



Uncommon stays: 13 best lighthouses where you can spend the night

By Sheryl Nance Nash | Published July 16, 2024

What is it about lighthouses that captures our imagination? Maybe they make us feel hopeful because they symbolize safety and security in stormy weather. Maybe they appeal to our romantic souls by harkening back to a bygone era. Or maybe – and this is probably a very big part of it – they just look pretty darn cool, all lit up at night against a backdrop of rocky cliffs and crashing waves.

Whatever the reason, people don't just want to visit lighthouses. They also want to spend the night in them. And lighthouse hotels are a very big deal, especially for somebody like me who loves everything about lighthouses. Fortunately, there are quite a few lighthouses you can sleep in here in the U.S., including lighthouses on both coasts and Alaska. If you're dreaming of spending the night in a lighthouse or a lighthouse keeper's cottage, put these special hotels, B&Bs, and rental properties on your travel wish list.

3. Rose Island Lighthouse Hotel

Newport, Rhode Island

Make your way to the top of the fully restored Rose Island Lighthouse in Newport, and you'll be rewarded with unbeatable sunrise and sunset views of Rhode Island's Narragansett Bay. Constructed in 1869, the Rose Island Lighthouse operated from 1870 through 1970, when it was decommissioned and taken out of service.

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Today the well-preserved Rose Island Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places and open to the public for daytime visits in the spring and summer months. Overnight stays at the lighthouse hotel are available from April through October, and you can spend the night in one of four unique rooms, including the second-floor Lighthouse Keeper's Apartment, which can accommodate a family of four.

Getting to the lighthouse hotel is an easy ride on the hop-on, hop-off Jamestown Newport Ferry. Adventurous travelers can also reach the Rose Island Lighthouse by canoe, kayak, or small boat.