

breathe magazine

tail-wagging travel

By [admin](#) • May 1, 2009

A GUIDE TO VACATIONING WITH WOMAN'S BEST FRIEND

Affectionate and loyal, your dog loves being with you, and you love being with her. So why force her to shack up with strangers while you go romping all over the country? She'd much rather see the sites with you, and her company will make your trip all the better. However, you must keep a few things in mind as you roam: Not everyone likes dogs, you are responsible for your dog's behavior, and traveling with your dog is a privilege not to be taken lightly. Once you've accepted this, you're ready to hit the road. But where will you go? Read on for five of our favorite places to stay with "the kids."

Hotel Monaco - Alexandria, Virginia

The Hotel Monaco will shower your pet with tons of affection... and treats (there's a 24-hour snack service in the lobby). They also employ a Director of Pet Relations, Charlie, a little curly-haired bichon frise, who often can be found welcoming guests, or at their famous Doggie Happy Hour.

How much? Rates start at \$159 per night during the summer.

Hot Spots for Spot: In Alexandria, pets are welcome—and encouraged—in many of the hotels, shops, and restaurants with outdoor dining. "Puppy Pops" are a staple at the Dairy Godmother, a locally owned, neighborhood hangout specializing in homemade frozen custard. It's "all aboard" for dogs and their humans on the Potomac Riverboat Company's Canine Cruise, a 40-minute tour offered Thursday evenings from May through September.

More Info: monaco-alexandria.com, thedairygodmother.com, potomacriverboatco.com



Hilton Head Hideaways - Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Owners Chuck Zapiec and Mary Roberts built their business based on what they look for in accommodations when traveling with their own dog. They pride themselves on reasonably priced luxury vacation homes that are pet-friendly and meticulously clean—a noteworthy combo.

How much? Summer rates start at \$1095 per week (as low as \$445 per week in the winter).

Hot Spots for Spot: The beach, of course... dogs can play in the surf all day. Depending on the time of year, they may have to be on a leash, but you can always let 'em loose at Best Friends Dog Park. For noshing, try Bistro 17, where servers gladly bring bowls of water and biscuits out for their four-legged patrons. Your dog can also feast from their specially prepared puppy menu.

More Info: hiltonheadhideaways.com



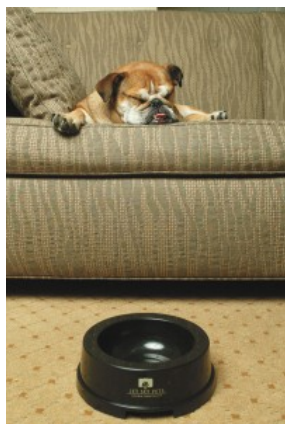
Five Gables Inn & Spa - St. Michaels, Maryland

Nestled in the heart of a Chesapeake Bay village, this haven for dog lovers is made up of three circa-1860 homes in one of America's most scenic settings.

How much? Rates start at \$160 per night plus a \$50 pet fee per stay.

Hot Spots for Spot: The inn features an adorable pet boutique, Flying Fred's. Coined after the proprietor's beloved Jack Russell terrier Freddie, the upscale shop is located in the Inn's Brick House and offers a marvelous collection of clothing, treats, special toys, collars and leashes. Flying Fred's also features a collection of artwork from canine artist Stephen Huneck.

More Info: 877.466.0100, fivegables.com



The Liaison - Capitol Hill, Washington, DC

Interested in touring our nation's capital? Or perhaps you have business to attend to on the Hill? Either way, this upscale urban retreat is an ideal choice when you've got your pooch in tow. Their Jet Set Pet program includes complimentary bowls, beds, doggie sidewalk bags, and kitty litter pans. You can also opt for services such as training, day care, grooming, and even a pet psychic. The hotel employs a pet liaison named Riggins, who occasionally hangs out in the lobby to greet four-legged guests and will have some great suggestions for dog parks.

How much? They have an average summer rate of \$179 per night.

Hot Spots for Spot: See the sites together on the National Mall, where dogs are allowed on-leash near most of the monuments (except the indoor and covered areas). Just be sure to keep them off the walkways at the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials.

More Info: affinia.com



Hilton Atlanta - Atlanta, Georgia

Even industry giant Hilton says yes to pets. Upon check-in, you'll receive a welcome package featuring a travel tote, organic treats, biodegradable waste bags, and a travel-size bottle of one-step cleaner for smells and spills. They also offer a Crypton Clean Pet Pillow, designed by famed photographer William Wegman.

How much? Summer room rates range from \$119-\$299, plus a \$75 non-refundable pet fee.

Hot Spots for Spot: Let your pooches run free at the dog park in Atlanta's popular Piedmont Park—one of the few off-leash locales in the metro area.