

# 9 hacks for finding great deals on Airbnbs when travelling and working abroad

Finding a great place to stay when travelling is hard. Hotel prices are often high, and hostels can be hit and miss.

That's why we normally stay in Airbnbs for much less than the price of hotels, plus you get most of the amenities you're used to at home.

Finding the perfect Airbnb can sometimes be tricky but it doesn't have to be!

Follow these hacks for finding great deals on airbnbs when travelling or working abroad.

## Section 1: How to find a great Airbnb

### **1: Be flexible on your dates.**

By ticking the box 'Flexible on dates', you are likely to include listings that you wouldn't otherwise see.

For example, your dream house could be occupied for just 1 of the 7 days you want to go, and wouldn't otherwise appear in the results.

Even if you aren't flexible on dates, it can sometimes work out cheaper to book for a longer stay that includes the date range you want to stay for.

For example, booking for 10 nights, even though you only want to stay 7 can sometimes result in a better price than just the 7. (This is because some hosts offer good discounts for longer stays.

Just be sure to tell the host after booking that you will only be staying for some of those nights. (We even got a small refund once using this strategy!)

## **2: Use all the filters, then remove your compromises.**

When you're looking for an Airbnb, particularly in a popular city like Prague or Barcelona, you're going to be overwhelmed by choice. We suggest you start by adding all of your 'wish list' filters and then remove one at a time to see the new listings that come up.

Our usual wish list filters are: entire house, 3 bedrooms, wifi, kitchen, air con, open fire, washing machine, parking and a pool. Once we've done through the typically short list of properties, we'll take off the filters we can compromise on, usually wifi (we have our own wireless router), washing machine (we'll cope), open fire (reluctantly) and a pool (I mean it's nice, but...).

A word of warning, after booking over 100 Airbnb trips, we've discovered that not all hosts fill in their profile properly.

Imagine you wanted, say, a desk to work at - although plenty of hosts will provide that, not many specifically tell Airbnb that a workspace is available.

So by filtering by 'workspace', you will probably miss out on some great properties that *do* have workspaces but haven't declared to Airbnb that they do!

Start with the dream and decide which filters are a 'must-have' to give yourself more choice.

### **3. Increase your budget (and then negotiate)**

This is one of our favourites.

Use the slider to increase your budget by about 30%, and you'll not only have more properties to choose from (and often better quality), but by moving your dates slightly (if possible), or booking for longer, you'll often reduce the price.

Even if these tips don't work, the AirBnB price is often negotiable.

See section 2 for our tips on negotiating with AirBnB hosts.

### **4. Look for listings with poor quality, or odd looking photos**

A lot of hosts don't realise that they either need great photos, or that the first photo in their listing can vastly affect how many people even look at the listing.

We've seen listings where the thumbnail photo is of an old table - the rest of the house was lovely, but most people won't even click through if the first photo is a bit rubbish.

Which you can use to your advantage!

Whenever you see a listing with a bad photo, have a peek at the other photos, to see if it's a bad 'cover' image, or the property really is that grim!

Sometimes you can pick up a bargain on a beautiful house because most other browsers just scroll on by.

### **5. Be aware that airbnb has filters and fish-eye lenses!**

What is a fish-eye lense?

A fish-eye lens is a camera lense which creates an image where the image appears wider than it really is. The effect is most commonly associated with wide-angle lenses, but any lens can have this effect.

What that *really* means is that often (almost always!) your airbnb will be quite a bit smaller than it looks in the photos.

Also, savvy hosts will use the filters on their phone (or even software like Adobe Lightroom) to make dark spaces lighter and overall improve the quality of the photo.

Not much you can do about this, but we set our expectations a tiny bit lower these days.

## **6. Use Airbnb Plus**

What is Airbnb Plus?

Airbnb Plus is a collection of properties managed by airbnb. It includes verified homes where the host has undergone background checks, and provides other customer protection measures.

In our experience, Airbnb Plus hosts offer better quality properties than regular Airbnb hosts - however they sometimes do cost a little more. (You can still negotiate though - see section 2.)

That said, if your budget isn't as important as the overall experience, by filtering by 'Airbnb Plus only' listings, you are likely to find a great property quickly that is better equipped and often much nicer.

## **7. Increase your search area to include outside the city**

Airbnb properties are mostly concentrated in cities, and it is often cheaper to get an airbnb outside the city itself.

