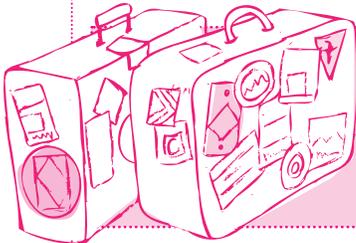


Out of Towners

FROM NEAR AND FAR

An important consideration when planning your wedding will be your out-of-town guests. Many will be traveling great distances to share in your joyous occasion. You will want to be sure their visit is an enjoyable one.

ROOM BLOCKS



Most hotels provide a discounted rate when a block of rooms are reserved. While the number of rooms required to qualify for a group rate may vary by hotel, most require a credit card to secure the rooms and rate.

Some hotels offer special services such as a hospitality suite for your guests to gather for breakfast or cocktails, and if needed, special check out considerations.

PROVIDE OPTIONS

- **Offer two or three options** when recommending hotels, which will provide a comfortable price range.
- **While some of your guests may be on a limited budget**, others may be combining their vacation with your wedding, in which case they will appreciate your efforts to select a hotel that represents local charm, luxury and easy access to the many tourist attractions in the area.
- **Take a little time** to research different hotels and what their services include.
- **Boutique hotels**, an up-and-coming concept in overnight accommodations, are popping up everywhere. Decorated in unique and colorful themes, they offer excellent rates on weekends and often have amenities and services you won't find in most chain hotels.

Helpful Hint

Printed information regarding recommended hotels and rates should be enclosed with the wedding invitation. Be sure to include the telephone numbers (an 800 number if available) for each hotel, their web address, the name under which the reservation is being held and hotel shuttle or transportation information. Some hotels will mail brochures directly to your guests when names and addresses are provided well in advance of the wedding date. Guests can then call the hotel of their choice directly to make their reservations.

HOW MANY ROOMS

When arranging for a block of rooms you'll need to know what nights to reserve, and approximately how many rooms will be needed. Here's a list of possible rooms to be booked.

- Groom (prior to wedding)
- Grandparents of bride/groom
- Bridal suite
- Siblings and their families
- Bridesmaids
- Out-of-town relatives
- Groomsmen
- Out-of-town friends
- Parents of bride/groom



WELCOME BASKETS

Let your out-of-towners know just how much you appreciate their efforts to attend your wedding with a wonderful welcome basket. Coordinate with the concierge to have these gifts delivered to your guests' rooms prior to their arrival. If that's not an option, have them held at the concierge desk in the lobby for guests to pick-up at check-in.

BASKET SUGGESTIONS:

- Snacks to munch on during their visit, such as aged cheese, crackers, chocolates, nuts, fresh fruit and champagne.
- Flavored coffee, tea, biscotti and decorative mugs.
- An aromatherapy trio of scented candle, bath salts and shower gel.
- A nice addition is the inclusion of local travel guides with restaurants and tourist attractions, postcards featuring notable local attractions, a disposable

camera for sightseeing, a list of other wedding guests staying at the same hotel and a schedule of events and transportation options.

- Not to be forgotten is a personal note from the hosts. Taking the time to welcome them in such a personal manner, in spite of how busy you'll both be with final preparations, will speak volumes of your gracious nature and appreciation.



WELCOME BASKET QUIZ

A fun little way to entertain your guests is to put a quiz about the city in their welcome basket. Here is a sample quiz to help get you started.



Welcome to Our City Quiz

1 Most famous landmark in this city...
a) building
b) statue
c) bridge

2 Food this city is most famous for...
a) subs
b) hot dogs
c) pizza

3 What is the city's most common nickname?
a) A Capitol Place to Be
b) The Windy City
c) Circle City

4 Name the major league teams.

5 When was the local park established?
a) 1900
b) 1935
c) 1978

6 What is the city most known for?
a) sports team
b) event
c) person

7 Who is the mayor of the city?
a) Mayor Smith
b) Mayor Brown
c) Mayor Little

8 What local restaurant was featured on a tv show?
(We recommend the _____)
a) Moe's Pizza
b) Mama's Cafe
c) Cluck's Chicken

9 What is the biggest event held in the city?
a) sports event
b) festival
c) food expo

10 What is the city's flower?
a) rose
b) petunia
c) lily