

More than

A sampling of bed and breakfast inns of Park City

Psst! Park City has a secret! In addition to the ski lodges, condominiums, and boutique and chain hotels, several bed and breakfast establishments are tucked up in the side streets of Old Town.

Park City's bed and breakfast inns are part of a growing nationwide industry, which was transplanted from the European concept of personal hospitality. According to The Professional Association of Innkeepers International, there were only 400 bed and breakfast inns in the United States in 1975, but over 15,000 today. American bed and breakfast guests are usually seasoned travelers who want a change from a sterile hotel stay, where they find hallways of uniform doors behind which hide identical rooms with clone-like décor. The appeal of a bed and breakfast inn is the home-like atmosphere, with uniquely appointed bedrooms, and inviting living and dining rooms. Guests can take advantage of the opportunity of meeting and visiting with local residents (the innkeepers) as well as fellow travelers over the breakfast table. Innkeepers are usually knowledgeable about the goings-on-about-town, and serve as resident concierge, advising guests about local restaurants, events and activities. And if that were not enough to convince travelers to try a local bed and breakfast (familiarly known as a B&B), add the additional appeal of home-cooked breakfasts and typically lower rates than their hotel counterparts.

According to Liza Simpson, innkeeper at **The Old Miners' Lodge**, inns were traditionally converted from former residences. "Mom passed on, leaving a 10-room farmhouse. The family retrofits the house to a B&B," said Simpson.



a Room

By Sedona Callahan

Photos by Patrick Cone



ANGEL HOUSE INN AT NORFOLK AVENUE, OLD TOWN

"Today there is a growing market in luxury purpose-built inns as well."

While Park City's inns range from quaint to elegant, generous and warm hospitality is consistent throughout. "I love it when people arrive on Friday cranky and wound up, and by the time they leave on Sunday, it's like they've been away for two weeks," said Simpson. "Over 30 percent of our guests are repeats, or referrals from previous guests. We have one couple who returns every year for their wedding anniversary." Simpson pampers the guests with hot country breakfasts, tips on where to go for a run ("I send them up Sweeney Switchbacks."), suggests the best route to Denver, and makes sure the young couple away from their one-year-old for the first time gets their much-needed respite.

The Old Miners' Lodge is so named because it was at one time housing for



ANGEL HOUSE INN

single miners who worked at the Woodside mine. The 12 guestrooms are named for late 19th and early 20th century Park City residents — both respected and notorious — from Thomas Kearns, an owner of the Silver King mine and state senator, to Black Jack Murphy, who was lynched in Park City, to Flip Wing, a local Chinese gardener, to Susanna Emery Holmes, daughter of a Silver Queen mine owner who was said to have married well and often.

Filled with country pieces and antiques, The Old Miners' Lodge was the first year-round bed and breakfast inn in Park City, and one of the first 10 in Utah. While quaint in appearance, Old Miners' is up-to-date with modern hookups, fax machine, and

copier available to business travelers.

The **Old Town Guest House** might be small (just four rooms), but don't dismiss it from being a major contender for in-town lodging. The Guest House was voted Best Inn for Outdoor Sports Enthusiasts in *Arrington Bed and Breakfast Journal*, and written up in *Outdoor*

Utah magazine. Owner Deb Lovci serves as host, innkeeper and activity guide, offering her services to guests in pursuit of the perfect powder or gnarly bike trails. When she's not busy cooking breakfast or working around the B&B, she is guiding backcountry ski trips, running, riding or fly-fishing.

Amenities at Old Town Guest House include hearty mountain breakfasts, flannel robes in all the rooms, a hot tub under the stars, movie library and afternoon snacks. A non-smoking inn, The Old Town Guest House is furnished in a friendly, relaxed country style with lodgepole pine furniture.

By far, the most elegant of Park City's inns is the **Washington School Inn**, owned by Frank and Mary Ann O'Bryan. "Enter a world of Victorian opulence, Old World hospitality and contemporary comforts amid a pristine mountain setting," reads the Inn's brochure. The 12 guest rooms and three additional luxury suites all have private baths and distinctive period furnishings, complementing the Inn's 19th century architecture. Named for its original purpose as a three-classroom schoolhouse, the Inn still displays oversized classroom windows, brick chimneys and curved

Angel House Inn

713 Norfolk Avenue, Park City
435.657.0338

Old Miners' Lodge

615 Woodside Avenue, Park City
435.645.8068

Old Town Guest House

1011 Empire Avenue, Park City
435.649.2642

Washington School Inn

543 Park Avenue, Park City
435.649.3800

entry porticoes. The Washington School Inn is listed in the National Register as well as the Utah Register of Historic Places. Built in 1889 of locally quarried limestone, it served as one of three schools in the region until 1931, and was topped by a large belfry harboring a bell to announce the beginning of class. The guest rooms are named for Washington School teachers.

Another private residence-turned-inn is relative newcomer **Angel House Inn**. Opened in 1995, owners/innkeepers Joe and Jan Rush completely renovated the original Sutton family home to a 10-guest room lodge. Reflecting Jan's interest in and extensive research about angels, each room is named after the arch angels and their female counterparts. Rush has incorporated appropriate colors and aromatherapies to match the individual character of each room's namesake, while the furnishings reflect the gossamer quality of angels' wings. A Victorian mansion noted as a Utah Historic Site, Angel House Inn provides a unique romantic getaway. Each of the designer-appointed rooms is decorated in antique décor from France, England, and America from the Victorian era. Every room has either a king- or queen-sized bed with down comforter, and a private full bath.

Running a B&B is not for the faint of heart, but the rewards far outweigh the headaches. Most innkeepers love the opportunity to make friends with guests from all over the world, and look forward to returning guests. Many seek out original ways to pamper. Liza Simpson hosts many artists during Park City's Art Festival each August. "In the afternoons, I take bottled water and Popsicles down to the artists working in their booths," said Simpson. "We welcome back guests year after year during the Sundance Film Festival. They meet in the living room and share their stories. We don't take reservations via Internet, because we like to talk to them first, get an idea of what they're looking for, what they want to do, or if they're celebrating something. Then we can host them accordingly." ❄️

Sedona Callahan is a former B&B innkeeper (among other nefarious occupations such as school teacher and journalist).