SOFTWARE & TECH

Marriott Friends And Family Discount Form

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Introduction: Unlocking Exclusive Travel Savings with the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form

For many travelers, the name Marriott is synonymous with comfort, consistency, and global reach. However, the nightly rates at properties like the Ritz-Carlton, W Hotels, or even a standard Courtyard by Marriott can quickly add up. This is where the **Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form** becomes a game-changer. This little-known but powerful tool allows associates (Marriott employees) to extend heavily discounted rates—often referred to as the "Explore Rate" or "MMP Rate"—to their close friends and family members. Understanding how to obtain, fill out, and use this form is the key to unlocking some of the best hotel deals in the industry.

Whether you are a Marriott employee looking to share the benefit or a friend hoping to snag a luxurious stay for a fraction of the cost, this article will walk you through everything you need to know. We will cover eligibility requirements, step-by-step instructions for completing the form, booking tips, important restrictions, and common pitfalls to avoid. By the end, you will have a clear roadmap to using the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form to save hundreds—sometimes thousands—of dollars on your next vacation.

What Is the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form?

The Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form is an official document that Marriott associates (employees) can generate through the company's internal system (eGlobal or Marriott Global Source). This form authorizes a non-employee to book a room at the special "Explore Rate" (MMP) or the "Friends and Family Rate" (MFF). The form contains a unique authorization code, the associate's name and property, the guest's name, travel dates, and a signature or digital approval. Without this form, front desk agents are instructed not to honor the discounted rate.

It is important to distinguish between two main discount programs:

- Explore Rate (MMP): The deepest discount, often 75% off standard rates. Only immediate family and very close friends of the associate are eligible. The associate must be present at check-in and during the stay for MMP bookings.
- Friends and Family Rate (MFF or "Marshmallow"): A slightly higher discounted rate (typically 40-60% off) that does not require the associate to be present. This is the rate for which the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form is most commonly used.

The form itself is a PDF that must be printed or presented digitally at check-in. It includes a unique validation number that the front desk uses to verify the booking. Without a valid form, the rate will be declined, and the guest may be charged the best available rate.

Associates (Employees)

Any full-time or part-time Marriott associate who has been employed for at least 90 days can generate the form. Seasonal employees and corporate staff are also eligible after their probation period. The associate must be in good standing (not on a disciplinary action that restricts travel benefits).

Guests (Friends and Family)

The form can be issued to an individual named on the form—usually a parent, sibling, spouse, child, or very close friend. Some properties have strict interpretations: for MMP, the relationship must be “immediate family” or “domestic partner,” while MFF allows a broader circle. The guest must be at least 18 years old and present a valid government-issued ID matching the name on the form at check-in.

Important: The form cannot be transferred. It is non-negotiable, non-refundable, and booked for a specific date range. If the guest cancels or no-shows, the rate is forfeited.

How to Obtain a Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form

The process begins with the Marriott associate. Here are the typical steps:

1. Log into the associate portal (eGlobal or Marriott Global Source) using their employee credentials.
2. Navigate to the “Travel” or “Explore Rate” section. There, they can generate a new form for a specific guest.
3. Enter the guest’s full legal name (as it appears on their ID), relationship, and desired travel dates. The system then produces a unique authorization code and a PDF of the form.
4. Save the PDF and share it with the guest via email or a secure link. The guest should keep a digital copy on their phone and a printed backup.

Note: Associates are generally limited to a certain number of forms per year (e.g., 20-25 for MFF, and a smaller number for MMP). They may also be restricted to booking at properties that are not their own place of employment to avoid conflicts of interest.

Filling Out the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form Correctly

Accuracy is paramount. A single mismatch between the form and the guest’s ID can result in denial of the rate. The key fields are:

- Associate Information: Employee name, property name, and employee ID. This should be pre-filled when generated.
- Guest Name: Must match the guest’s government-issued ID exactly. Middle names are optional but must match if included.
- Relationship: Choose the closest option (e.g., “Friend,” “Sibling,” “Parent”). Be honest—front desk agents may ask for verification.
- Property and Dates: The form is valid for a specific hotel location and date range. Some forms allow a range of dates (e.g., check-in between Oct 1 and Oct 5), while others are single-night specific. Read the form carefully.
- Authorization Code: A unique alphanumeric code that the reservation system uses to validate the booking.

