates.)

Closest airport: Pensacola, Florida (PNS) 30 miles.

#### **Phillip Sandilands**

The housing options below reflect discounted pricing that the Church has secured. If, however, you cannot find what works for you and your family on this list, there are other options available, such as vacasa.com.

#### **Beach Life Vacation Rentals, LLC**

251-215-6856 beachlifevacation.com/ 3817 Gulf Shores Pkwy., Unit 6 Gulf Shores, AL 36542

*Note:* No contract with the Church, but use code: COGWA when booking.

Amenities: Vary by property.

Distance from meeting hall: varies

#### **Caribe Resort**

251-980-9000 888-607-7020 cariberesort.com 28103 Perdido Beach Blvd. Orange Beach, AL 36561

\$259.25	2-bedroom, 2-bath condo, 2-6 people
\$352.75	3-bedroom, 3-bath condo, 2-8 people
\$425	3-bedroom, 3.5-bath + media condo, 2-8 people
\$165	cleaning fee
\$55	residential fee

*Note:* Taxes and fees are not included in the daily rate. Rates apply for two nights before and after the Feast based on availability. All reservations must be made on or before July 31, 2023. Reservation policy: 25% deposit required within 10 days of booking. Deposit refunded in full if reservation is canceled 15 days before check-in.

*Amenities:* Restaurant on premises or adjacent, laundry facilities, waterfront, indoor pool, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, air-conditioning, suites, elevator, free Wi-Fi, no maid service.

Distance from meeting hall: 7.6 miles

#### Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham Gulf Shores

251-967-3000 wyndhamhotels.com/microtel/gulf-shores-alabama/ microtel-inn-and-suites-gulf-shores/overview 3600 Gulf Shores Parkway Gulf Shores, AL 36542

\$79 standard, 1-4 people

*Note:* Rates apply for two nights before and after the Feast based on availability. All reservations must be made on or before July 31, 2023. Applicable tax: 16%.

*Amenities:* Shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, outdoor pool, queen beds, air-conditioning, suites, elevator, free Wi-Fi, free breakfast.

Distance from meeting hall: 4.4 miles

#### SpringHill Suites

251-981-7881 888-236-2427 251-943-6650 fax marriot.com/pnsor 4673 Wharf Parkway W. Orange Beach, AL 36561

\$139 double queen suite, 1-4 people

*Note:* Rates apply for two nights before and after the Feast based on availability. All reservations must be made on or before July 31, 2023. No deposit required to hold any room. Deposit refunded in full if reservation is canceled 30 days before check-in. ADA rooms available. Applicable tax: 16%.

*Amenities:* Restaurants on premises or adjacent, shopping nearby, laundry facilities, equipped for handicapped, waterfront, outdoor pool, king or queen beds, airconditioning, fitness center, elevator, free Wi-Fi, free continental breakfast.

Distance from meeting hall: adjacent

# **International Feast Sites**

### Africa

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

## Asia/Pacific

Bacolod City, Philippines Negombo, Sri Lanka Pacific Harbour, Fiji Taupo, New Zealand

### Caribbean

Bahamas Barbados Jamaica Lethem, Guyana St. Kitts Trinidad and Tobago

### Europe & Middle East

Cortona, Italy Eastbourne, East Sussex, England Montagnac, France

### Latin America

El Quisco, Chile El Rodadero, Santa Marta, Colombia Huanchaco, Peru Quetzaltenango, Guatemala Santa Cruz, Bolivia Sierra de la Ventana, Argentina Veracruz, Mexico

Note: Not all locations in this list are final. Please check feast.cogwa.org for up-to-date information on international sites. Assigned site registration begins

## April 9, 2023

Transfer site and intenational registration begins

April 23, 2023

General housing reservations begin

May 21, 2023

## feast.cogwa.org

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