

Directory

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ACCOMMODATIONS

New England provides an array of accommodations options from simple campsites and B&Bs to midrange inns and top-end hotels. But truly inexpensive accommodations are rare. The most comfortable accommodations for the lowest price are usually found in that great American invention, the roadside motel.

For last-minute deals, check www.expedia.com, www.travelocity.com, www.orbitz.com, www.priceline.com, www.hotwire.com and www.hotels.com.

PRACTICALITIES

Electricity Voltage is 110/120V, 60 cycles.

Laundry Most accommodations have inexpensive coin-operated washers and dryers.

Newspapers The *Boston Globe*, the largest area newspaper, is available throughout New England.

Radio National Public Radio (NPR) features a level-headed approach to news and talk radio and is found between 89 and 92 on your FM dial.

TV All the major US TV networks are represented, but for the best regional coverage check out New England Cable News.

Video Video systems use the NTSC color TV standard, not compatible with the PAL system.

Weights & Measures Distances are measured in feet, yards and miles; weights are tallied in ounces, pounds and tons.

If you're traveling with children, be sure to ask about children-related policies before making reservations (see p524).

Our reviews indicate rates for single occupancy (s), double (d) or simply the room (r) or suite (ste), when there's no appreciable difference in the rate for one or two people. Unless otherwise noted, breakfast is not included, bathrooms are private and all lodging is open year-round; rates generally don't include taxes, which can add a whopping 5.2% to 12%, depending on the state (see p530).

A double room in our budget category costs \$80 or less; midrange doubles cost \$80 to \$200; top-end rooms start at \$200.

For a list of icons used in this book, check out the inside front cover. A parking icon is only employed in cities where free parking is not readily available; sometimes a fee applies, as indicated. The air-conditioning icon only appears in locations where the weather might warrant it (like Cape Cod or urban areas). The internet icon appears where establishments provide a computer terminal, while 'wi-fi' indicates wireless access; the swimming icon appears when there is a pool on the premises. Smoking is not permitted indoors for most of the destinations in this book.

A reservation guarantees your room, but most reservations require a deposit, after which, if you change your mind, the establishment will only refund your money if they're able to rebook your room within a certain period. Note the cancellation policies and other restrictions before making a deposit.

In general, the peak travel season to New England is summer and fall. High season varies slightly depending on the region within New England. For example, high season on Cape Cod and the Maine Coast is late May to early September, but in the mountains of New Hampshire, it's mid-September to mid-October. In some Vermont regions, high season means ski season (late December to late March). High-season prices are provided in our reviews, so if you are traveling off-season you can generally expect significantly reduced rates.

Holidays (p527) and school vacations always command premium prices. When demand peaks (and during special events whatever the time of year see p18), book lodgings well in advance.

B&Bs, Inns & Guesthouses

Accommodations in New England vary from small B&Bs to rambling old inns that have sheltered travelers for several centuries.

In smaller towns, guesthouses with simple rooms may charge \$75 to \$100 for rooms with shared bathroom and breakfast included. Others are relentlessly charming, with frilly decor and doting hosts. These fancier B&Bs charge \$125 to \$175 per night with private bathroom. Historic inns converted from wealthy summer homes, decorated with antique furnishings and equipped with every conceivable modern amenity cost \$200 a night and up. Most inns require a minimum stay of two or three nights on weekends, advance reservations and bills paid in advance by check or in cash (not by credit card).

Many B&Bs are booked through agencies, including the following:

Bed & Breakfast Reservations (☎ 617-964-1606, 800-832-2632; www.bbreserve.com; 11A Beach Rd, Gloucester, MA 01930) Books B&Bs, historic inns and apartments in Massachusetts and northern New England.

Destinations (☎ 207-563-2506, 800-333-4667; www.destinations.com; 16 East Pond Rd, Nobleboro, ME 04555) A reservation and itinerary-planning service for visitors staying in New England more than a few nights.

BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels. You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

Camping

You can buy camping equipment at many places such as Hilton's Tent City (p125) in Boston and LL Bean (p483) in Freeport.

With few exceptions, you'll have to camp in established campgrounds (there's no bivouacking on the side of the road). Make reservations well in advance (especially in July and August) for the best chance of getting a site. Private campgrounds are always more expensive (\$20 to \$40) and less spacious than state parks, but they often boast recreational facilities like playgrounds, swimming pools, game rooms and miniature golf.

Rough camping is occasionally permitted in the Green Mountain National Forest (p371) or the White Mountain National Forest (p439), but often it must be at established sites; it's usually free. Drive-up sites in national forests with basic services generally cost about \$10. State and national park sites usually offer a few more services (like flush toilets, hot showers and dump stations for RVs). Campsites at these places cost between \$14 and \$26; most campgrounds are open from mid-May to mid-October.

For further camping information, contact the following:

Connecticut Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

(☎ 860-424-3000; <http://dep.state.ct.us/stateparks>)

Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands (☎ 207-287-3821; www.state.me.us/doc/parks)

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (☎ 617-626-1250; www.mass.gov/dcr)

New Hampshire Division of Parks & Recreation (☎ 603-271-3556; www.nhparcs.state.nh.us)

Rhode Island Division of Parks & Recreation (☎ 401-222-2632; www.riparks.com)

Vermont State Parks (☎ 802-241-3655; www.vtstateparks.com)

Cottages, Cabins & Condos

Renting a cottage or condominium is not particularly easy for those who don't live in the