



THE FEDROOMS®

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✓ Check-in

HELP DESK

Hours: M-F, 7-3:30 CDT
Contact: 1-800-226-1741
hotels@fedrooms.com

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Attend the upcoming **FedRooms® 101** training session! The session will be held via webinar on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 2pm central time. Visit the [FedRooms 101](#) link on the traveler page at FedRooms.com for additional information. FedRooms® will also host private sessions for groups of 15 or more. Contact krista@fedrooms.com for details.

CALLING ALL WOMEN TRAVELERS!

When traveling for business, do you seek out properties with amenities targeted toward women travelers (such as women only floors)? Share your opinion [here](#).

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"As a travel manager I recommend FedRooms.com to all travelers. It makes hotel shopping painless. The traveler gets the option of hotel chain and location while the website protects them from incorrect per diem rates and bad cancellation policies."

-Federal traveler, via [FedRooms.com website](http://FedRooms.com)

LOYALTY PROGRAMS AND THE FEDROOMS® RATE

Market research* indicates that more than half of federal travelers consider loyalty program points when booking a hotel for official travel. But what many travelers don't know is that they can earn loyalty program points when they book the FedRooms® Rate at many of their favorite hotels in the FedRooms® program.

In fact, FedRooms® has made it easier than ever for federal travelers to sign up for hotel loyalty programs through the [loyalty program link](#) on FedRooms.com.

*Based on 2007 FedRooms® Market Research survey



BIENVENUE!

There are **500 international properties** spanning **350 cities** outside of the **United States** in FedRooms®.

ARE CELL PHONES THE FUTURE FOR FLIGHT CHECK-IN?

In the next few years, printed boarding passes may not be required at the airport. A bar code, scanned from a traveler's cell phone, could be the way of the future.

Last month, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that major airlines had agreed upon a global standard for such a bar code, which could be text-messaged to a traveler's cell phone or PDA. An alternate option would be that the passenger could receive the bar code by email and print it.

Establishing the global standard for the bar codes is the first step, followed by the creation of standardized processes and guidelines for global implementation.

The deadline for implementing 100 percent bar-coded boarding passes is 2010. If successfully deployed, this option could help the airline industry greatly reduce the need for paper boarding passes and save more than \$500 million USD annually.

-Source: CWT Traveler



ARE YOU GOING TO GET THAT?

According to Avis, **cell phones**, **wallets**, and **eyeglasses** are the three things most often left behind in rental cars.

-Source: www.budgettravel.com

Newsletter
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HAWTHORN
SUITES® 



**HOTEL SPOTLIGHT
HAWTHORN SUITES**

Hawthorn Suites are all-suites hotels that provide the comfort and value that today's business and leisure travelers require. Spacious one-bedroom suites with fully equipped kitchens and studio suites with wet bars are ideal for one night or extended stays.

Guests can earn free nights at Hawthorn Suites and other Hyatt hotel brands by taking advantage of Hawthorn Suites' partnership in the Hyatt Gold Passport frequency programs.

Hotels offer an array of all-inclusive amenities:

- Beautifully appointed suites with fully equipped kitchens
- Daily Complimentary hot breakfast buffet
- Complimentary Wednesday evening Social hours
- Complimentary high-speed Internet access (wired and wireless)
- *Sweet Suite* beds, with high-quality white-on-white striped sheeting and matching duvet
- Business services including multiline phone with personal voice mail and speakerphone



SPARE LITHIUM BATTERIES BANNED FROM CHECKED BAGS

Earlier this year, the US Department of Transportation imposed a ban on spare lithium batteries (batteries not installed in a device) from checked luggage to reduce the risk of fires. Passengers are still able to check lithium batteries if they are installed in electronic devices, like cameras, laptop computers, and cell phones.

Travelers can transport up to two spare lithium batteries in carryon luggage, if contained in original factory packaging or separate plastic zipper bags. Additional details about the ban can be found at http://safetravel.dot.gov/whats_new_batteries.html.

-Sources: *dot.gov, Federal Aviation Administration*

FEDROOMS® FAQs

Q: FedRooms® Rates are stated to be at or below federal per diem, but when I called the hotel and asked for the government rate it was more than per diem. Why?

A: The FedRooms® Rate and the government rate **are not the same**. In order to receive the guarantees associated with the FedRooms® Rate (at or below per diem, 4pm or later date-of-arrival cancellation policy within the U.S., no cancellation fees), you must ask for it by name.

Q: Many hotels that offer government per diem rates are not listed on your website. Why?

A: FedRooms® has come up with an equation for the appropriate number of hotels in each city based on government SmartCard spend data. This equation factors adequate coverage for travelers, as well as benefits of participation for hotels (increased government business).

However, some hotels may not have submitted a request to be in the program, or we may not know about a city that your agency travels to frequently. That is why we included a "[nominate a hotel](#)" link on FedRooms.com, where travelers can recommend a hotel or a city for inclusion.



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 65% of FedRooms participating properties offer free high-speed wireless internet access!

PROGRAM DETAILS

- There are currently more than 5,000 hotels in the FedRooms® program from around the world. FedRooms® expects to increase that number to more than 6,500 later this year.
- FTR states the federal travelers must give FedRooms® Rates first consideration when traveling on official business.
- FedRooms® is the official government-wide lodging program managed by the U.S. General Services Administration. (GSA).

