

## Five Basics to Choosing Your Bed and Breakfast Vacation

Contributed by Chad Cook  
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The first thing to consider when selecting a bed and breakfast vacation spot, is the type of country side you and your spouse enjoy. A bed and breakfast vacation is relaxed and informal and gives the traveller a chance to really see another part of the country, or in some cases, another country. Some of the best B and Bs are found in the old country for instance, in England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. If you can travel to the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland then you are in for a good time. The people are usually very friendly, and there are no language barriers other than a few little differences in the spelling of some words. If you do decide to make the UK or the Irish Republic your bed and breakfast destination, make sure that you book your stay close enough to attractions you want to see, so you can easily make day trips. Also, be sure to get a guidebook. At one time, the guidebooks told you how to see Europe on five dollars a day. These days, it costs a bit more, but a B and B can still help you to see a new country inexpensively. Whether your ancestors came from England, Wales, Scotland, or Ireland or from some other place, the people of these countries offer a special kind of hospitality, making for a wonderful visit that you'll always remember.

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You may opt for a bed and breakfast vacation closer to home. How about New England? The northeast United States abounds with comfortable bed and breakfast inns that are quaint and charming, and treat you to the famous New England hospitality. Vermont in the fall is a popular vacation spot. Remember the old TV show Newhart, with Bob Newhart playing the owner of a Vermont inn, and the three local yokels Larry Darrel and the other brother Darrel? Well, the beautiful scenery you saw in the background of that show is still there for you to see, as is a very nice little B and B. New Hampshire also offers a good variety of bed and breakfast locations, as does Massachusetts. Just a short drive from the Boston metroplex by car, is the town of Walden, made famous by Henry David Thorough. Also near enough to visit are the towns of Lexington and Concord, made famous during the American war of independence, and the small village of Salem, site of the witch trials in the 17th century. All of these interesting destinations have bed and breakfasts in the midst of their rich history.

If you live in the Midwest and have neither the time or budget to go to the East Coast or across the Atlantic, you can still find a good bed and breakfast nearby. If you live in any of the central states you're only a few hours drive from the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and Arkansas. Bed and breakfast spots abound in these towns. Take Springfield, known as the Queen City of the Ozarks. This third largest city in Missouri is home to movie stars Brad Pitt and Kathleen Turner, as well as former attorney general John Ashcroft. But you've come here for a bed and breakfast, and the Walnut Street Historic District is the best place to check in. Quaint little inns with amiable proprietors and good food will make you want to return soon.

Close by is the resort town of Branson, Missouri. Made famous as the other Nashville years ago, Branson boasts the Silver Dollar City theme park, the Shepherd of the Hills outdoor play and music shows and theatres featuring Bobby Vinton, the Osmond Brothers, Loretta Lynn, Roy Clark, Jim Stafford, Ray Stevens, and many others. Branson is full of bed and breakfast inns that will welcome you in the evening and send you off in the morning with a full stomach, and all are close to some wonderful entertainment venues and tourist attractions. And if that's not enough, some of the world's best trout fishing is to be found in Lake Taneycomo. You can fish from the bank in Branson City Park. It is easy to see that between the Ozarks, New England, Ireland and the United Kingdom; there are more than five basics to choosing a bed and breakfast vacation. In fact, the options seem almost limitless.