

For visitors to Maine, there's no finer introduction to the state's unique personality than by staying in a bed-and-breakfast inn. Maine boasts hundreds of such lodging establishments, ranging from very simple inns with only a couple of rooms to grand homes divided into a wide variety of accommodations. But why choose a B&B, you say, when a nice hotel is available? One reason is intimacy. A B&B offers an Old World style of lodging that enables visitors to delve deeper into a community, rather than just skim the surface. Since most B&Bs are family run, guests actually get to know the locals, usually on a first-name basis.

Para quienes visitan Maine, no hay mejor manera de conocer la personalidad única del estado que alojándose en un bed & breakfast (B&B) o posada. Maine cuenta con cientos de estos establecimientos, que van desde los albergues más sencillos, con apenas un par de habitaciones, hasta enormes mansiones divididas en diferentes tipos de hospedajes. Sin embargo, cualquiera podría preguntarse: ¿por qué escoger un B&B cuando existe quizás un agradable hotel? Una de las razones es la intimidad. Un B&B ofrece un estilo muy a lo Viejo Mundo, que le permite al visitante familiarizarse más con la comunidad y no solamente rascar la superficie. Y ya que casi todos los B&B son administrados por una familia, los huéspedes pueden conocer verdaderamente a los lugareños, incluso por su nombre de pila.

Bed & Breakfast IN MAINE

DE POSADA EN POSADA DE MAINE

TEXT & PHOTOS BY/TEXTO Y FOTOS POR DONALD RODRIGUE

LATITUDES 65

The elegant surroundings are another draw, since many are actually historical homes furnished with antiques and other personal touches. And the last reason is the breakfast—and we're not talking Continental, either. For most B&B owners, this is their moment of peak creativity, and you can expect exotic creations to say the least.

Come along as I take you on an armchair—or rather passenger seat—tour of just a few of Maine's exquisite B&Bs.

Abigail's Inn, Camden

With just four guest rooms, Abigail's offers a truly intimate experience, one in which travelers can easily get to know their fellow guests and the owners, Kipp Wright and Elizabeth O'Connor. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Abigail's was built in 1847 and has been welcoming guests since the fall of 1990. The honey-colored wood floors and original crown molding, brightly printed wallpaper, comfortable armchairs and antique four-poster beds all contribute to the simple charm of the place, and the cozy front porch is perfect for wiling away the hours. After browsing through Camden's myriad shops and art galleries—just a short walk away—you can prop your feet up in front of a roaring fire and nibble on homemade brownies. If you're lucky, you may even get to dine on the couple's exquisite breakfast creation of French toast stuffed with bananas, strawberries and raspberries. Like me, you'll probably have to tear yourself away from this place.

abigailsinn.com

Berry Manor Inn, Rockland

Located within a few blocks of the Rockland business district, the AAA four-diamond Berry Manor Inn is perhaps one of Maine's most delightful B&Bs. Built between 1898-99 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this grand old home underwent 90 hectic days of restoration and renovations before owners Michael F. Laposta Jr. and Cheryl L. Michaelsen opened for business in 1999. They finished remodeling the Carriage House in 2003, giving them a total of 12 guest rooms, all exuding the charm of a turn-of-the-century New England manor.

Not only is breakfast an event here—fresh fruit, banana-coconut-almond cake, blueberry-stuffed French toast and sausage—but the hosts' mothers compete to see who can make the best pies for the inn guests.

Laposta even ensured that travelers who normally prefer more privacy would love this inn by insisting that each room have a private bath, telephone and individual cable TV connection. In addition, Berry Manor Inn guests dine on small tables so they don't feel obligated to socialize with strangers. The inn's free wireless Internet service offers a popular, modern-day touch.

You may just find that the pampering in this plum-colored home turns you into a permanent B&B fan: I mean, who wouldn't want to return to their quarters greeted by the kisses sounds of classical musical and a saucer of Hershey's Kisses on the bed?

berrymanorinn.com

