

What is it?

Airbnb (as in “Air Bed and Breakfast”) is a service that lets property owners rent out their spaces to travelers looking for a place to stay. People can rent a space for multiple people to share, a shared space with private rooms, or the entire property for themselves.

If You're a Guest

Once you create a free account, you can search for a place to stay at by telling it where you want to go, when you want to check in, when you want to check out, and how many guests will be staying. You can also add extra search criteria, such as neighbourhood location, price, type of property, space availability (i.e. having a private room vs. having the whole place to yourself), and more. Also, while your billing details are needed in order to hold a booking, you don't pay until a host accepts your reservation request.

If You're a Host

People can list properties for rent for free, and can also hire professional photographers to make their spaces look their best. Prices and availability for properties can be set according to a host's schedule, or what they work out with guests. A host can even set up their property listing to auto-book anyone who is interested in their property and meets certain specified criteria. However, the host has the final say on whether or not they want to book someone. Finally, Airbnb covers its hosts against damages to their property by guests. Similar sites, like VRBO, also have insurance plans to this effect.

Other Popular Services Like Airbnb

While Airbnb is one of the most famous peer-to-peer property rental services on the Internet, there are many more worth considering. Two of its biggest competitors are **HomeAway.com** and **VRBO.com**. If you're really not interested in paying booking fees, then try **9Flats**. Or, if you want to be sure that hosts have been verified as trustworthy directly by the booking service's staff, then have a look at **FlipKey** (by TripAdvisor) or **OneFineStay**.

Getting Started

1. Access Airbnb by visiting airbnb.ca or download and open the free **Airbnb app** from your app store.
2. Create a free account by clicking on "Sign Up". You can choose to sign up using your existing Facebook or Google account, or by entering your email address. If you choose to register with your email address you will be sent an email with a confirmation link that you must click before you get started.
3. That's it! You're ready to start searching for a place to stay. Start your search by entering into the search bar a destination you'd like to visit.
4. Browse the available rentals by listing or by clicking the map. You may zoom in and out of the map to find rentals close to areas you want to stay. Use the search tools such a date, price, number of guests, and home type to narrow down the rentals to find exactly what you're looking for.
5. Click on the rental to read more information about it and see photos of the space. Read reviews and contact the host for more information before booking.
6. When you're ready to book fill out the booking feature on the right side of the page and provide your credit card or Paypal information. The host will then have 24 hours to accept your booking, and you will be notified if you are successful.

Tip: You can save listings you are interested in by clicking the heart/save button in the top right corner of the listing. You will also find the send button next to it so that you may share a potential listing with friends.

Helpful Resources

Tech Boomers - Airbnb Course

<https://techboomers.com/p/airbnb>

How Smart is it to Travel Using Airbnb?

<https://www.smartliving365.com/smart-travel-using-airbnb/>

The Ultimate Beginner's Guide to Airbnb Hosting

<https://learnairbnb.com/airbnb-hosting-beginners-guide/>

Thinking of Being an Airbnb Host? Here's How to do it Right!

<https://thepointsguy.com/2017/07/how-to-be-a-great-airbnb-host/>