You can set your search for up to 30 minutes from the centre of town and you'll likely find some amazing properties that are significantly cheaper.

And in our experience, being right in the centre is not always such a great thing - it can be noisy and cramped. Plus, parking is often expensive and is rarely included in the fee.

Besides, most cities have a great network of public transport - Prague, for example, has a fast (and cheap) tram service that connects suburbs with the city in minutes.

## **8. Read the bad reviews first**

Often a bad review isn't as bad as it sounds.

We have found that guests are sometimes quite sensitive to the strangest things. A guest may take issue with the fact that you didn't leave milk in the fridge, for example, so take the bad reviews with a pinch of salt.

Also, if you see a listing with several recent bad reviews, then it's likely there's less competition as other potential guests are likely to be put off.

This not only gives you a reason to negotiate (see section 2), but you can contact the host directly and ask if the problem(s) have been resolved.

## **9. Find the property on Google Maps**

Airbnb doesn't generally allow you to see exactly where the property is before you book, but by getting the Airbnb map up and comparing it to a Google map of the area, you'll often be able to get a sense of the rough area (usually accurate to a few hundred feet).

Now you can 'wander' the surrounding area and check it out. (We've even stumbled across the exact property using the 'street view' option of Google).

TIP: When you enquire, the host may send you a pin drop if you ask for it. That is a great way to ensure you're booking a nice place in a nice area.

## **10. Use wishlists to save properties**

You can use airbnb 'wishlists' to save listings that you want to consider before making a booking, or even share with a fellow traveller.

Not only does it make it easy to shortlist potential properties, you can view your shortlist on a map to work out which are in the best location for you.

## **11. Talking of wish lists - search Google for other traveller's wish lists**

Some wish lists are public...

Which means a Google search can uncover curated lists of properties that are popular among other travellers.

The lists even show the best deals.

This is a great way to find not only great airbnb properties, but also the best deals for each listing.

Why not let someone else do the hard work for you?

Just type 'airbnb wishlist {city}' into Google (replacing {city} with where you want to go) and click on the 'airbnb.com' results that come up !

## **12. Go for second cities**

Properties in capital cities, or popular areas can often command high fees, meaning you either can't find properties you like, or you're not getting the best deal.

We always explore 'second cities' (literally the second most populated city in a specific country) or less popular tourist destinations - they often

have great properties at a fraction of the price, and offer the same level of quality as major cities!

For example, you might find properties in Dubrovnik to be at least twice the price of those in neighbouring Makarska.

Not only could you take a day trip to Dubrovnik if your heart was set on seeing where Game of Thrones was filmed, but you'll often find friendlier people and fewer 'tourist scams' in the second city.

### **13. Check the local 3/4/5G map**

We've already mentioned increasing the search area away from the city centre, you often get much better pricing because airbnb properties are concentrated in cities. We've also suggested removing 'wifi' from the filters if, like us, you have access to 3/4/5G.

For that plan to work, though, you need to be sure of the mobile coverage in your chosen area. Websites like [nperf.com](http://nperf.com) allow you to select by country and network, and a zoom in will show you right down to the street your Airbnb is on. You'll never be left with dodgy coverage again!

### **14. Keep looking!**

It pays to spend a few days checking back on Airbnb before committing to a trip.

Not only do new properties come on every day, but previous listings that you loved, but were unavailable, could have been cancelled.

We also suspect that Airbnb doesn't show you every available property the first time you search.

Instead they show properties that either have had recent activity, are likely to be the most popular, or even (and we can't prove this) make the most money for AirBnB when you book!

For example, if you're planning a trip in 6 months, property prices are likely to be lower than if you wanted to go in 3 months.

Then, if you left it till the week before, they'll drop again.

Think of this like airline tickets - they fluctuate in price depending on a number of factors.

## Section 2: Booking the best price

So you've shortlisted your favourite properties and you want to get the best price.

Here's how you do that.

### **15. You can negotiate with hosts**

Did you know you can negotiate with airbnb hosts? We've found that most will offer a discount if you ask.

The easiest way to do this is to pick a property with good reviews and nice photos, then send a message suggesting your price and asking them if they can match it.

For example - 'We love this place! My wife is desperate to book, but our budget is quite limited right now. If you would accept £30 a night for 15 nights, then I'd love to book it today!'

Most times they'll match your price (if it's reasonable), and if not, you can always counter the offer.

This works really well if you have a lot of great reviews - keep reading for more tips on getting reviews.



