

Travel

The Highlands Inn: A Lesbian Paradise

by Nora Landon

P-town too frenetic? Key West too far? If you're looking for a quiet, relaxing place to get away for a night, a weekend, or a vacation, you might consider the Highlands Inn in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. Located in the heart of the White Mountains, about two and a half hours from Burlington, it may just be a "lesbian paradise," as one of its brochures attests.

The Highlands Inn caters to an exclusively gay clientele, "99 percent" of it lesbian, according to innkeeper Grace Newman, although she is quick to point out that gay men are welcome.

The Highlands opened for business in September 1983. It is a renovated 200 year-old farmhouse, sitting on 101 secluded acres of woods and fields, half a mile down a dirt road. It operates as a bed-and-breakfast, with twenty rooms in four buildings.

Most of the guest rooms come with a private bath, and some have a kitchen. Each room is different and all are furnished with antiques

and comfortable furniture. Prices range from \$50 to \$95 per couple per night (single rates are also available), depending on the accommodations, the length of stay and the time of year. Midweek prices are lowest. All prices include a deluxe continental breakfast.

The ground floor of the main building is warm and inviting, consisting of a screened-in porch, a large living room, and an even larger breakfast room. The living room, dominated by a fireplace, contains comfortable furniture in conversational groupings, and floor to ceiling bookshelves along one wall. The breakfast room has a piano, and at the far end a sitting area for watching TV and videos.



Signpost to a lesbian paradise: The Highlands Inn has been a haven to lesbians and gay men alike since 1983 and continues to grow in popularity.



Grace Newman, Winner of the 1990 Christmas Decoration Contest in Bethlehem NH and Innkeeper of the Highlands Inn

There is plenty to do for those who want to be active. The Inn itself has an indoor hot tub, an outdoor swimming pool and 15 miles of hiking/skiing trails. Available in the area are golf, tennis, skiing, antiques and other shopping, summer theater, and all the tourist attractions and recreational options of the White Mountains regions.

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