



Airbnb a different option for renting an accommodation

What is Airbnb?

Airbnb is a site to rent (a part of) properties from owners for (usually) a short period of time. It can be a spare room, an apartment or an entire villa, you can find it all on the booking site. The benefit of using Airbnb is staying at a bigger place than a hotel room for a usually (much) lower price. Aside from the size and price benefits, Airbnb's are great if you want to stay in a more residential neighbourhood where there aren't too many hotels and if you're trying to get a taste of the local life at your destination.

How to book on Airbnb?

- 1. Go to an internet browser of your choice**
- 2. Go to the site <https://www.airbnb.com>**
- 3. Create an Airbnb profile:** Sign up for Airbnb. You can sign up with your email address or with Facebook. Then you can continue to complete your profile. Signing up is free and you only have to pay when you actually book something, so don't be afraid that you will be charged immediately because that is not the case. Create a nice personal profile, with which you show who you are! Once you are going to book, it is often also necessary to scan your ID or passport, Airbnb asks this so that they really know who you are. With this copy you prove that you are who you say you are. Airbnb does not share this copy with other (sub)tenants.
- 4. Search for a nice private room, hotel room or complete home:** Enter in the search field where you want to go, with how many people and on what dates. A map will then show where you can rent overnight accommodations. You can also enter the minimum and maximum duration of your stay, so you can immediately filter on prices that suit your vacation day. To find the ideal home, you can set various filters, such as: Type of accommodation (private room, entire home or hotel room) – With an entire home, you do not share the space, then you rent it all for yourself – With a private room, there may be other people in the house – With a hotel room, you have the chance to sleep in an official hotel Rooms & beds (you can indicate how many rooms and beds you want at least) Facilities (here you can indicate, for example, whether you want a kitchen or a swimming pool or wifi).

- 5. Found a cool Airbnb? Check the reviews:** Have you found a nice place? Then check the reviews carefully! Sometimes there is also useful information about the landowner, for example whether he or she is very friendly or difficult to reach. So always read the reviews carefully before you book. This way you can also find out whether the advertisement text and photos really match reality.

- 6. Check the terms and conditions and ask your host if you have any:** It is always smart to also read the terms and conditions of the place you want to rent. For example, what is the check-out time? And from what time can you arrive? Something you should also pay close attention to is cancelling. With one house this is easier and cheaper than with another, and the period until which you can do this free of charge also differs. So always read carefully what the cancellation conditions are for the house you have in mind. Usually the word 'flexible' or 'strict' also indicates to what extent this is easy or difficult for a certain house. If it is flexible, you can often cancel up to 24 hours before your trip.

- 7. Book your Airbnb:** Have you checked the reviews, contacted the landowner and read the conditions? Then you can book! You do this by checking the dates and number of people again and then clicking on the "Book" button. Your reservation is not made immediately. You will often get questions such as: Who are you? Who are you traveling with? Do you have any questions? What is the purpose of your trip? Sometimes you can also book directly, but with most accommodations this is not possible. So realize that you sometimes have to wait for the landowner to respond before it is final. It is often the case that if you provide a lot of information or clear information about your trip, there is a good chance that you will be approved quickly. Has the reservation been approved? Then you get to see the cancellation conditions again and sometimes also house rules, for example we once had that you absolutely cannot have a party. This was when we went to celebrate New Year's Eve in Sydney. We then said several times via the contact form that we had tickets for a party and really did not want to have a party in the accommodation.

- 8. Payment:** Always make sure that you pay via the site itself and do not transfer money directly to the landowner, because if you pay via Airbnb then it is safe. Nowadays you have the possibility to pay via different options like (prepaid) credit card, Apple Pay, Android Pay, iDeal, PayPal. You only have to enter your payment details, approve the payment and you are done.