

# Houseguest Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Before Arriving
  - Tell your hosts when you'll be arriving and when you're leaving.
  - Stick to the dates of the visit.
  - Inform about your plans so that your hosts can plan accordingly.
  - Be clear about who'll be joining you.
  - If you're taking children with you, be sure to communicate their daily schedules.
  - Consider bringing a small gift.
  - Pack smart - stick to the essentials.
- Your Stay
  - Respect the rules of the house.
  - Show your hosts that you realize and appreciate their kindness.
  - Contribute what you can.
  - Hang up towels, make the bed, and don't leave your stuff lying around common areas of the house.
  - Adopt the schedule and the routine of the hosts.
  - Don't disrupt your hosts lives.
  - Let everyone have their privacy.
  - Try not to use things that aren't yours.
  - If using anything, replenish the things you've used e g. toothpaste.
  - Keep your bathroom and toiletries in a bag in your room or suitcase between use.
  - Don't mess around with the heating or air conditioning settings.
  - Watch your children.
- Leaving
  - Be sure you leave behind a good impression and a hope that you'll return again.
  - Invite your hosts to stay with you next time they're in town.
  - Send a thank-you note