



Bed & Breakfast Inn Memories

"A simple enough pleasure surely, to have breakfast with one's husband, but how seldom married people, in the midst of life, achieve it. --Anne Morrow Lindbergh

UPDATE: Many of the inns below that we stayed in years ago are no longer operating or have changed names and owners or become private residences etc. so if you are interested in staying at any of these inns, it's best to Google the name to see if it's *still* operating as an inn. --**Kathryn**

Steve and Kathryn Bechen's B&B Inn Travels List

I'm often asked how we started staying in inns. (And why *so many*?!). We both like charming historic homes and buildings, antiques, bistros, and quieter lodging venues so in the late 1980s when we hired a travel agent to book our first trip to San Francisco, we told her this and she booked us into a charming little historic (and humble) inn with an onsite bistro for breakfast. We were hooked! Inns became our preferred style of lodging whenever we traveled thereafter, and 40 years and *69 inns* later, they still are our favorite lodging m.o. because of the charm, history, gracious helpful hosts, and

more personalized experience than large hotel chains provide. We hope you enjoy our list of inns and can stay in one sometime yourself too! 😊

1. The Abigail. San Francisco, California

Faded European charm and easy walking access to trolley, sights, and restaurants. Found for us by our first travel agent when we were a young married couple, we enjoyed the Old World charm.

2. Singleton House. Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Cozy, comfy, welcoming with a beautiful backyard garden in an adorable little village sometimes referred to as "Little Switzerland." A fun village atmosphere to visit.

3. Offutt House. Omaha, Nebraska

I loved this house when we stayed there many years ago, and it is now called The Cornerstone Mansion as far as I can tell.

4. Thompson House. Brownville, Nebraska

5. Whispering Pines. Nebraska City, Nebraska

6. Milford House. Kansas City, Missouri

7. Hillcrest Inn. Scottsdale, Arizona

Lovely inn owned by a fascinating woman from New York City, but no longer operating as an inn. A wonderful "Old World" sort of stay in sophisticated Scottsdale.

8. Dixie Cottage. Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Very sweet and we loved the red bud trees in the yard.

9. Meadowlark Manor. Red Cloud, Nebraska

I don't think this inn is in business anymore. Red Cloud was once the home of famous American author Willa Cather, who has been compared by literary critics to Hemingway, Faulkner, and Wharton. We toured the author's own home, which was a highlight of my life to see where she wrote since I studied her books at length when I was a university English major. You can now actually stay in the author's room at the second Cather home, according to the Willa Cather Memorial website.

10. Apple Orchard Inn. Missouri Valley, Iowa

11. Beal House. Brookings, South Dakota

12. Gardener's Cottage. Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Adorable.

13. Chestnut Charm. Atlantic, Iowa

Beautiful historic home with a lovely sun room and carriage house suites. We stayed here at Christmas one year and it was magical to be in such a lovely older home. I see now on the website there is a red heart-shaped Jacuzzi tub!

14. La Corsette Maison. Newton, Iowa

Sophisticated; had a ballroom. I believe this was connected historically to the Maytag Company if I recall correctly, but I'm not sure. A gorgeous home! Very genteel.

15. Plum Creek Inn. Thurman, Iowa

Lovely sedate home with French touches in a quiet rural setting. Restful and lovely owners. Loved it.

16. J.C. Robinson House, Waterloo, Nebraska

Beautiful historic home with gorgeous antiques and decor.

17. Magnolia Place Inn. Savannah, Georgia

Exquisite architecture and ornate antiques located across from beautiful Forsyth Park in the historic district. True Savannah elegance and mystique. We loved it. I can't tell online whether this is still an active inn.

18. Villa De La Fontaine. Charleston, South Carolina

Huge exquisite Old South mansion with beautiful antiques and charming innkeepers who loved sharing the history of the home with their guests. They were interior designers who did work at the White House. (Yes, that White House.) Now a private residence.

19. Delamar Inn. Beaufort, North Carolina

Prettily comfortable and lovely flower gardens. A most gracious hostess who even washed our clothes one day while we were out and about!

20. Silver Thatch Inn. Charlottesville, Virginia

Large historic inn with beautiful grounds. We loved it.

21. The General Lewis Inn. Lewisburg, Virginia

Large historic inn with beautiful grounds in a sweet little town.

22. Sills Inn. Versailles, Kentucky

Impeccable decorating. Beautiful Kentucky horse country. Lovely stay.

23. The Rogers House. Lincoln, Nebraska

I don't remember too much about this inn other than that it was a lovely old home, but I do remember someone there, as we talked and the conversation evolved, who knew my Kindergarten teacher from another town, from way back when. No kidding! That's one thing I love about travel: the people you meet and conversations that pop up!

