

Top 15 Myths of Bed & Breakfasts: California's B&B Association Sets the Record Straight

SACRAMENTO, CA – April, 2010 – The California Association of Bed & Breakfast Inns (CABBI) recently asked travelers if they've ever stayed in a bed and breakfast, and if not, why? The answers made us smile. Here is our top 15 list of the misconceptions we heard:

1) B&Bs are for old people and all have lace doilies, paisley wallpaper, antiques, patchwork quilts, floral décor and teddy bears

CABBI bed and breakfasts include: modern inns, boutique hotels, historic properties, Victorian mansions, farm stays, boat stays and cottages. Modern inns, such as Blue Dolphin Inn in Cambria and 1801 First Luxury Inn in Napa, offer modern and clean décor. CABBI also offers boutique hotels such as Laurel Inn in San Francisco and Hotel Parisi in San Diego with contemporary and Zen-elegant luxury. Plus many Victorians, like Honor Mansion in Healdsburg (near Sonoma), are making an effort to offer individually decorated rooms with a variety of décor from Victorian to modern to appeal to a variety of travelers' tastes. For those that prefer the traditional B&B décor, CABBI offers those experiences too.

2) You have to share a bathroom with other guests

The vast majority of CABBI member inns offer separate bathrooms in each guestroom. Hotel Charlotte, in Groveland near Yosemite National Park, has a limited number of rooms with shared bathrooms. It is the hotel's policy to only rent the rooms with shared bathrooms to families and couples that are traveling together. The hotel enacted this business practice for the safety and comfort of all guests.

3) You have to eat breakfast at a long dining table with total strangers and eat whatever the innkeeper selects that morning

The Elk Cove Inn & Spa in Elk offers guests choices for breakfast. The guests get to choose where to sit. Guests that have come to the inn to socialize can do so at the big table. Or guests who seek privacy may sit at one of the intimate two person tables. Plus guests are treated to a champagne brunch of 20-30 items, allowing the guest to choose what they want to eat for breakfast.

4) You have to abide by a curfew set by the innkeeper

Perhaps one of the most common myths of B&Bs is that there is a curfew. At the McCaffrey House Bed & Breakfast in Twain Harte, guests have keys to the main house and guest room doors. This provides guests with the flexibility to come and go as they please.

5) B&Bs are overpriced and do not offer discount pricing

Many inns provide special offers and packages on a regular basis. The CABBI website features the latest deals at CABBI member inns organized by California regions www.cabbi.com/specials/.

6) B&Bs are only for couples and strictly prohibit children and pets

CABBI has more than 180 family friendly inns and more than 70 pet friendly inns in all regions of California. The Dolphin Inn in Carmel offers a Family Unit with two bedrooms and two bathrooms, a heated swimming pool, and a hassle-free breakfast delivered to your door. The Beazley House Bed & Breakfast Inn offers 11 pet friendly rooms in Napa. Four-legged guests receive a water bowl and their own treat bag, and a list of dog-friendly wineries and restaurants. For the complete list of family friendly or pet friendly CABBI inns visit <http://www.cabbi.com/search/advanced/> and click the "Facilities" menu to complete your search. For those seeking couples-only accommodations, CABBI offers this too.

7) B&Bs are not for business travelers

Sixty percent of guests that stay at the Amber House Bed & Breakfast in Sacramento are business travelers. Breakfast, parking, wireless Internet and non-alcoholic beverages are all included in the room rate. The inn serves breakfast as early as 6:30 am and allows check in as late as 10pm. The innkeepers can arrange for an airport pick up, you can use the inn's library as a meeting room and have your business meetings over breakfast in the dining room.

8) All B&Bs are located in small towns or out in the country

CABBI has a variety of inns located in city and urban areas including San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento. At the foot of San Francisco's Pacific Heights, The Union Street Inn is just minutes away from Fisherman's Wharf, Ghiradelli Square, Pier 39, the Golden Gate Bridge and Downtown San Francisco. For those seeking the rural experience, you can visit www.cabbi.com and search 25 distinct regions of California.

