



When you travel next time, consider stay at a b&b. It will be totally unlike booking big hotels with all their crowds, noise, elevators and high prices. The comfy little inns offer quiet locations, down-home service and much lower prices. Here are ten unique b&bs.

1. Barangay Bed and Breakfast, Amsterdam, Holland, is in a neat 18th Century canal row building near the Anne Frank House. Its owners claim to have the best b&b breakfast anywhere, featuring Dutch and Filipino delicacies. In the Golden Reaal neighborhood, close to galleries, shopping and coffee shops.

2. The Lizzie Borden Bed and Breakfast, Fall River, MA, is the most infamous house in New England. The innkeepers attract travelers by boasting it's where Lizzie Borden murdered her parents with an axe. Breakfast menu features the last meal ill-fated mom and pop Borden ate before Lizzie did them in.

3. There are three Dockside Boat Bed and Breakfasts, in San Francisco, Oakland and Long Beach, CA. Someone got the brilliant idea of setting up docked boats and yachts along the pier for travelers. Vistors can scan the line-up and choose where they'll spend the night, while absent boat owners can earn money to help pay upkeep and dock fees.

The one at San Francisco's Pier 39 is conveniently located in the Fisherman's Wharf area, where scores of shops and restaurants are just a short stroll away. Similar facilities are available to travelers at the other two b&b coastal docking locations.

4. The Red Garter Bed & Bakery in Williams, AZ, is just an hour's drive to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. It's near the railroad station where the restored 19th Century steam train puffs visitors to the Canyon in style. The b&b owner claims the restored old saloon building is

haunted, and says guests have seen a beautiful woman with long dark hair and a flowing gown glide through the hallways on some dark nights.

5. The General Lafayette Inn in Lafayette Hill, PA, also boasts of ghosts. The restored 1732 stagecoach stop serves Colonial-style meals. Customers have reported hearing hallway footsteps and shadowy wenches and soldiers in 18th Century garb drifting through the dining room. Of course, this is one inn where the claim that George Washington slept there seems believable, although no guest has yet seen his ghost.

6. Cregg Castle is just north of Galway Bay in Ireland and a few miles from Galway city's cafes and shopping. Built 350 years ago, it was a fortress to keep out Spanish and pirate invaders. Now it welcomes travelers with classically decorated sleeping rooms and hot Irish breakfasts.

7. The Caboose Bed and Breakfast Resort on Clear Lake, in California's Wine Country offers a unique experience. Guests stay in nine luxuriously redecorated and restored railroad cabooses. The site overlooks the b&b's private dock and boat launch at Clear Lake, where sailing, kayaking and fishing adventures are available. In addition to nearby shopping, there are 23 of the internationally-famous Napa Valley wineries just a short drive away.

8. The Historic Farnsworth House Inn at Gettysburg, PA, is near the historic Civil War battlefield. There are guided day and candlelight tours of the area, and ghost story sessions daily in the Inn's parlor. One sleeping room is said to be haunted by a young Union soldier and his teenage bride. When he was killed at Little Round Top, she died of grief in the Farnsworth House just a few days later. Now they're together with an eternal haunting career at the Inn.

9. Mepkin Abbey at Moncks Corner, SC, is a former monastery, and in addition to daily breakfast, guests are welcome to attend prayer services. The breakfast is the same simple, vegetarian fare Trappist monks eat. Guests are welcome to join month-long retreats at the Abbey.

10. Out 'N' About Treesort at Cave Junction, OR, is a modern version of the Disney treehouse in its movie, "Swiss Family Robinson." Visitors live in treehouse style, where they can get to tree cabins by walking across high rope bridges. The owners also offer lessons on treehouse building.

Of course, there are hundreds of other interesting and unique b&bs throughout the world. Next time you plan a vacation trip, consider skipping the usual boring hotel routine/ Yry something original, entertaining and economical at a b&b.