



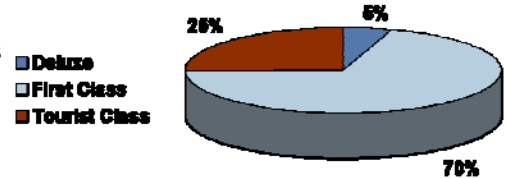
The FedRooms Check-in

Traveler Volume 2, issue 3
Summer 2007

75% of FedRooms Hotels Classified as “Deluxe,” “First Class”

Many federal travelers believe that to get a rate within federal per diem, their options for accommodations are limited. FedRooms is dispelling that myth, with 75% of the 5,000 participating properties falling under the “Deluxe” or “First Class” classifications, as defined by the Official Hotel Guide (OHG).

FedRooms Hotels by Classification



The top 5% of participating properties are classified as “Deluxe,” defined as “outstanding properties” in the classification system, which states that they are safe to recommend to discriminating clients.

70% of properties are designated as “First Class,” falling into four separate classifications: Superior First Class (13%), First Class (30%), Limited Service First Class (17%), and Moderate First Class (10%). These properties are recommended for a range of travelers, from discriminating to cost-conscious.

The remaining 25% of properties fall under Tourist Class, further broken down into two separate classifications: Superior Tourist Class (23%) and Tourist Class (2%). These hotels are recommended for groups or individuals traveling on a budget.

Help Desk

Hours: M-F, 7:00-3:30 CST

Contact:

1-800-226-1741

hotels@fedrooms.com

More chances to learn the basics about FedRooms!

Attend one of the upcoming FedRooms 101 training sessions. Sessions will be held via webinar on Wednesday, August 29 at 1:00 pm central time and Wednesday, September 26 at 10:00 am central time. Visit the [FedRooms 101](#) link on the traveler page at [FedRooms.com](#) for additional information.

FedRooms Trivia Challenge

Take the [FedRooms Trivia Challenge](#) for your chance to win an upgrade certificate (space available, valid through March 31, 2008) for participating Carlson Hotels. Upgrade certificates will be awarded to the first 50 respondents to get all 5 trivia questions correct.

Correct answers will be posted in the next issue of the FedRooms Check-in newsletter.

Travel Fun Fact

American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad served in first class.

-Source: www.airlinequality.com

Quote of the quarter

“Using fedrooms.com was amazing. It saved me so much time and frustration!”

-Federal traveler, via [fedrooms.com website usability survey](#)

Air Travel Update

Cigarette lighter ban lifted, liquid ban still in effect

The ban on cigarette lighters in carry-on luggage was lifted in August, allowing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials to focus on looking for more sensitive, potentially harmful objects.

Before the ban was lifted, an estimated 22,000 lighters were collected each day nationwide, with disposal costs reaching about \$4 million USD each year.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security supported lifting the ban, as long as it could be determined that lighters were not a significant threat to civil aviation security. The ban on small scissors and other tools was lifted in late 2005 for similar reasons.

Conversely, the restrictions on liquids, gels, and aerosols will continue to remain in effect for the foreseeable future. These restrictions state that all liquids, gels, and aerosols must be in 3-ounce or smaller containers and be placed in a single, quart-size zip-top, clear plastic bag, which must be placed in a bin or on a conveyer belt for security screening.

Longer term, TSA officials suggest these restrictions may be eased with the eventual deployment of high-tech X-ray machines that would produce 3-D images of luggage contents, rather than the current two-dimensional view.

Sources: *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Transportation Security Administration*, *CWT Traveler Newsletter*



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The FedRooms Check-in, continued

Hotel Spotlight



Chateau Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans

Chateau Sonesta Hotel New Orleans, with FedRooms rates starting at \$102 (based on availability), offers the best of New Orleans!

In a prime French Quarter location, bordered by Bourbon, Canal, Dauphine, and Iberville Streets, guests enjoy easy access to the central business district, renowned jazz clubs, internationally acclaimed restaurants, shops, the casino, Superdome, Aquarium of the Americas/IMAX Theatre, Mississippi riverboats, and more...within easy walking distance.

Chateau Sonesta features the most spacious French Quarter guest rooms with grand, 12-foot ceilings, an outdoor pool, poolside bar, fitness room, garden courtyard, in-room spa services, Ralph Brennan's Red Fish Grill, Tempo restaurant and the popular Clock Bar, a cozy rendezvous spot.

Click [here](#) to book now.



CHATEAU SONESTA HOTEL
NEW ORLEANS

Protect your home while away on business

You know what to do to keep yourself and your belongings safe while traveling for business, but do you give your empty home the same consideration? According to FBI statistics, almost half of all residential burglaries occur when a house is empty. In many cases, burglars can be in and out of a home within 60 seconds. The following tips can help travelers mitigate the risk of burglary to their homes while traveling for business:

- Ensure all doors and windows have heavy-duty locks and latches. For added security on windows and sliding doors, use a secondary blocking device, such as a wooden dowel.
- Use motion-detecting lights outside where feasible.
- Advertise alarm systems with stickers on doors and windows or with a prominent lawn sign.
- Put a temporary stop on newspaper delivery for the days of travel.
- Complete a request form to have your mail held at your local post office. Details can be found at <https://holdmail.usps.com/duns/HoldMail.jsp>.
- Post "Beware of Dog" signs while away, even if there is no dog inside. Burglars won't know the difference and will likely be deterred.
- Set lights on timers programmed for random operation to turn on and off periodically. Many television sets also have timers that enable them to turn on once or twice a day for a designated period of time.
- Ask trusted neighbors to keep an eye on the house, or leave a key with them.
- Don't leave spare keys hidden outside, even in places that don't seem obvious.
- Cut the lawn before leaving and trim back any shrubs or tree limbs covering windows, so neighbors can easily keep an eye on what's going on inside.

Sources: MSNBC, Crime Stoppers, CWT Traveler Newsletter

FedRooms Fast Facts

- There are currently more than 5,000 hotels in the FedRooms program from around the world.
- FTR states the federal travelers must give FedRooms Rates first consideration when traveling on official business.
- FedRooms Rates are available through all booking channels: FedRooms.com, online booking tools, travel agencies (TMC/CTO), and by calling the hotel directly.
- FedRooms is the official government-wide lodging program contracted through the U.S. General Services Administration. (GSA).

FedRooms FAQs

- Q:** If FedRooms is a government program, why is the website FedRooms.com instead of FedRooms.gov?
- A:** Although FedRooms is the official government-wide, government-sponsored hotel program, it is contracted to Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a commercial (.com) organization. The FedRooms website is also accessible through FedRooms.gov, which is hosted by the GSA.
- Q:** Is there a way to enter dates into my hotel search on FedRooms.com at the beginning of the search process, rather than entering dates for each property in search results?
- A:** Because FedRooms.com was built as a tool to supplement government contracted online booking tools, it was built on simple technology linking travelers directly to hotel inventory. Website utilization has grown beyond initial expectations, and FedRooms is currently evaluating the opportunity of partnering with a Global Distribution System (GDS) to enable searches by date and availability.
- Q:** Can I use the FedRooms Rate for leisure travel?
- A:** Yes. Approximately 60% of FedRooms hotels extend the FedRooms Rate to federal government and military travelers on leisure travel. Approximately 60% of hotels also extend the FedRooms Rate for small groups and meetings (up to 25 people), government contractors, and state government employees. These rates are available through FedRooms.com.



U.S. General Services Administration