



**FEAST OF
TABERNACLES**
2019 HOUSING
INFORMATION





WELCOME TO THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2019 FESTIVAL HOUSING GUIDE



“So, where are you planning to go for the Feast this year?”
“How about you? What are you thinking?”

Each year around March we all focus on the upcoming spring holy days. But many of us also take time to sit around the table and talk with our family members about where we would like to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in the fall.

Even earlier in the year preparations are made by others representing the Church to secure excellent housing options and values for all attendees. Of course, where we stay during the Feast certainly plays a role in how much we enjoy a particular location. It is not what defines the Feast experience, not by a long shot. However, securing housing that provides comfort and value for eight or nine nights is the goal of those of us who secure the contracts, as well as every member attending.

Each year we follow God’s instruction to save a tithe of our money in order to go and keep God’s Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 14:22-23) in “the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name” (verse 24). It is a tremendous blessing to understand the importance of keeping these days, as well as specifically how to have what we need in order to keep them. So, selecting our housing is an important part of preparing for and ultimately keeping the Feast.

For eight days we will stay in a temporary dwelling or booth (Leviticus 23:42-43). As you and your family make your plans and prepare to select and reserve housing for 2019, 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 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.

Although there may be benefits to the Church when you use certain housing on our list, such as a lower cost for—or even free—meeting space, we do 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. Or maybe you would like to stay in a particular location nearby that offers something specific you are looking for and that location was not contracted by the Church. 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.

Finally, below are some important guidelines to remember before making your Festival housing reservation:

1. In general, please do not attempt to make reservations prior to the opening day and time for reservations, which is Monday, **May 27, 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 20.** (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.

Mark Winner
Festival Planning Team



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Q. Can I rent “outside” our housing list?

A. As we explain above, if the housing on our list does not meet your needs or desires, you are free to rent something that isn’t on it.

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 special 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 either for 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 2019 FEAST OF TABERNACLES

April 14-May 20, 2019

Online registration

July 19, 2019

Activity information posted to website

May 20, 2019

Early housing reservations begin (check with your local Festival adviser for guidelines)

Oct. 14-20, 2019

Feast of Tabernacles

May 27, 2019

General housing reservations begin

Oct. 21, 2019

Last Great Day

REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 14

feast.cogwa.org



FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

Fort Myers, Florida, is a limited-access satellite site and is designed 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 or have family living in the area.

The beauty of the Gulf Coast of Florida, the many attractions to visit and the excellent venue for accommodations and services made this a clear choice again for 2019.

Services will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Gulf Coast Town Center. 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 breakfast comes free with your room if you are with the Church.

This area 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 and so is the bridge to Fort Myers Beach. All have beautiful white-sand beaches, and there are plenty of seashells to gather on Sanibel and Captiva Islands.

The very 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.

The temperatures in October should be from the mid- to the upper 80s. We are expecting 150 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).

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

\$99 1 king bed, 1-2 people
\$99 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

INTERNATIONAL FEAST SITES

AFRICA

Mugina, Burundi
Man, Côte d'Ivoire
Douala, Cameroon
Kinshasa, Democratic Republic
of the Congo
Ejura, 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

Mooloolaba, Australia
Pacific Harbour, Fiji
Pondicherry, India
Taupo, New Zealand
Negombo, Sri Lanka
Baguio City, Philippines

CARIBBEAN

Needham's Point, Barbados
St. George's, Grenada
Lethem, Guyana
Runaway Bay, Jamaica

EUROPE

Torquay, Devon, England
Montagnac, France
Cortona, Italy

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

NORTH AMERICA

Mont-Sainte-Anne, Québec

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

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