



Hotel Info from Comfort Institute for Indianapolis Training Classes

Indianapolis CI classes are held at the Indiana Community Action Association (unless we advise you otherwise). They have a good sized, comfortable and modern training room.

You will need to have a vehicle to get to and from the training class and go for lunch. (more on car rental below)

The address is:

INCAA

1845 West 18th St.

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Tel: 800-382-9895 or 317-638-4232

The best internet mapping and driving direction creating system we've found is: www.google.com, then click on MAPS.

Hotel reservations are the attendee's responsibility. We used to attempt to coordinate where attendees would stay, however this rarely worked out well because of the wide range of needs/budgets, etc. We often receive requests for hotel recommendations, so here are some general recommendations and useful info on reserving a hotel and car for the class.

There are not many hotels close to the training facility.

NEARBY HOTELS: The absolute closest to the training facility we know of is in nearby Speedway, adjacent to the Indy Motor Speedway is the **Brickyard at the Crossing / 4790 West 16th St., Indianapolis, IN 46222 (317-241-2500)** We have never stayed there.

DOWNTOWN: The next most convenient area where many hotels are located is in the downtown area, which means they are near many restaurants, bars, museums, etc. These are also all within 10 or 15 minutes of the training facility. These include: **Omni Severin, Hilton, Hyatt Regency, Hilton Garden Inn, Courtyard by Marriott** and many others. Downtown hotels tend to be on the more expensive end unfortunately.

AIRPORT: The airport area is a few minutes drive further away, and not as fun in terms of restaurants, nightlife and interesting buildings. However, you'll usually find a much better value for your money. Just plan on more travel time.

BEST VALUE TECHNIQUE via HOTWIRE: Overall, unless you really want to stick with a particular brand, we find the best way to save money is through www.hotwire.com. You can often get a four star hotel at two star price. Type in Indianapolis and the dates. You can choose to only see the choices from Downtown or the Airport area (southwest corner of town)

Since with Hotwire you don't know which hotel you will get until you pay, only go with a three or four star rated hotel. Depending on how busy things are, you can often get one for as little as \$59 a night. We've never been disappointed if you follow this technique.

HOWEVER: since you have to pre-pay for the entire stay, the big risk with Hotwire is that if you cannot attend the class, or need to leave early, you don't get a refund. They do have a surcharge for cancellation insurance, but we've never checked it out.

Another possible problem is that the person who pre-pays for the hotel using a credit card online must be the one who checks in. If you want to use this technique and send an employee, that person will have to have a credit card and pre-pay it, which is sometimes a problem with some people. Definitely no matter which service you use, if you plan to have the company pay for the hotel "remotely" be sure you have it all cleared with the hotel, we have seen problems over the years trying to do this. Best to advance the employee the necessary \$\$ and have them use their own credit card.

OTHER WEBSITES:

A good source for hotel and tourist information for the area is www.indy.org.

www.tripadvisor.com has helpful reviews, especially if you are tempted to go cheap (some, like the Econolodge are nasty).

www.expedia.com is not as likely to get you as good a rate/value as hotwire, but has the advantages of knowing where you will be before paying, and not usually having to pay ahead of time. Also has a good "map view" function to see the area.

There are many others we haven't used, such as hotels.com, orbitz.com and travelocity.com.

CAR RENTAL TECHNIQUES:

First go to www.expedia.com and see what sorts of rates are offered. Usually, you don't have to prepay with expedia. The only company we do not recommend is Payless Car Rental.

Then go to www.hotwire.com and do the same thing and compare. Hotwire only uses the big firms at the airport. Usually much cheaper to use Hotwire, however if the total prices are similar, go with Expedia as you don't have to prepay, especially if you think there is any chance that you won't attend the class.

Car rental add-on insurance gets really expensive. Check with your own car insurance before you go to see if you are already covered for a rental car in this situation. If you are covered, bring a copy of your insurance card and decline the expensive coverage. Also, don't prepay for gas, it's cheaper to just fill up before you return it on the last day.

Lastly, these are just recommendations. Please do not hold Comfort Institute responsible if you have a bad experience, but do let us know so we can add to the recommendation sheet.

See you at the school!