



What do Marilyn Monroe, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Elvis Presley, Babe Ruth and Billie Holiday have in common? Not much, except that hotel rooms they once occupied in various American cities are available for booking.

If your senior wanderings bring you to those hotels, you may want to experience a night or two where the famous slept. You'll pay extra for the privilege, but you'll have pix and bragging stories to show friends and family.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Mayflower Renaissance, Washington, DC: President-elect Roosevelt stayed at the Mayflower before moving into the White House in January 1933. If you're traveling to Washington, book Room 776, where FDR worked on his inaugural speech.

Elvis Presley: Trade Winds Inn, Clinton, OK: The country boy didn't start out with the wealth of the Roosevelts, and in the days before Graceland, he stayed in more modest digs. During the early 1960s, while performing in Nevada, he drove the nearly 1,600 miles from Memphis to Las Vegas and back.

Several times he spent the night at the Trade Winds Inn, about halfway through his journeys. It's at the junction of Highway I-40 and old Route 66. According to local legend, Elvis occupied the motel's Room 215, and you can expect to pay a bit more than the ten bucks a night it cost him.

Marilyn Monroe: Ballantines Original Hotel, Palm Springs, CA. A small boutique building, Ballantines still looks as it did in the late 1940s when starlet Norma Jean Baker stayed there. This was before she became Marilyn Monroe and went on to stardom. Her room is now a sort of shrine, called the "Pretty in Pink Suite", and is decorated with photos and other memorabilia from her life and career.

Babe Ruth: Cranmore Mountain Lodge, North Conway, NH. Ruth golfed in New Hampshire in the summer of 1939, where the owner of the Cranmore Mountain Lodge was his son-in-law. The retired Yankee star always stayed in Room 2, now decorated with original furniture and many photos of the Babe on the walls.

Billie Holiday: Hotel Mark Twain, San Francisco, CA: The famed "Lady Sings The Blues" vocalist had many problems in her short lifetime. In 1949, she was arrested in the Mark Twain near Union Square for possession of opium. She was later acquitted, and today her Room 203 is dedicated to Billie Holiday, complete with many pictures of her on the walls.