

Beacon Hill Friends House Guest Rooms - Frequently Asked Questions

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So you're thinking about staying here

What are the rooms like?

We have two guest rooms, both on the "basement" level, the same level as the kitchen. The both have windows and get sunlight during the day. Both rooms share the bathroom with a shower. This bathroom is used lightly by residents. Neither room locks from the outside, but neither does any resident's room. We have a very safe, trusting community.

The Mary Dyer Room: Named after a tenacious Boston Quaker who refused to stop preaching even after the Puritans told her to leave the city, this room has a double bed. Winding stairs or a small elevator from the front door lead you to the Mary Dyer Room, tucked into the front corner of the house on our ground floor level. Two tall windows looking out half-way below street level let light into this modestly sized room. It includes a desk, chair, and shelves stocked with local information. There are some shelves for clothes. A half-bath separated from the room by a curtain includes a toilet and sink. A space heater keeps the room extra warm in the winter, and a fan cools it in the summer.

The shower is through the kitchen and down the hall, and is shared with the other guests and lightly used by residents.

The George Fox Room: Named after a founder of Quakerism, this room has two single-sized beds. You can take the stairs or elevator from the front door to the George Fox Room, tucked into the back end of the house. Two windows look out onto the kitchen courtyard, lighting this modestly sized room. It includes a dresser, chair, and radio alarm clock. The bathroom is just around the corner, and is shared by the other guest room and lightly used by residents.

How much does it cost?

The Mary Dyer Room costs \$90/night for one person or \$100/night for two. If you'd really like to squeeze in a third person, there is a mattress for the floor for \$10 extra per night.

The George Fox Room costs \$75/night for one person or \$85/night for two. We may sometimes be able to use a futon in the next room for guests to sleep on, which costs an extra \$10/person/night.

How many people can sleep in a room?

Both rooms are private; guests never share a bedroom with a stranger.

The Mary Dyer Room can be booked for one or two people. Sometimes, it can accommodate 3 people, if the third person is able-bodied and doesn't mind sleeping on a mattress on the floor, and everyone doesn't mind the very cramped quarters this creates.

The George Fox Room can be booked for one or two people. Usually, when requested, it can be booked for up to four people. The third and/or fourth person will sleep on the futon in the adjacent room, the playroom. This room is not entirely private, as people may walk into the adjoining hallway on their way to the bathroom. Guests must walk through the playroom to get to the George Fox Room.

Does the house provide linens and towels?

Yes.

What is the house like?

The Beacon Hill Friends House sits at the top of Chestnut Street on Beacon Hill, near the Massachusetts State House. It was built in 1804 as two single-family homes, which were joined together in the 1920s. In 1957, the house was donated to the Quakers to be a Meeting House of Worship and a place of residence. The Beacon Hill Friends Meeting rents the Meeting Room from the house for their Sunday worship.

21 residents call the Beacon Hill Friends House home. Three of those residents are staff—the Director, Kitchen Manager, and Residency Manager. The Residency Manager will usually handle all of the guest room booking, but other staff may greet guests. Sometimes, especially for guests arriving in the evening, a resident may greet you.

Guests share public space (kitchen, parlor, lounge, library, courtyards, and

sometimes the bathroom) with residents.

Guests serve themselves from our home-style kitchen. Please make yourself at home and help yourself to breakfast food whenever you're ready.

How long can I stay?

Typically, guests stay one night to two weeks.

Before you come

How do I reserve a room?

Contact the Residency Manager at 617-227-9118 or directors@bhfh.org

After we confirm that you can come, please send a non-refundable one night's deposit by check payable to "Beacon Hill Friends House" to

Beacon Hill Friends House
6 Chestnut St
Boston, MA 02108

If you are coming from overseas or cannot send a check for some other reason, please discuss this with the Residency Manager.

Send the check at least two weeks before your arrival date.

Please give the Residency Manager your cell phone and flight numbers if relevant, so that we can contact you if you're late or check if your flight is late.

How do I cancel my reservation?

Please contact us at least two weeks in advance by phone (617-227-9118) or email (directors@bhfh.org) if you need to cancel. Your check will not be refunded.

When should I arrive?

Please arrive between 11am and 7:30pm. On Sundays, please arrive between 3:30pm and 7:30pm. Let us know what time you will arrive (please be as specific as possible). If you need to arrive later, we may be able to arrange for a resident to greet you. We do not greet guests later than 10pm.

What happens when I arrive?

A staff person or a resident will expect you at the time you said you would come and let you in once you arrive. You will receive a brief orientation of the house, get your key to the house, fill out a registration form with an emergency contact, and pay any balance due. Please have cash or check available, as we do not accept credit card payments.

