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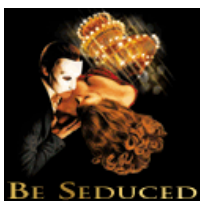
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HISTORIC B&Bs

On your next trip, book a room at Benjamin Franklin's old hangout. Historic B&Bs offer charm, great breakfasts, and a history lesson you won't find in a classroom. Below, Karen Brown, founder of [Karen Brown's Guides](#), uncovers the bed and breakfasts with the best stories to tell.

[The Inn at Warner Hall](#)

Gloucester, Virginia

George Washington's great-great-grandfather, [Augustine Warner I](#), originally owned this mid-17th-century plantation, located about 50 miles from [Norfolk Airport](#). The show-stealing room is the large and sunny Washington Suite, with its stately fireplace and waterfront views, but all 11 rooms offer period furnishings and 10-foot ceilings. Stop by Oct. 18–19 to see a Revolutionary War re-enactment on the property.

[Hotel Sausalito](#)

Sausalito, California

Built in 1915, Hotel Sausalito attracted bootleggers and seafarers back in the Prohibition days, along with notorious guests like 1930s gangster [Baby Face Nelson](#). In the '60s, it served as an unofficial headquarters for Sausalito's artist's colony. But today, Hotel Sausalito is a charming and affordable B&B-style hotel, its 16 rooms filled with local art and period furnishings that hint at the property's colorful past.

[The Thomas Bond House](#)

Philadelphia

When I visit America's first capital, I like to stay at this converted 18th-century townhouse in the heart of [Independence National Historical Park](#). The red-brick home of [Thomas Bond](#)—a close friend of Ben Franklin—sits just steps away from [Independence Hall](#). My favorite of the 12 rooms is the intimate Robert Fulton room, with its angled ceilings, dormer windows, and riverside views.

Karen Brown had more B&B faves than we had space to print. She offers two more picks:

[Jacob Hill Inn](#)

Seekonk, Massachusetts

One of my favorite New England discoveries, this exquisite property is only about 15 minutes from downtown Providence but technically sits just over the state line on a lovely old country estate in Seekonk, Massachusetts. The main farmhouse went up between 1722 and 1723 and gave shelter to generations of prominent New Englanders, including the property's namesake, an 18th-century deacon named Calvin Jacob. During the 1930s and '40s, the building housed the Jacob Hill Hunt Club, whose exclusive membership included a who's-who of [Vanderbilts](#) and [Firestones](#). Walking through the house, I love to check out all the remnants of its distinguished past: old doorknockers, horse trophies, antique wainscoting, a servant's call box. But don't worry; you can still enjoy every bell, whistle, and modern creature comfort, too, from oversized Jacuzzi tubs to high-speed Internet access.

[The House on Bayou Road](#)

New Orleans

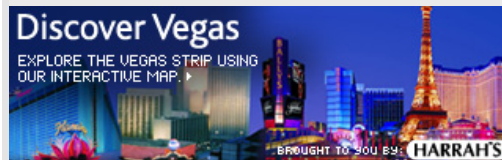
Hiding between the [French Quarter](#) and the [New Orleans Museum of Art](#), this two-acre "petite plantation" reminds me of a little secret garden—one that most locals don't even know about. A 18th-century indigo plantation in a former life, the property's main house, built circa 1798 and listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#), honors its Creole past with ornate, antique-filled rooms named after local bayous, a dreamy porch overlooking gorgeous gardens, and one of the best two-course, plantation-style breakfasts you'll find in this cuisine-obsessed town. (Think thick, fluffy baguette French toast topped with caramelized bananas, berries, and powdered sugar). When I visit, I like to stay in the Bayou Barataria Suite—one of the most requested rooms—with its king-sized four-poster bed, fireplace, and Jacuzzi tub. Foodies also gather here to attend a unique, on-site cooking school taught by award-winning local Cajun and Creole chefs.

Get the scoop on even more B&Bs below:

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SPIRIT SWEEPSTAKES

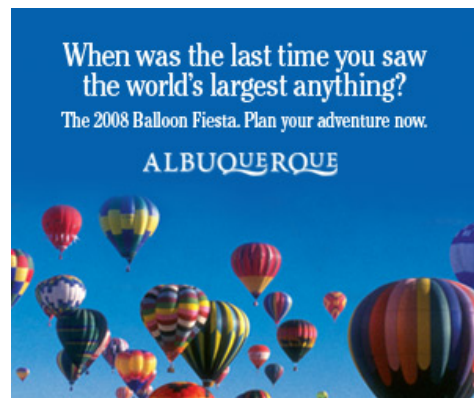
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Want to stay at a bed and breakfast but aren't heading to any of the cities mentioned above? [BnBStar](#) and [BnBFinder](#) let you search for B&Bs by location and also offer information on available specials and discounts.

Can't get away for a getaway this year? Give your home a bed-and-breakfast feel with [these recipes](#) from B&Bs around the country. Our favorite? [Peach Pecan French Toast](#) from the [DeVoe Mansion Bed and Breakfast](#) in Tacoma, Washington.

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