24. Nostalgia Inn. Blair, Nebraska

I don't think this is in business anymore. There was an interesting story here: A guest noticed a painting on the wall and told the owner to check into its value. Turns out it was worth a LOT of money and sold to a celebrity or something I think, but I no longer remember the exact details of the situation. Seems there's always something fun like that happening at an historic inn, though! :)

25. Walnut Creek Station. Walnut, Iowa

I don't think this is in business anymore.

26. Bed and Breakfast of Fremont. Fremont, Nebraska

I don't think this is in business anymore. A charming homestay style home.

27. The Redstone Inn. Dubuque, Iowa

Gorgeous historic mansion in a pretty Iowa river town. We loved it!

28. Mansion Hill Inn. Madison, Wisconsin

Incredible spiral staircase and a revolving wall in our room. One of my absolute favorite inns we ever visited as it was so unique, and by the lake.

29. Inn at Pine Terrace. Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Beautiful historic mansion in a lovely lake town.

30. Benson Bed & Breakfast. Oakland, Nebraska

I don't think this is in business anymore.

31. Carriage House. Beatrice, Nebraska

The owners gave us a fun horse and carriage ride when we stayed there many years ago. Beatrice is an historic small Nebraska town and very pretty.

32. SF Martin House. Atlantic, Iowa

This home was being renovated while we stayed there, so it's one question I learned to ask before booking, as we (and you!) want to be sure when you book a room that it's ready for guests. Our room's walls were not finished, for instance. Our only less-than-perfect experience at an inn.

33. West House. Lincoln, Nebraska

I think this was located next to the Rogers House but not sure if it's still part of their B&B or not.

34. The Bed & Breakfast Inn at La Jolla. La Jolla, California

Beautiful seaside location in a lovely sophisticated village. Tucked back in a sweet neighborhood within walking distance to all that is La Jolla. Comfy inn with a pretty secluded garden type of backyard. Euro charm and nice breakfast.

35. Aunt Betty's. Ravenna, Nebraska

Not sure if this is still a B&B. It was a charming and cute "Grandma's House" kind of place.

36. English Mansion B&B. Sioux City, Iowa

This inn had a beautiful mural painted on the ceiling in my room.

37. Conner's Corner. Denison, Iowa

Very beautiful home that was lovingly furnished. Great breakfast as I recall.

38. Grandma's Victorian Inn. Hastings, Nebraska

Not sure if this is still an inn.

39. Seal Beach Inn and Gardens. Seal Beach, California

This place was absolutely amazing but is no longer there.

40. The Atwood House. Lincoln, Nebraska

This inn has now closed according to their website. It was a lovely experience and beautiful historic inn. We stayed in one of their large suites and it was wonderful!

41. Four Columns Inn. Sherburne, Minnesota

The sweetest owners/innkeepers who made us feel like family. An Old South style mansion on the Plains. Charming couple and cute resident cat.

42. Lumber Baron Inn. Onalaska, Wisconsin

Cozy, lovely decor, and wonderful breakfasts. Lovely owners.

43. Westby House. Westby, Wisconsin

Beautiful and elegant. A real "find" in a tiny Midwestern town.

44. Strawberry Creek Inn. Idyllwild, California

Cozy and comfy and set amidst the pine trees in a sweet quiet mountain town. Restful respite from the chronic coastal buzz of Southern California!

45. Zosa Gardens. Temecula, California

Panoramic California views from the deck in a peaceful rural setting. Lovely. I gave my hubby a night here as a birthday gift and he loved the golf course. It's no longer an inn, but an event property where you can have your wedding or other event and rent the entire property, according to their website.

46. The Venice Beach House. Venice, California

Right near eccentric Venice Beach and lovely home.

47. Blue Lantern Inn. Dana Point, California

A favorite. Every time! This is one of the Four Sisters Inns chain and they really do it up right. Great location overlooking the ocean harbor. Lovely wine & cheese in the afternoon and nice breakfast in the morning. A favorite.

48. Heritage Park Inn. San Diego, California

This was a lovely Victorian home and garden, but I don't think it's a B&B anymore. Truly a step back to a more genteel time.

49. Casa de Elena. San Clemente, California

Exquisite California mansion on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Beautiful grounds. No longer an inn, but one of my favorites. The setting was absolutely breathtaking, overlooking the ocean!

50. Cardiff by the Sea Lodge. Cardiff, California

Wonderful sea-view terrace and uniquely lovely charming little inn.

