

The Concierge

TIPS FOR TOURING HERE AND ABROAD

WHO LET THE DOGS IN?

At these pet-friendly resorts, the welcome mat is always out to greet guests and their four-legged companions

By Diane Bair and Pamela Wright
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Lucy loved the Inn by the Sea in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The staff fawned over her when we arrived, offering her a drink and homemade cookies. In the room there was a cushy new bed and a gift basket of special treats. In the afternoon, after a long walk along the paths that crisscross the resort, she enjoyed an in-room massage. Later, she joined fellow guests in the lounge for Happy Hour.

Lucy is a well-loved water spaniel, lapping up the unaccustomed luxury at the plush, ocean-front resort, just 15 minutes from downtown Portland. While made to feel special, Lucy wasn't the only four-legged guest at the resort. Alas, she wasn't invited to the private dog party being held in a special event room that weekend, but she met several other happy dogs and their owners during our weekend stay, while walking the grounds and hanging out in the lobby and lounge.

According to the 2015-2016 American Pet Products Association National Pet Owners Survey, there are more than 79 million pet-owning homes in the United States, some 65 percent of all households. More than 54 million own a dog and 28 percent of those dog owners have been to a pet-friendly hotel.

There's no need to leave Fido at home when you hit the road. We sleuthed out four ultra-pet-friendly digs in New England.

Inn by the Sea

Both people and pets are coddled at this beautiful, beach resort in southern Maine, featuring a mile of oceanfront, a year-round program of ac-

tivities and events (think: lobster bakes on the beach, concerts, nature walks, arts and crafts and more), and a full-service spa. Pets are welcome in a variety of rooms, at no extra charge, including select cottages, garden suites, spa suites and the new, contemporary and airy beach suites, with in-your-face ocean views, outdoor patios and decks, and large living areas. Beach towels, blankets and treats are generously provided to their pet guests, and while they're happy to arrange dog walking and pet care, there's no need to leave your four-legged companions behind. Take them to the fireplace lounge to mingle with other guests, and order off a special pet menu. (Lucy loved her grilled chicken and vegetables!) In-room pet massages can also be arranged. Alas, pets are not allowed on Crescent Beach from April through September, but the staff provides a list of nearby walking trails, beaches and free-range parks. The resort also offers a variety of packages, including the INNcredible Pets Package which features two nights lodging in a single-room suite, dog bowl, L.L. Bean dog bed, 30-minute, in-room pet massage, nightly selection from the pet menu, and pet turn-down service with locally-made treats. 207-799-3134, www.innbythesea.com

The Essex, Vermont's Culinary Resort & Spa

Pets feel right at home at this northern Vermont resort, set on 18 sprawling acres just minutes from downtown Burlington. It was recently awarded the Fido's Favorite Award by Bring Fido.com, a distinction that fewer than 5 percent of all pet-friendly accommodations receive. The pampering begins at check-in, when pets receive a welcome package containing house-made pet treats, a take-home chew toy, and a collapsible

water bowl. Pet owners have a choice of accommodations, including traditional rooms, fireplace rooms, minisuites, studios, and one-bedroom suites (\$45 night/per pet). After taking your pet to nearby Mills Riverside Park for off-leash time, order a special meal from the doggie room service menu, like the Vermont meatloaf with fresh apples, or the liver cake with poached carrots. There's plenty to keep owners happy, too, including two award-winning restaurants, a full-service spa and fitness center, and the Cook Academy, offering a host of daily culinary classes. The resort offers a variety of special weekend packages, like the upcoming Top Dog Weekend (Nov. 13-15) with a happy hour with dog treats and drink specials for owners, an owners' hands-on cooking class to learn how to make homemade dog food, a pet-a-cure to keep your pet's nails trim and coat shiny, two nights' accommodations, and a two-course dinner for two and one pet from the in-room dining menu. 800-727-4295, www.essexresortspa.com

Onyx, a Kimpton Hotel

Charley, the director of pet relations at this whimsical Boston boutique, may greet you when you arrive, if she's not taking a walk around the North End. She's a cute lemon and white beagle, who, according to her owner, loves her gig at the hotel, greeting guests. Pet owners can even e-mail Charley in advance of their stay to share their pet's preferences with her. Even if Charley is not around, no worries: Pets, any number and all sizes, are welcome here at no extra cost. Bring your pets to the complimentary evening wine reception to mingle with others, before dining in the Ruby Room lounge, with its rich colors and curvy banquettes and upscale comfort food

(burgers, steak frites, and specialty pizzas). Grab a cookie for your dog and a clean-up bag (complimentary at the reception desk) before taking a nighttime stroll. This 112-room, four-star hotel, just around the corner from North Station, is fun for humans, too, with sleek, modern rooms, ultra-comfortable beds with luxe linens and high-tech bells and whistles. The Pampered Pet Package includes accommodations, a bed for dogs or scratching post for cats to borrow during their stay, one item from the Pampered Pet menu and treats from the Boston Barkery. 617-557-9955, www.onyxhotel.com

