

A Luxurious Sanctuary

The Whitestone Country Inn pampers guests with an idyllic rural setting done in fine fashion.

Driving under the barn does it. It gives visitors to Whitestone Country Inn the unmistakable sense of getting away from it all.

Cruising country roads to get here contributes to the feeling too. But there's something about passing under the barn, then heading up the hillside and seeing the farmhouse and Watts Bar Lake in the distance that creates a feeling of sanctuary.

Speaking of sanctuary, there is also a small chapel on the grounds of this rambling 360-acre estate, 35 miles west of Knoxville near Kingston, Tennessee.

But about the farmhouse. Sounds rustic, like you might have to bed down with livestock, doesn't it? No way. This is more of a manor than a farmhouse. The exterior's dormer windows, wood columns, wide porches,



Guestrooms are impeccably decorated and have beautiful views.

and brick chimney exude an understated elegance, and you haven't even stepped inside. Once indoors, you're greeted by sumptuous decor, wood floors, and a romantic dining room filled with candlelight and soft music.

Enjoy a fine dinner and a great view of the panoramic landscape; then retire to your room. The farmhouse has nine elegant guestrooms, most with private

porches. Rooms are decorated along a bird theme, appropriate because the inn is next to a bird refuge.

During the day, there is a variety of low-key but stimulating activities. Wander along 8 miles of trails on the property, enjoy bird watching, knock a wooden ball around on the croquet lawn, go kayaking on Watts Bar Lake, or whack away the afternoon on the tennis court. If you care to do the big-city thing, Knoxville lies less than an hour away, and Chattanooga sits 75 minutes to the south. However, once you're here, it's hard to tear yourself away. You know the cold, cruel world lies on the other side of that barn.

Whitestone Country Inn: 1200 Paint Rock Road, Kingston, TN 37763; 1-888-247-2464 or 865-376-0113
www.whitestoneinn.com ◆