51. La Casa del Camino. Laguna Beach, California

Step out back to the beautiful Pacific Ocean below. Lovely lobby. Historic property.

52. Garden Cottage at the Green. San Clemente, California

Sweet hosts, exquisitely manicured gardens, beautiful home near the golf course in a lovely seaside California town.

53. Bracken Fern Manor. Lake Arrowhead, California

A beautiful mountain lake setting. This now-nice inn has quite a shady history!

54. The Carriage House. Laguna Beach, California

Pretty courtyard. Easy access to downtown Laguna Beach. Quiet residential neighborhood.

55. Korakia. Palm Springs, California

A touch of Moroccan magic in the beautiful Palm Springs, California desert. Very unique; attracts Hollywood celebs who want to get away for a quiet stay. Love this place as there's none other like it. Funky, but genteel too.

56. Edgewood Manor. Providence, Rhode Island

Absolutely gorgeous antiques, mansion, and exquisite sun room. My award for the most comfortable B&B bed! Gracious host with wonderful taste in decor and antiques. Impeccable! Loved the tour of Providence too, as it's a most charming town.

57. Inn at Stonington. Stonington, Connecticut

Cozy New England elegance in a truly picturesque and charming little seaside village that is the home of lifestyle author Alexandra Stoddard. We stayed here when Alexandra personally invited me and my husband Steve to one of her Happiness Weekends in 2006 and we loved this beautiful inn and village!

58. Glorietta Bay Inn. Coronado Island, California

Lovely lobby and piano room.

59. Adobe Rose Inn. Tucson, Arizona

Cozy casual Southwestern style inn by the university.

60. Britt Scripps Inn. San Diego, CA.

I wrote a magazine article about this inn and it's one of my favorites ever. \$6 million restoration.

61. Doryman's Inn. Newport Beach, California

Right on the (very busy and noisy) beach. Unique decor. Comfy. Lovely breakfast area with outdoor terrace.

62. Villa Royale Inn. Palm Springs, California

Cozy elegance in the desert with a touch of faded Hollywood grandeur. A favorite understated getaway of ours time and time again. Wonderful patio breakfasts, FAB restaurant for dinner, great prices during the summer desert heat. One of my absolute favorites and the home to many of our most romantic getaway memories together as a married couple. Historic property. Update: Totally renovated and the old Euro charm is pretty much modernized and "mod" so the old faded charm we loved is gone.

63. The Willows Inn. Palm Springs, California

Exquisitely tucked right into the desert mountainside with a 50 foot waterfall view right off the dining room. An absolute favorite of mine where we stayed for our 30th wedding anniversary. Gorgeous antiques. Blissfully quiet. Very nice owner. Truly exquisite inn with lots of history, including Einstein stories.

FULL DISCLOSURE: I was gifted a two-night stay at this inn by the owner since I'm a journalist/writer. I was also gifted a breakfast here because I wrote about the inn for a magazine article.

64. Inn at Rancho Santa Fe. San Diego, California

Can you say "genteel?" I love this inn and grounds.

Update: This inn and restaurant have been totally renovated in the past couple of years. The gardens and grounds are absolutely lovely. I personally preferred the former more genteel feeling of more Old World style decor, but alas, life changes and the new more modern restoration is very nice too. Gorgeous spa with wonderful outdoor area.

65. Simpson House Inn. Santa Barbara, California

Exquisite inn and grounds. Beautiful! A bit pricey compared to other inns, but I'd stay there again as a splurge. The grounds, location, and breakfast are worth their price.

66. Apple Farm Bed & Breakfast. San Luis Obispo, California

Cute Midwestern cozy feeling with comfort-food style restaurant. Charming.

67. Inn on Summerhill. Summerland, California

Lovely inn and beautiful setting near the beach in Santa Barbara, CA area.

68. Hotel Villa Portofino. Catalina Island, CA

Even though the name of this place is "Hotel" I think it feels like a large yet very intimate inn more than a regular hotel so I'm listing it here. Very much a Euro-elegance feeling and a lovely terrace overlooking the bay. Beautiful view! Their restaurant is wonderful too. We have stayed more than once and love their package prices as well as the fact that it's in a quiet area at the end of downtown. So, you can walk to all of the downtown amenities and shopping, as well as the beach, yet have peace and quiet too. LOVE!

69. Mon Ami. Tucson, AZ

A clean and comfy home-stay style B&B owned by a gourmet-cook professor who makes wonderfully tasty breakfasts for her guests. Nice quiet master suite. Pool in back and nicely landscaped private back yard in a quiet residential neighborhood.

Well, that's the end of our B&B travel list, *for now*. (Wink!)

Kathryn