The Ritz-Carlton, Boston Common

There will be no ruff-ing it for humans or pets at this luxurious hotel, known for its impeccable, bend-over-backward service. Everyone is made to feel like royalty here. Before heading out to play in Boston Common, order the Rover picnic basket to go (\$50) with specially prepared treats from the Pawsh Dog Boutique, including a Frisbee, Chuck-it ball, reusable travel bowl, and a Boston Barkery hamburger cookie treat. Other pet services and amenities available to guests and their pets include beds, blankets, clothing, treats and a woof/meow door hanger. If you really want to splurge, consider the Pampered Pet Package, with overnight accommodations, valet parking, welcome amenities for you and your pets, a keepsake pet food bowl, custom dog tag, a one-hour massage for you, and a one-hour pampering spa treatment for your pet. 617-574-7100, www.ritzcarlton.com/en/Properties/BostonCommon/Default.htm

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HERE

MAKE A BOSTON-AREA DINING RESERVATION ONLINE

A new online site lets you select a restaurant in the Greater Boston area and make a reservation from your computer or mobile device. To start, go to [Hautseet.com](http://hautseet.com) (pronounced "hot-seat") and track down a restaurant by name or by cuisine type — search for American, Jamaican, or Portuguese eateries, or for vegetarian, seafood, or pizza, for instance. Then choose a reservation time and select your preferred table from the list by consulting the restaurant's seating plan. Finally, you can opt to preorder your meal by selecting items from the online menu, and indicate any special instructions or allergies. hautseet.com/.

THERE

RUN AROUND KILIMANJARO WITH A WORLD RECORD HOLDER

Join Tanzania's most famous trail runner, Simon Mtuy, for the Kilimanjaro Stage Run during which you'll spend eight days running 162 miles around the base of Africa's tallest

mountain. Follow footpaths leading through lush rain forests and small villages as you take in stunning views of Mount Kilimanjaro. You'll average about 19 miles a day, as you run with half a dozen Tanzanian runners, up to 12 international runners, and Mtuy, who holds world records for the fastest ascent and fastest descent of Kilimanjaro. The event, offered through Extraordinary Journeys Oct. 17-27, includes support vehicles, water, snacks, meals, and daily camps set up for runners. Price: \$2,125 per person, including

all meals, accommodations, support, gear, and airport transfers; international airfare not included. 212-226-7331, <https://ejafrika.com/blog/kilimanjaro-stage-run>

GEORGIA EVENT WILL LEAVE YOU GLOWING

Take a trip to Georgia's Sea Island resort this Columbus Day for the Glow-in-the-Dark Weekend. This three-day event, Oct. 9-11, offers guests glowing manicures and pedicures, black-light volleyball and ping pong, and a sensory dinner in the dark. Start the weekend off

with a stop at the resort's spa, where you can get glow-in-the-dark treatments to make you stand out when darkness falls. Listen to the residential naturalist's free presentation about animals and plants that glow in the dark, attend a stargazing session for \$35, and join in the free black-light volleyball tournament or a glowing game of Ping-Pong at Club Paddle. Then enjoy the glow-in-the-dark dinner Saturday night, when you'll enjoy sparkly cocktails, neon desserts, and an experience that taps your senses (\$58 per person). Rooms start at \$185.



800-732-4752, www.seaisland.com

EVERYWHERE

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Eagle Creek's new Pack-It Sport collection lets you easily organize and carry your workout or travel gear while on the go. Choose the Wet Dry Fitness Locker to keep wet and dry clothes separate, the Garment Envelope for keeping business and travel clothes presentable while you work out, the Laundry Stuffer for holding dirty clothes, the Wallaby bag for your toiletries, and the Shoe Locker to pack shoes in your luggage without mucking up your clothes and other items. The Pack-It Sport bags and pouches come in different sizes, have an antimicrobial treatment for containing odors, and are lightweight and machine washable. Prices range from \$18 for the Pack-It Sport Laundry Stuffer to \$55 for the Pack-It Sport Travel Set, which includes the garment envelope, fitness locker, and wet zip pouch. 888-824-9460, www.eaglecreek.com



HEALTH SNACKS FOR THE ROAD

Grab a box of GoGo squeeZ flavored applesauce packets as you head out the door and have healthy snacks while traveling. These all-natural snacks, made with 100 percent real fruit, come in squeezable 3.2-ounce pouches, have re-sealable lids, taste great at room temperature, and are gluten, dairy, and nut free and are kosher certified. Varieties include ApplePineapple, AppleApple, ApplePear, AppleCinnamon, AppleBerry, and AppleMango. You can also buy organic, and fruit and veggie GoGo squeeZ packets. Available in singles and packs of 4, 12, and 48. Prices range from about \$1 to \$1.29 per packet, depending on quantity. 888-288-7148, www.gogosqueez.com
KARI BODNARCHUK