

10 Tips on Being a Gracious Houseguest

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One of the best part of the holidays is spending time with friends and family. During this time, there may be occasions when you are a houseguest for several days. Being a gracious guest makes the difference between a wonderful experience for your host or a very stressful one.



It's easy to be a great guest if you keep in mind a few basic rules.

1. Communicate clearly your arrival day and time. Be respectful of your host's time and show up as agreed and not earlier.
2. Upon your arrival find something to compliment about your host's home. Most hosts spend a great deal of time preparing for guests and complimenting them is a great way to make them feel appreciated.
3. Keep your guest area tidy and make your bed each morning. If you share a bath with others, be efficient with your time and towels.
4. Do not ask to bring pets or other people. Doing so makes for an uncomfortable conversation.
5. Help with the kitchen duties. Offer to help your host prepare dinner, set and clear the table.
6. If you have children, bring their snacks and enough to share with others. Keep an eye on them and don't expect your host to manage them.
7. Keep your cell phone and texting to a bare minimum while visiting.
8. The morning of your departure, ask your host if you should strip the bed, make it or leave it unmade. I prefer my guest to leave the bed unmade. But, that is just a personal preference.
9. Always bring a gift. A food item or bottle of wine from a specialty shop is always welcome.
10. Overnight visits require a handwritten thank you note when you get home.

Hosts go to great lengths to ensure you have a lovely visit and it is important to show your gratitude.

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