

## Lodging Guide

Are you ready to start planning your great vacation? Here are some questions that will help you make the right choice:

1. How large is your family or group?
2. How long do you plan to stay?
3. Is being close to the beach important to you?
4. How many bedrooms will you need? Will you have visitors during your vacation and need extra sleeping space?
5. What about the other amenities? Can you list all the things that would help make your vacation more comfortable? (Do you need a place where you can prepare meals, or will you be going out for all your meals?)
6. Is being close to shopping important to you?
7. Will there be a restaurant where you are staying, or will you have to go out to eat?
8. Is on-site parking important? Will you have to pay for parking?
9. Do you prefer to walk or ride to the things you want to do?
10. Will you take public transportation where you are staying?
11. Will you be taking tours of the area? What tours are available?
12. What about recreational activities? What is available in the resort area?
13. Will you be bringing beach equipment (chairs, umbrellas, etc.), or are they available for rent where you're going, or will they be provided as a courtesy from the place you're lodging?
14. Will beach tags be required, what are the fees, and will they be supplied by the host or hostess as a courtesy and part of your vacation stay?
15. Is the beach resort you're staying in a "wet" or a "dry" town? A number of resorts are "dry" because they don't have restaurants or bars that serve alcoholic beverages. Such towns may have a "Bring your own bottle" (BYOB) policy in their restaurants and cafes. You should know the rules and policies of the town where you'll be vacationing.
16. Do you plan to go fishing? If so, what options are available to you? Party boats, "in-shore" fishing (up to 15 miles out) and/or "off-shore" fishing (up to 70 miles out to the continental shelf for large game sport fishing), or surf casting areas, etc. What about crabbing?
17. Can you bring your own bicycles, or will they be available to rent?
18. Is a hospital or clinic nearby in case of an emergency?
19. Is the facility handicapped accessible if you or someone in your party has a handicap?
20. What are the attractions in the area and where are they located? How much are their admission fees?
21. If you and/or others in your family/group are golfers, what courses are in the area, how crowded are they, and what are their fees? If you play tennis or participate in handball, basketball, volleyball, or other sports, are their recreational facilities available to provide what you need?
22. Are their nature trails available for hiking and/or biking?

23. How close will you be to movie houses, malls, and other in-door activities in case of inclement (rain) weather?
24. Are there age-specific attractions in the area? (Things to do for toddlers to teens).
25. Are there amusement parks with rides available? What about miniature golf and water parks?
26. Is there a commercial or non-commercial boardwalk or promenade?
27. What about nightclubs and nightly entertainment?
28. Will you need babysitting services or elder care?
29. How much spending money will you need for the vacation? Are ATM's available?
30. Are pets allowed?
31. Is smoking permitted?
32. Does the facility have cable TV and/or computer access (Internet)?
33. Is there a swimming pool?
34. Are there nearby houses of worship?
35. Last, but by no means least, what is your budget range for your vacation rental?

Vacation accommodations come in various forms:

Apartments/suites

Bed and Breakfast Inns

Condominiums

Campgrounds

Guest Houses

Hotels

Motels

Whole house and/or house unit rentals

The Great Vacation website ([www.GreatVacationGuide.com](http://www.GreatVacationGuide.com)) is the place to begin your search. When you go to the site and click on the words "Search Now" at the bottom of the page, you'll go to the page that lists accommodations by the categories shown here, and the areas in which accommodations are available. For example: You could click on "Bed and Breakfast," and then on "Ocean City area," and a list of Bed and Breakfast inns in the Ocean City area will be shown so you can scroll through them. When you click on a choice you'll link to that inn's site for more information. Click on "Accommodations with Current Vacancy" to speed your search.

Accommodation types:

**Apartments/suites:** Apartments and/or suites can be found in larger buildings, in carriage houses, guest houses, B&B's, hotels and motels. An apartment is usually a suite of rooms that features sleeping, eating and food preparation areas (kitchen or kitchenette), and there may be more than one bedroom. Privacy can be an issue when it comes to renting an apartment.

**Bed and Breakfast:** In the good “old days” a Bed and Breakfast inn could be described as “...long on *charm* (antiques) and short on *amenities* (sharing a bathroom),” but times have changed. Bed and Breakfast inns in New Jersey resort towns now offer amenities, AND private bathrooms (as they say in Europe “en suite”) as part of the room you rent. A Bed and Breakfast inn also provides breakfast in the morning for guests: hence the term “Bed and Breakfast.” The breakfast itself, depending on where you stay, may be simple but tasty fare, all the way up to the wonders of gourmet cooking.

Bed and Breakfast inns are most often private homes, and the *real charm* is in the history and period of the building, the antique furnishings, colors, wallpapers, paint, etc., and whether or not there’s a front porch that’s perfect for sitting in rocking chairs, plus the walking distance to local beaches, shopping and other attractions. Many B&B’s are of historical significance, and some are listed on National and State registers of historical places.

**Condominium (Condos):** The dictionary defines the term as: “An apartment house of individually owned apartments; an apartment in such a house, a multi-house complex of individually owned houses; or a house in such a complex. People who own condos in resort areas often rent/lease them out to guests for vacation purposes to earn income and/or to cover their own expenses of ownership during the year.

**Campgrounds:** You bring your own accommodations - from tents to elaborate recreational vehicles (RV’s) - and rent a site for a night, a week or a season. Amenities may range from really “roughing it” (an outhouse) to modern showers, restrooms, swimming pools and other amenities.

**Guest House:** Ranging in size from small to large, a “guest house” contains rooms or suites for rent. In one sense every place that rents to vacationers and/or travelers is a “guest” house because they accommodate guests. The dictionary defines a “guest” as one who lives in a hotel or a boardinghouse.

**Hotel:** The dictionary definition of this word is “A large and superior kind of inn.” Some of the most beautiful buildings in the world are hotels with large magnificently appointed lobbies and reception areas, lounges, restaurants, shops, health clubs, spas, conference rooms and other amenities – usually on the first floor of a high rise building or “skyscraper” in a large city, with the hotel rooms on the higher floors. The services offered by hotels (valet services, breakfast, lunch and dinner brought to the rooms, baggage handling, etc.) are not always available at motels.

**Motel:** Combining two words (motoring and hotel), the earliest motels were located along busy highways where travelers could pull in, park their cars and spend the night. Some of the best motels in the world rival hotels in their amenities. A motel “room” usually consists of a sleeping area and a bathroom.

**Whole house, duplex, triplex, etc.** Along most of the New Jersey coastal resort region the majority of available vacation rental properties consist of privately owned homes that

are single family structures, or structures containing two, three or perhaps four rental units. Smaller homes or units may have three bedrooms and 2 \_ baths, while larger units may have five or more bedrooms and multiple baths, full kitchens, living rooms, dining areas, etc. The emphasis is on providing a “home away from home” for a vacationing family or party with sleeping, bathing, kitchen and laundry facilities on site.

A great vacation involves planning ahead, and [www.GreatVacationGuide.com](http://www.GreatVacationGuide.com) is the place to go for information on accommodations, dining, attractions, antiques, shopping, realtors, boating & fishing, services, and associations – plus picture galleries, all of the archived bi-monthly issues of the Great Vacation newsletter, and more. The time you spend planning now means your vacation has a far better chance of being a *great* vacation!