9) B&Bs don't offer any modern facilities or amenities

The El Morocco Inn & Spa in Desert Hot Springs puts this myth to shame with its natural spring water swimming pool, poolside fire hearths, infra-red saunas, natural hot springs spa, poolside high-speed wireless Internet access, nightly happy hour, concierge services, and expanded continental breakfast complete with Starbucks French Press coffee. Santa Ynez Inn offers endless room amenities including: balcony, flat screen TV with satellite, high-speed wireless Internet access, telephone, DVD/CD player, clock radio, desk, fireplace, refrigerator, safes that accommodate a laptop, steam showers with heated floors and seats, jetted Whirlpool tub, hair dryer, iron/ironing board, robes and slippers, blackout shades, and complimentary bottled water, coffee and tea. To search for inns by amenities, visit CABBI.com.

10) B&Bs are just someone's home where they rent out rooms to make extra money

Bed and breakfasts are often mistaken for home stays or vacation rentals. In fact, B&Bs are real businesses. CABBI-certified bed and breakfast members are required to have a business license and insurance for the inn. Plus they must meet all state and local codes and pay Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT). In addition, they are required to successfully complete a food manager's certification course to ensure safety standards when preparing and serving breakfast. Many of the bed and breakfast inns have a longstanding history as a successful business in their area including, the Centrella Inn in Pacific Grove, which has offered a peaceful, romantic retreat for unforgettable getaways and family vacations on the Monterey Peninsula for more than a century.

11) You are forced to socialize with strangers

At the Casa Tropicana Beachfront Inn in San Clemente, guests can enjoy a cocktail and the ocean view on one of the inn's four balconies. The relaxed and fun atmosphere makes for the perfect social setting. The 1950s themed Palm Springs Rendezvous Bed and Breakfast offers a fun and romantic poolside setting where guests can enjoy a blue raspberry martini and freshly prepared appetizers.

12) B&Bs do not accommodate vegetarians or guests with food allergies

The Stanford Inn by the Sea in Mendocino is the home of the award-winning Ravens Restaurant where vegetarian and vegan cuisine contains organic ingredients from regional organic growers or the inn's California Certified Organic Farm. Many CABBI member inns, including The Foxes Inn of Sutter Creek, will accommodate guests with food allergies or special diets as long as advanced notice is provided by the guest.

13) B&Bs have strict cancellations policies and do not accept credit cards for payment

The cancellation policies vary, but are consistent with hotel cancellation policies. Unlike hotels, many B&Bs will provide a credit for a future stay in the event that you need to cancel last minute. All CABBI member inns accept credit cards for payment.

14) There is no privacy at a B&B

McCloud River Mercantile Hotel offers spacious room with luxurious amenities. Guests can enjoy a relaxing bath in a claw foot tub or read a book in the private in-room sitting area. The Brewery Gulch Inn in Mendocino offers guests intimate in-room experiences on their private deck overlooking the ocean and in the sitting area in front of the fireplace. Both of these inns offer restaurant-style dining experiences where guests enjoy their own private tables.

15) B&Bs are boring

Architects, history buffs, wine connoisseurs and foodies alike are sure to have plenty to savor at the Carter House Inns in Eureka. Located along the Redwoods Coasts, this outdoor playground boasts more than 100 miles of pristine beaches ideal for horseback riding. Plus the Redwoods national and state parks provided endless hiking trails. The Healdsburg Inn is located right on the historic Healdsburg Plaza. Guests are surrounded by stylish shops, galleries, wine tasting rooms and superb restaurants. From summer concerts in the outdoor bandstand to antique fairs and holiday tree lightings, all of the town's best events take place right here, literally outside the door of the inn.

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Established in 1991, The California Association of Bed & Breakfast Inns (CABBI) is the largest tourism organization of its kind in California. We are a non-profit, statewide organization that is wholly dedicated to ensuring the highest quality standards in bed and breakfast accommodations. Currently, CABBI has nearly 300 members.