

1st Timer's Tips

Bed & Breakfast Know Before You Go

If you have never stayed at a bed and breakfast, you are missing out! Innkeepers take great delight in serving their guests. Plus, B&B hospitality is “palpable”—meaning it's so intense that it seems almost tangible.

But, before you go, there are a few things you should know. We asked other innkeepers for tips and added their advice to our experience—as both guests and innkeepers, then compiled a list with a few “do's” & “don'ts” to help make your stay even more enjoyable.

Before you Arrive

DO

Book Directly: Want the best rate? Book directly with the B&B and avoid the middleman fees charged by online booking agencies.

Ask: If you have special dietary or other needs, ask if they can accommodate. B&B's have more flexibility to honor requests than chain hotels and serving guests is the crux of their business.

Communicate about Arrival Time: Give the innkeepers an approximate arrival time. If it changes, be sure to let them know. Since B&B's are small, they don't have 24-hour registration desks for check-in, but can arrange for late arrivals with advance notice.

DON'T

Room Rate: Refrain from trying to negotiate the room rate or the package extras. Rates reflect the higher level of service. Don't compare to chain hotel prices.

When you Arrive

DO

Be Aware of Innkeeper's Hours: An individual or couple run most B&B's, so understand they are busy. Check with them for their hours of availability. It's ok to ask questions and visit when convenient but be respectful of their time.

DON'T

Pack More People into Room: Rooms are set for a specific number. Adding more than allowed not only causes housekeeping problems, it is also dishonest.

Eat in-room: Not eating in-room is generally a standard rule but be sure to ask. Some B&B's offer room service for special celebrations. Most prefer food to remain in dining areas to protect the furnishings.



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While You're There

DO

Ask for Recommendations: Innkeepers are a wealth of knowledge about the area. Be sure to ask for places to eat, tour, and relax.

Enjoy Public Spaces: Be sure to enjoy the property. Spend time relaxing on the porch or balcony. Sit by the fireplace or stroll through the gardens.

Innkeeper at [The Victorian on Main](#) in Fairfield, Illinois advises guests to, "Make sure to explore the public spaces. [They] are a big part of the overall experience & innkeepers take great pride in creating spaces that offer a 'home away from home' feel."

Take Advantage of Amenities: Enjoy happy hour or cookies and milk offered. Take a bike ride. Take advantage of free or discount passes innkeepers have lined up with local businesses.

The [Bayfront Marin House](#) in St. Augustine, Florida innkeeper said, "Bed and breakfast owners are known...for their generosity. Ask about amenities—our inn offers an included breakfast and daily happy hour, of course, but we also have complimentary bicycles, beach towels, beach umbrellas (and regular umbrellas!), and beach chairs."

Respect the Property: B&B room furnishings and décor are carefully selected to create a specific look. Many have historic treasures or family heirlooms on display. Enjoy!! But be careful.

Be Kind: Since B&B's are usually smaller, you will most likely see other guests around the property. Be kind and use common courtesies in noise levels—TV, voices, doors, etc.

Our friends at [Inn on Turner](#) in Beaufort, South Carolina advice is to "Be a kind human.....and keep the 'treat others as' mantra in mind."

Leave a Tip: B&B housekeepers do more than just clean your room, often helping with breakfast, landscaping, and any other B&B needs.

DON'T

Trash the Room: Celebrations are encouraged but destroying the room is a definite no-no. Picking up after yourself is a common courtesies.

Room Towel Use: Muddy from rain? Ask the innkeeper for old towels for cleanup. Planning to dye your hair? Ask for old towels. Just don't use the good towels for anything except bathing.

A Special THANK YOU to our contributors!!
~ Complete list from [Bayfront Marin House](#) [HERE](#)
~ Complete list from [The Victorian on Main](#) [HERE](#)

