



Accommodating out of Town Guests for your Indianapolis Wedding

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If many of your guests live out of town, attending or participating in your wedding may become a substantial investment for them, from the wedding attire to the airfare/transportation, lodging, meals and other expenses that go along with a long-distance wedding.

Whether they are coming from the other side of Indianapolis or from out of state, how can you make your out-of-town guests feel at home during your wedding weekend? Here are some tips:



Photo: [Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre](#)

Hotel and Lodging: The cost of a hotel for one or two nights alone in the Indianapolis metro area can cost hundreds of dollars. But sometimes hotels are the best option for convenience to the wedding and available amenities. Start with your wedding and reception location, and identify several of the best hotels nearby. Often the wedding or reception venue or vendors will offer suggestions for the more popular hotels in the area, or ask a friend or family member who has gotten married in the area for advice. You'll want to give guests several options for lodging, including one at a value price and one more expensive option. You may even consider options such as bed and breakfasts or house/cabin rentals if any exist in that area. Ask the hotel or location for a special wedding rate if you book a certain block of rooms that weekend, to save your guests some money on the nightly rate. Also, inquire about amenities you think your guests might appreciate, such as a Friday happy hour, on-site dining or room service, pool/spa, workout facilities and breakfast options.



Photo: [Wyndham Indianapolis West](#)

For lodging located away from your wedding site, consider having transportation such as a shuttle for guests to come back and forth from the wedding to the hotel. Include these options on your formal invitations to out-of-town guests so that they can know what to expect, and so that you can finalize your lodging guest block several weeks before the wedding. With this in mind, you will want to plan to notify out of town guests several months before the wedding so they can plan their travel.

Welcome Guests with a Wedding Gift Basket: If your budget allows, consider putting together a small gift bag for your out-of-town guests staying overnight. Your lodging location should be able to help you distribute these bags or baskets in each room prior to guest check-in. These bags can help your Indianapolis wedding guests feel welcome, and could provide some of the items they might need during their stay. You could even provide personalized items related to your wedding theme. Indiana gift basket company [A Taste of Indiana](#) will customize a wedding box or basket in any price range.



Photo: A Taste of Indiana

Pinterest also has some great ideas on putting together your own wedding gift bags. Some ideas for guest packages include:

- Bottled water
- Gum or breath mints
- Granola bars, nuts, candies or other snacks
- Packaged coffee, tea or soda to use in-room
- Coupons or gift cards to local shops or restaurants
- Travel necessities (tissues, sewing kits, etc.)
- Wedding memento or small gift item
- Map of the area
- Suggested places to grab coffee, shop, get hair or nails done, golf, etc.
- Tourist attraction brochures or guidebooks



Photo: *[Louise's Sweets](#)*

For more ideas on wedding gift baskets, visit IndyBride2B's [Wedding Guest Gift Bags Pinterest Board](#).

Consider activities surrounding the wedding: If many of your out-of-state guests will arrive on Friday night, consider inviting them to the rehearsal or rehearsal dinner, or give them a few options for dining or entertainment upon their arrival. You could include this information on your wedding website, or in the wedding packets provided at the lodging site. During downtime such as Saturday morning before the wedding, consider suggesting activities that your guests might enjoy or a popular local shopping, golfing, a community festival or event, or some other type of entertainment venue so that they can pass the time until your wedding.

You could also provide links to tourism websites such as visitindy.com or your regional tourism association. Also, consider hosting a breakfast/brunch event for your family, wedding party and out of town guests the morning after your wedding. This will give you an opportunity to thank your out-of-town guests for staying the weekend and participating in your special day, and give everyone a final farewell prior to taking off on your honeymoon.

Because people from out of town are investing time and money into attending your wedding, you should be a gracious host, and go out of your way to let them know they are appreciated, and that you're glad they made the trip.

Tags: Indianapolis hotels, Indianapolis wedding lodging, Indianapolis wedding gift bags, wedding gift baskets, accommodation, wedding guests, travel, wedding, weddings, brides, bride, wedding planning, wedding etiquette, Indianapolis, Indiana