

Hotel rooms still available

Looking out for big week

By [Luke Thompson](#), Staff Writer, The Augusta Chronicle
[Wednesday, March 30, 2011](#)

For those late to the game of finding lodging in Augusta during Masters Week, it might be tricky, and it certainly won't be cheap. Still, finding a bed will still be a lot easier than getting inside Augusta National Golf Club next weekend.

For those procrastinators, rooms are still available at a decent selection of hotels.

Manager Mike Shaw blamed the economy for a slow year at the Travelodge on Washington Road, which is typically completely booked for Masters Week by January. Shaw said that as of Tuesday, he had four rooms available for the final weekend at \$225 per night.

Keith Henderson, the general manager of Wingate Inn on Jimmie Dyess Parkway, said that because of a recent cancellation by a large group, up to 10 rooms are available on different nights during the week of the tournament.

He is confident he'll fill up his hotel at the \$300 nightly rate.

At Motel 6, General Manager Marianne Manley said Tuesday that she'll probably have some walk-ins next week, with three to 10 rooms available each night for \$250.

Even the Staybridge Suites had 12 rooms available on the final Sunday of the tournament, with prices ranging from \$400 to \$800. It's owned by Purohit Holdings, which also owns the Ramada on Center West Parkway, Days Inn, Best Western and Country Inn.

Jugal Purohit said Tuesday that his hotels were nearly booked for the eight nights of Masters Week -- from this Sunday through Sunday, April 10.

"Things picked up very fast in the last 30 days," Purohit said. "I wish we had one more hotel."

He believes consumer confidence in the economy is growing, and he said he's working to get financing for a high-end hotel to be built next to his latest project, a Four Points by Sheraton scheduled to open in June.

Of course, many of the city's hotels are completely booked. The Homewood Suites and La Quinta Inn both reported filling up several months ago. The Wingate is the only one of the six hotels owned by the Newport Group that isn't sold out. That includes the Hilton Garden Inn and the Sheraton, both of which contract out all of their rooms a year in advance.