How do I get there?

See our website section "directions" for more detailed directions.

Train: the Commuter Rail to North Station or South Station.
Amtrak Noreaster to North Station, Boston: Amtrak.com

Check out mbta.com for local trains, buses, and subway

Bus: Greyhound bus to South Station
Peter Pan Bus to South Station
Bolt Bus to South Station
Mega Bus to Back Bay Station

The

Plane: Logan International Airport

Subway: the “T” at mbta.com

Car: Please look up the directions ahead of time. Several guests have spent a long time circling the neighborhood, confused by the one-way streets.

Can I park on the street?

Street parking is not available for guests, but if you need to drop off your bags, you can do so quickly in front of the house. Usually, there is space in front of the fire hydrant at the corner of Chestnut on the left as you turn right onto Chestnut from Walnut St. This can be a very temporary space (someone should remain in the car, ready to move it) while someone unloads bags.

We have discounted parking garage tickets for the Boston Common Garage, about a 15 minute walk (uphill) from there to the house. These discounted tickets only apply on weekend days and during weeknights, if your car is in by 4pm and out by 8am. They cost \$5.50 each. Without these discounted tickets, you would pay \$11 a weekend day or weeknight. The garage costs \$27 a day.

While you're here

How do I use the internet?

There is no password or login to use the internet. We have two public computers in our library for guests to use. We also have wi-fi all over the house, though it may not work as well in some places as in others.

How do I make and receive phone calls?

There is a cordless public phone in the kitchen. It has a short range. For privacy, you can take it into the TV lounge, dining room, or outside. Please consider those around you as you make your calls. For any number not starting with the area code 617 or 781, please use a calling card. Please put \$0.25 into the box by the phone to pay for every local call.

If you are expecting a call, please wait for it in the kitchen. If someone else picks up the phone, they may write a message for you and leave it in the message box in the kitchen labeled “guest” or tape it to your door. Ask the staff for the phone number once you arrive.

We do not take personal calls on the office phone, so please do not have people call you on our office number.

Is there a curfew?

No. Guests may come and go as they please while they are here, since you will get a key to the front door.

What is the quiet hours policy?

Quiet hours are between 10:30pm and 8am on weekdays and 10:30pm and 9am on weekends. Please keep your voices to a whisper in hallways, stairwells and just outside of the house (sound travels up to bedroom windows), be careful not to slam doors, do not play the piano, and generally be conscious of noise during these hours.

Can I drink alcohol?

Open containers of alcohol are not permitted at any time in the kitchen. Alcohol is also not allowed during our community dinnertime. All other times and places are acceptable, but please keep alcohol consumption to a level where it doesn't disrupt other residents or create a mess.

What public rooms can I use?

Open to guests are the parlor, library, grand staircase, dining room, tv lounge, bathrooms on the basement level, kitchen, laundry room, courtyards, and deck. Please respect the private areas of the house by not entering private bathrooms or rooms.

When is Meeting for Worship, and how will it affect guests?

Meeting for Worship is the "congregation" of Quakers that rents space from the Beacon Hill Friends House. This Beacon Hill Friends Meeting has worship from 10:30-11:30 in the Meeting Room most Sundays.

One Sunday a month, a group will meet to sing in the Parlor (which is just above the Mary Dyer Room) around 9:30-10:15. Some public rooms may be used for Meeting meetings on Sundays in the early afternoon.

The "first day school" (Sunday school) meets in the playroom just outside of the George Fox Room on Sunday mornings.

On the first Sunday of the month, there is a Meeting for Business from around 12 noon to 2pm. During Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business, residents and guests are asked to follow quiet hour rules and not use the wooden stairs or elevator.

People attending Meeting will be walking back and forth in front of the Mary Dyer Room in the morning. They will also use the guest bathroom by the George Fox Room and the public toilet next to the Mary Dyer Room.

Who are the residents?

Practically anyone can live here. People who live here are all different ages, from all different backgrounds, but we all come here for the community. You may run into residents all over the house, but one of the best ways to meet us is by joining us for our 6:30pm (except some Sundays) dinner cooked by our residency manager. This costs \$7 per guest, and we ask you to sign up by 3pm the day you plan to join dinner. You can pay the Residency Manager before you leave.

Before you leave

How do I check out?

Please leave your key on a desk or dresser when you leave. Leave the sheets on the bed. Please do not refold towels (if you haven't used them, we may save them for the next guest). Take all of your belongings out of the room by 10am.