



## “A Traveler Should Stay in a Hotel”

By **Tony Michel**

Published: September 2, 2012 | Last modified: July 4, 2013

Permalink: <http://239days.com/2012/09/02/a-traveler-should-stay-at-a-hotel/>

ON HIS THIRD DAY in Montreal, Sunday, September 1, 1912, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá decided that it was time to move to a hotel. His original plans for a two- or three-day trip were extended given the positive reception he received. On the morning of September 2, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and his party of two moved from the Maxwell home to the Windsor Hotel.

Sutherland and May Maxwell had done everything in their power to make sure that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá had all that he needed. They reserved the top three floors of their four bedroom house in Westmount, Montreal. They had succeeded in generating a great deal of positive newspaper coverage. “While here, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá will stay at 716 Pine Avenue West,” reported the *Montreal Star*. “All who wish to visit him will be made welcome, if arrangements are made beforehand by telephoning Uptown 3015.”

When they arrived on August 30, May Maxwell informed ‘Abdu’l-Bahá that “So many people have telephoned and sent letters about your arrival and I have replied to all.” She was no doubt running on little sleep. According to his secretary, Mahmúd-i-Zarqání, visitors came “day and night,” the talks were attended by “a great multitude,” and the large number of “longing souls” would “not let the Master rest.” For the three nights that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá and his party stayed at the Maxwell house, it was more like a reception hall than a private home.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá recognized May Maxwell’s exhaustion, and, rather than denying this fact, she replied, “I consider this fatigue the greatest comfort of my life.” But after two nights, ‘Abdu’l-Bahá told Mahmúd, “Tomorrow we should move to a hotel. A traveler should stay in a hotel.”

The Windsor Hotel billed itself as the finest in the Dominion. Staying there made it easier for ‘Abdu’l-Bahá to devote more time to visitors and it provided an appropriate setting to receive prominent callers, including McGill University faculty members and the Archbishop of Montreal. But it was the opinion of Dorothy Wade, a housekeeper for the Maxwells, that the primary reason for the move was that ‘Abdu’l-Bahá considered the steady flow of visitors to be an excessive burden on the Maxwells.

After breakfast on September 2, 'Abdu'l-Bahá and his party left the Maxwell home for the Windsor Hotel, although he continued to visit 716 Pine Avenue West on a daily basis, often by "tram" (streetcar), where he gave regular evening talks.

In the week ahead 'Abdu'l-Bahá will receive unprecedented positive press, will be warmly received by large crowds of Socialists and Methodists, and will explore the city by carriage, tram, and foot. He will even acquire a genuine Canadian souvenir: a Montreal head cold.

## How to Cite this Article

The formatting below is from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th Edition. For other academic citation styles, please adapt accordingly. Since the **239 Days** site and its contents may be updated from time to time, we recommend you include a “last modified” date, which is provided at the top of both the web and PDF versions of this article.

### **FOOTNOTE / ENDNOTE:**

Tony Michel, “ ‘A Traveler Should Stay at a Hotel,’ ” *239 Days in America*, ed. Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett, September 2, 2012, <http://239days.com/2012/09/02/a-traveler-should-stay-at-a-hotel/>.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Michel, Tony. “ ‘A Traveler Should Stay at a Hotel,’ ” *239 Days in America*. Edited by Jonathan Menon and Robert Sockett. September 2, 2012. <http://239days.com/2012/09/02/a-traveler-should-stay-at-a-hotel/>.

### **HOW TO CITE THE *239 Days in America* WEBSITE IN A BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Menon, Jonathan, and Robert Sockett, eds. *239 Days in America*. <http://239days.com/>.

## Terms of Use

**239 Days in America**™ and the 239Days.com website is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 License as specified at this link: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/>. **This PDF file** is shared with you with the following additional terms:

YOU MAY quote from this PDF file with proper attribution. Your citation must include the author's name and the **239 Days in America** project's name. You may download and print this PDF file, and you may share individual PDF files in print or electronic form.

Although we want to make our work easy to share, we also wish to maintain the unity and integrity of **239 Days in America** as a whole. Therefore,

YOU MAY NOT republish or rebroadcast our PDF files in a public forum—such as by uploading them to a blog, app, or other web property, publishing them in print form, or distributing them widely using electronic means—without our prior written consent. We invite you to discuss such opportunities with us by contacting the Editor-In-Chief at [editor@239Days.com](mailto:editor@239Days.com). Otherwise, please share the permalinks displayed at the top of each file.

YOU MAY NOT extract pages from this file, recombine this PDF file with other documents, assemble its contents into any free or paid product, app, ebook, collection, compilation, or archive, nor remove this page of Terms. The **Adobe PDF**™ security features employed in this document have been selected to prevent such use. You may not circumvent these security features in any way.