

Tips on Being a Perfect House Guest

The tourist season is upon us once again and there visitors galore. If you are fortunate enough to have a friend to visit here in the fabulous Florida Keys, here are some tips that might get you invited back:

How to Be a Perfect House Guest:

- 1. Send money for groceries or bring your own.** If you are planning to stay five days or more send a check ahead of time to cover the cost of groceries and other incidentals. Do not wait till you arrive as you may embarrass your host who will inevitably turn down the offer. So just mail a check with a note about how excited you are to be coming. If your visit will be short, a day or two, take your host out to dinner and pay for the meal instead.
- 2. Show up on time.** If you are running late make sure to call and update your host on when you will be arriving.
- 3. Bring a gift.** To show your appreciation for the free lodging bring a gift. It doesn't have to be big or expensive. Remember the cost of a motel room in the Keys during the season start at \$150 a night. Paradise is not cheap. Gifts from your home state are always appreciated.
- 4. Clean up after yourself.** Make the bed and straighten up your room. Put your dishes in the sink or dishwasher.
- 5. Pitch in.** Help carry in the groceries or take out the garbage. Do not wait to be asked.
- 6. Do not let your presence interfere with your friend's normal routine.** If they work from home do not interrupt them. Or when they are getting ready to leave for work stay out of their way. Your friend may of course wish to take time off to hang out with you, but you should never impose on their time. If you are riding in the same vehicle and your host wants to go home, let them and call Mom's Taxi 305-852-6000 to take you home later.
- 7. Do not ignore your friend all together.** No one wants to feel as though you are just using him/her as a hostel. Invite your host on your excursions.
- 8. Disclose your schedule and stick to it.** Make sure to mention when you plan to leave. This will help your host make their own plans.
- 9. Come with ideas about what you want to do and see.** Don't expect your host to entertain you all day long.
- 10. Even if you don't find all the activities your host plans enjoyable, keep your disappointment to yourself.** Your friend is working hard to entertain you, let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- 11. Don't criticize your friend's home town or state.** For instance, don't say "It's very boring in Marathon," we already know Marathon is boring.
- 12. If your host advises you to stay away from certain tourist traps, take their advice.** For instance, if you visit the place with the giant penguin outside your host will think you are a moron.
- 13. Don't overstay your visit unless you are invited to do so.** Remember after three days guests, family and fish stink!
- 14. Strip the bed before you leave.** It will make it easier for your host to wash the linen.
- 15. Write a thank you note and express your gratitude soon after the trip.**

Tip to the host or hostess:
Place this newspaper by your guest's bed. It makes for great reading, tells where the best entertainment, meals and shopping are, plus they'll read this article!



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Selling Your Home?

...continued from page 9
emotions out of it and be objective. Don't simply reject an offer. Make a reasonable counteroffer and send the message that you want to close the gap between the offer and what you are willing to accept for your home!

Remember - interest rates are at historically low levels - so not only can the buyer of your home get a much better rate and loan to buy your home. That also means that if you are planning to upgrade, you also can take advantage of the same great rates and perhaps purchase that larger home you've been wanting, or a new home on a canal.

So if you are interested in selling your home, try putting a few of these practical

strategies to work to get the best return on your investment. With the right approach, anytime can be the right time to sell!

One final thought - if you absolutely don't want to sell yet - you might want to consider renting. Things to keep in mind would be: how much rent your house will bring, do you want to be a landlord, and how do you find good tenants. We can discuss that at another time!

Contributed by:
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Broker for over 20 years in the Florida Keys

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