

How to enjoy pleasant stay in Japanese hotels during Shabbat and useful phrases to get personal assistance from non-jewish hotel personnel

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Notes: I am no halachik authority but familiar with many gadgets found in Japan that may pose issues for shomer shabbos visitors. Please consult with your Rav for way arounds.

Issues that may arise during your hotel stay

Reach/Enter/Leave your hotel room

1. How to reach your room without taking elevators
2. How to open/shut your room door that requires microchipped/magnetic card
3. How to turn on the electric power supply to the room with the keyholder or card
4. How to leave your room without turning off the power supply to your room.

Issues with using Japanese toilets with electronic gadgets

1. How to use the hi-tech toilet (called "washlet" in Japanese) with electronic controlled
 - a. Bidet for women (not automatic. Does not turn on until you initiate it with a switch)
 - b. Sprinkler for both sexes (not automatic)
 - c. Heated seat (can be left on or turned off all the time before shabbat)
 - c. Automatic cleaner/odor remover activated when weight is placed on the toilet seat (electronic switch). The same function may get activated when you open the closed lid (see photo below).



Under any circumstances, tips/gratuuity should not given unless specific amount/services are explicitly written in your hotel rules (found in your room). If you still feel indebted to their chesed by going out of their ways to help you, you can do

1. Leave positive responses in the hotel web site upon your return.
2. Write positive reviews in any travel reservation sites
3. Write personal thank you letters to the management.

Useful Japanese phrases

For my religious practices and restrictions, I am not supposed to turn on electronic devices. Examples are switches to turn on room lights. Opening my hotel door by magnetic card key, Turn on the power source in the room by placing the key holder or card in the slot which activates power in the room. Taking elevators operated by myself. Could you assist me in these areas when I return to the hotel from outing?

Translation:

私の宗教的な制限・習慣の理由で金曜日の日没から土曜の日没まで(24時間ぐらい)部屋の電気のスイッチや電子式のカードの部屋鍵は使いたくないのです。ロビーから部屋へいくときも階段をつかいたいのです。どうかたすけてくれませんか？

Difficulty in reaching your room without taking elevators on shabbat from the lobby.

Could you show me how to reach my room from the lobby to my floor without taking elevator?

Translation:

ロビーから部屋に行ったり来たりするための階段の使い方をおしえてください。エレベーターは避けたいのです。

To counter the following problems on Shabbat.

1. Electronic card key that opens your room door (the card is usually not required to shut the door but when you shut the door, it does activate the electronic lock. So it is better to ask someone to shut the door for you)

2. Many Japanese hotel rooms require guests to place your keyholder (the plastic name tag) or magnetic/microchipped card into a small slot near the door (room side) to turn on the power to your entire room. Without the action, tea pot, TV, room lights will not turn on (but AC power to charge your cell phones/lap tops may work if the source is different). This may be the case even if your key is a mechanical one (no coding). If the key is a magnetic one, even when you shut the door, an electronic auto lock gets activated. That means leaving your room Sat morning when you go to the shul is another challenge. You would have to ask some personnel to come up to your room and remove the card and shut the door for you.

Could any hotel staff meet me at my room door so that I can ask him/her to turn on the room power and some switches for lights? I will be back in the hotel lobby at about ????? (insert appointment time).

ホテルに外出から帰ったときに部屋のオートロックの鍵と電源をだれか部屋まで一緒にきて ON にしてくれませんか？ロビーには 約_____時にもどる予定です。

Could any hotel staff meet me at my room door when I leave the room to remove the card key (that powers the room electric power) from the slot and save it at front desk until I come back? I will come notify someone in the lobby in person when I am ready to leave the hotel. It will be around ?????(insert appointment time) time in the morning.

Translation

私がホテルを土曜の朝出る際にだれか鍵カードを電源のスロットからとってドアをしめカードをロビーで保管してくれませんか？でる用意ができればロビーに私がだれかを呼びにきますので。多分朝の大体_____時ぐらいだとおもいます。

Have a pleasant journey and stay in Japan!

どうかよい御旅行を！

נסיעה נעימה ביפן!