Once the form is filled (by the associate), it should be signed electronically or printed and signed by hand. The guest should never alter the form after generation—any tampering will void it.

Booking Your Stay Using the Discount Form

With the completed form in hand, the guest can now book the discounted rate. There are two primary methods:

Method 1: Booking via Marriott Reservations

Call the Marriott reservations line (1-800-228-9290 in the US) and provide the authorization code. The agent will verify the code and create a reservation at the Explore Rate. You will need to pay with a credit card, but the rate is usually prepaid or pay-at-hotel depending on the property. Always ask for a confirmation email that shows the discounted rate.

Method 2: Booking Online via the Associates' Link

Some associates can generate a unique booking link that the guest can use to book directly online. This is becoming more common. The guest clicks the link, enters the authorization code, selects dates, and pays online. The advantage is that you see the rate in real-time and can manage the reservation easily.

Method 3: Walk-In (Not Recommended)

You can arrive at the front desk with the printed form and request a room at the Explore Rate, but availability may be limited. Most properties require a reservation in advance. If you walk in, ensure you have the form ready and be prepared to pay immediately.

Important: When booking, confirm that the rate includes taxes and fees. The Explore Rate is usually room-only, so you may pay extra for parking, resort fees (though many properties waive them for MMP), and incidentals.

Restrictions and Rules You Must Know

The Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form comes with strict guidelines. Violating them can lead to termination of the associate's travel benefits or even their employment. Key restrictions include:

- Associate Presence (for MMP): For the deepest Explore Rate, the associate must be physically present at check-in and must stay in the room for at least one night of the reservation. The form will state whether associate presence is required. If you are using an MMP form and the employee cannot travel, the booking will be denied.
- No Resale: The rate is non-transferable and for personal use only. Selling or trading the form is strictly prohibited and can result in permanent disqualification.
- Property Restrictions: Not all Marriott properties participate. Some high-demand resorts, convention hotels, or luxury brands (e.g., Ritz-Carlton, St. Regis) may limit the number of discounted rooms per night or exclude certain dates. Always check availability before planning.
- Blackout Dates: Holidays, special events, and peak seasons often have blackout dates. The form may be valid only for "available" dates, and the system will reject the code if the room is not eligible.
- No Changes After Booking: Once booked, changes to the reservation are difficult. You may need to cancel and rebook, but cancellation policies vary. Some Explore Rate bookings are non-refundable.

Tips for Maximizing Your Experience with the Marriott Friends and Family Discount Form

To get the most out of this benefit, keep these practical tips in mind:

1. Plan Early: The best rooms go quickly. Request the form from your associate friend at least 2-3 weeks in advance, especially for popular destinations.
2. Be Flexible with Dates: If the form allows a date range, try weekdays (Sunday-Thursday) for better availability. Weekend stays at resort properties are often blacked out.
3. Bring the Form in Multiple Formats: Have a printed copy and a digital copy on your phone. Save the PDF locally in case of no internet.

4. Verify the Authorization Code: Before you travel, call the property directly and ask them to confirm that the code is valid for your dates. This avoids surprises at check-in.

5. Understand the Rate: The Explore Rate is often the lowest available, but it does not include breakfast, upgrades, or loyalty points. If you are a Bonvoy member, you will earn points on the paid amount (usually only on the room rate, not taxes).

6. Be a Considerate Guest: Remember that you are representing the associate. Be polite, respectful, and follow hotel rules. A bad experience can reflect poorly on your friend's employee record.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Even experienced travelers can stumble. Avoid these common errors:

- Name Mismatch: Your ID must match the name on the form exactly. If you have a legal name change, update the form accordingly.
- Forgetting the Form: You will not be allowed to check in at the discounted rate without presenting the form. Do not rely on the hotel having it on file—always bring your copy.
- Assuming All Hotels Accept It: Some independently owned Marriott franchises may not participate. Check the hotel's policy or call ahead.
- Using an Expired Form: Forms are typically valid for a limited time—often 90 days from generation. Book your stay within the validity window.
- Booking for Someone Else: The form is issued to a specific guest. You cannot book a room for your friend if you are not listed on the form. The person checking in must be the named guest.

Alternatives: Is There a Way to Get a Discount Without a Form?

If you do not have a friend or relative who works for Marriott, you can still find savings through other programs:

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