



**FEAST OF
TABERNACLES**
2018 HOUSING
INFORMATION



WELCOME TO THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

2018 FESTIVAL HOUSING GUIDE

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 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!

With this fact in mind, the Feast coordinators for all our Feast sites strive to procure properties that will meet the needs of all the brethren—with a focus on quality, price and value.

Each year the Church evaluates the accommodations we offered the previous year. We do this by reviewing the housing surveys that the brethren fill out at the various sites. The Feast coordinators consider the price brethren paid for housing, the quality and cleanliness of the facility, and the cooperation of the management. By doing so, we are able to make the necessary adjustments to Feast housing at each site to meet the needs of brethren. As a result, you may find a few new properties and also a few that are no longer being used.

As you and your family make your plans and prepare to select and reserve housing for 2018, we recommend that you review all available housing at the site you will be attending. To assist you in this endeavor, we have included websites for most of the housing establishments listed in this housing brochure. Please take the time to visit those websites. It will allow you to preview the facility and the amenities it offers. This will greatly assist you in avoiding unpleasant surprises.

We again want to remind you of the benefits the Church realizes when our members use the housing establishments that are listed in the COGWA Festival housing brochure. Your doing so enables us to secure fair prices with the

housing establishments, and it is central in our ability to secure quality meeting space at sites where we meet in a hotel.

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

1. In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is Monday, **May 14, 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 Monday, **May 7**. (Check with your local Festival 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, Feast of Tabernacles.” Be sure to give your arrival and departure dates, be prepared to pay 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 limits others who are looking for housing. If your plans to attend a particular 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 that isn't on it. 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. Once such a facility was reserved, it would be a frustrating 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, such as parking, a resort fee, or a 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, after checking into a facility selected from the housing guide, 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 2018 Feast of Tabernacles

April 1-May 7, 2018
Online registration

May 7, 2018
Early housing reservations begin (check with your local Festival adviser for guidelines)

May 14, 2018
General housing reservations begin

July 3, 2018
Activity information posted to website

Sept. 24-30, 2018
Feast of Tabernacles

Oct. 1, 2018
Last Great Day

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1
feast.cogwa.org



FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

plenty of seashells to gather on Sanibel and Captiva. The popular Naples Zoo is 35 minutes away, and the western Everglades National Park’s Ten Thousand Islands guided boat tour is just one hour away.

Temperatures in September range from the mid- to the upper 80s. We expect 200 or more at this site.

Fragrance-controlled room available: Yes.

Tax rate for accommodations: 11 percent.

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

Jim Haeffele

Because Fort Myers is a satellite site, we are encouraging everyone to stay at the Holiday Inn, where services will be held. We have a room block there that we want to be sure to fill. If you have a need for a property with a kitchenette, please contact Jim Haeffele directly (jim.haeffele@cogwa.org). He can then verify you have registered for Fort Myers and give you the name of a nearby property that offers kitchenettes. Those staying at the Holiday Inn will receive a full buffet breakfast included at this special rate.

Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport at Town Center

239-561-1550

hftmyersairport.com

9931 Interstate Commerce Drive

Fort Myers, FL 33913

\$109 1 king bed, 1-2 people

\$109 2 queen beds, 2-4 people

(11% hotel tax not included in the rate)

Note: You can make reservations online at tinyurl.com/FMHolidayInn or call 866-792-4969 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.

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

Fort Myers, Florida, is a limited-access satellite site and is primarily for:

- Those for whom the distance to their assigned site (Orange Beach) would be too great.
- Those who cannot afford to travel to their assigned Feast site.
- Those who cannot take the extra time away from job and/or school to attend their assigned site.
- Those who wish to attend with their family members who will be attending the Fort Myers site.

The beauty of the Gulf Coast, the many attractions and the excellent venue for accommodations and services made this a clear choice again for 2018.

Services will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Town Center, which offers over 30 top-of-the-line restaurants for brethren to choose from. Most people will wish to stay at the Holiday Inn, where breakfast comes free with your room if you are with the Church.

This area of southwest Florida offers many attractions. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates are open daily for tours. The causeway to Sanibel and Captiva Islands is 30 minutes away, as is the bridge to Fort Myers Beach. All have beautiful white-sand beaches, and there are

INTERNATIONAL FEAST SITES

AFRICA

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

ASIA/PACIFIC

Coffs Harbour, Australia
Pacific Harbour, Fiji
Kochi, India
Taupo, New Zealand
Baguio City, Philippines

CARIBBEAN

Barbados
Grenada

Lethem, Guyana
Runaway Bay, Jamaica

EUROPE

Winchester, England
Normandy, France
Cortona, Italy

LATIN AMERICA

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

NORTH AMERICA

Orford, Québec

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

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 1
feast.cogwa.org

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