

OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS

MAKE IT MEMORABLE

For those special people who will be traveling from out-of-town, you'll want to make their stay enjoyable and memorable. Make travel plans easy for them by reserving a block of rooms at a local hotel. Keep your hotel selection to a minimum of 2-3 choices for your guests. Give them a wedding itinerary and direct them to your wedding website containing the hotel rates and information so they can reserve their room. Also, include a list of things to do or see in the city in case they decide to come early or stay longer. If you plan on inviting them to your gift opening or morning after brunch, be sure to inform them in advance so they can make travel plans.

QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Does the hotel offer a shuttle to your rehearsal dinner, ceremony and reception sites?
- Is it close to drug stores, restaurants and retail shopping?
- Do they offer amenities such as an indoor pool, workout facilities, wi-fi, in-facility restaurant, and complimentary breakfast.
- What is their group rate and how many rooms do they have available?
- Do they offer a complimentary room for the newlywed couple?
- Do they offer a meeting room for gift opening or gatherings?
- What are their policies for reserving a block of rooms? Will they honor the reduced rates after the cut-off date if rooms are still available?

RESERVE A BLOCK OF ROOMS

Reserve your hotel rooms for your out-of-town guests 4-6 months in advance and remember your honeymoon suite if you're staying too. Talk with the hotel to determine approximately how many rooms you will need, use your guest list to estimate. Guests need to book at least one month in advance so the hotel can release any unbooked rooms. Don't expect all your guests to be on one floor. With variables such as smoking/non-smoking, room types, pet accommodations and other hotel patrons, this would be a difficult request to fulfill.

WELCOME BAG

Surprise your guests with a welcome bag after their long day of travel. The bags can be left with the hotel, either to be placed in the guests' rooms, or to be given to the guests as they arrive. Style the bag to match the theme of your weekend.

WELCOME BAG IDEAS

- Your wedding itinerary: list all activities in which your guests are involved. Include key locations and times.
- Contact names and cell phone numbers in case anyone has a question (assign a good friend or family member to help with these phone calls).
- Bottles of water, snacks and maybe some alcoholic beverages.
- Local brochures and coupons (to outlet malls, restaurants).
- Soaps, lotions or pampering products.
- Souvenirs to match the theme of your wedding - (i.e. for a beach wedding include: sunglasses, towels, flip flops, or beach ball).

Your guests will appreciate the extra thought you have given to them on your special day. Providing them with a thoughtful welcome gift makes the wedding all the more memorable for them!