## **16. Book for a couple of nights then negotiate with the host directly**

Whilst this can be a risky strategy, if you're flexible, and looking for the best price, then you can book for a few nights via Airbnb and then negotiate with the host.

In fact, in most cases, once you've booked, then you'll get the contact details of the host so you can discuss this away from the app (like Whatsapp or Viber).

NOTE: Be careful not to try to send or request contact details before you've booked. The airbnb messaging app will often remove anything that looks like an email or phone number, and we suspect that multiple attempts to circumvent the platform will result in a permanent ban. Instead, send them your social media handle, and chat from there.

## **17. Make a 'best and final' offer**

This works well if you're booking far in advance or last-minute. However, the key here is to be respectful yet clear that this is your final offer.

Of course, it has to be your final offer - be willing to walk away if they can't match it.

Some just hosts will not negotiate - that's why we suggest creating a shortlist of 3-5 properties to send 'best and final' offers to, to increase your chances of getting a discount.

This is the message we send:

'Hi there - my wife and I love your house. It's been our dream to stay in the area, and although your price is out of our price range we just can't help coming back to it!

This is a cheeky question to ask, but it's worth a go: Our budget is £1200 for the month. We will happily book right now if you could match our budget.

You'll see we have great reviews, always leave the property clean and tidy and are always very respectful of the owner's homes.

If you are willing to help us out at this price, would you send an 'Instant Offer' link and we'll finalise the booking today.

Thanks

Al & Leanne'

It works about 25% of the time!

## **18. Keep searching and revisit your shortlist**

We've often seen the price of properties reduce by as much as 40% over a period of a few days, especially if the booking is 'last minute'.

Also, new properties often appear, so it's a good idea to set aside a few days for your search, and check back regularly.

This is especially important if you have a shortlist (called 'wishlist' in Airbnb) - ensure you refresh the page to see if any discounts have been applied.

## **19. Use a VPN set to the country of the host**

This hasn't worked for us yet, but we've heard of travellers setting their location to the host's country using a VPN, and seeing either a discounted price, or a price in the host's currency that works out cheaper.

Let us know if it works for you! (Not got a VPN? Keep reading...)

## **20. What is a VPN? Which do I choose?**

A VPN is a service that enables you to make your Internet traffic look like it's coming from another computer and/or country.

Our favourites are NordVPN and ExpressVPN.

See section 3 for other reasons to use a VPN in an Airbnb.

## **21. Look for bad reviews and offer to leave a good one**

If you like the look of a property, but it has a few bad reviews, then a clever tactic can be to offer to leave a good review if they give you a discount.

Just bear in mind this appears to be against the terms of Airbnb, so use this strategy at your own risk!

TIP: It's a good idea to have two Airbnb profiles and to alternate bookings with each, just in case you get a terrible review, or your account gets terminated!

## **22. Use Cashback sites like GivingAssist**

Not only do sites like GivingAssist give you a discount on Airbnb for signing up as a new Airbnb customer, they often have money-off or cashback deals when using them to book Airbnb trips.

These deals change constantly, so it's a good idea to monitor the offers continually whilst you're choosing your property.

<https://givingassistant.org/coupon-codes/airbnb.com>

## **23. Never use the 'instant book'**

It might seem that this feature is handy, but it often means you're paying a premium.

In addition, by pulling the trigger too early, you don't get the chance to 'chat' to the owner before booking - which means you are far less likely to get a discount.

The only two exceptions to this are:

1. If the host sends you an offer via an 'instant book' link. This is the way most hosts will give you discounts
2. If you're shopping 'last minute'. Sometimes, the instant booking deals are the host's way of guaranteeing some revenue when the property is empty.

Talking of 'last minute'...

## **24. Book 'last minute'**

The advantage of a 'last minute' booking is that the host is much more likely to say yes, if they face the prospect of an empty property.

Of course, the downside is that you may have fewer choices. It makes sense that the premium properties and those with good prices will be booked up in advance.

However, if you're flexible (like we are), then you can get some amazing deals.

We found a place in Croatia that should have been £2800 for the month and we got it last minute at about half that.

## **25. Book for longer**

Many hosts offer decent discounts for booking longer trips.

In fact, if you are booking for 28 days or more, then you're likely to get a decent discount (often around 30-40%).

Just be aware that you cannot get a refund if you cancel a booking over 28 days. Trips under 28 days usually allows you a window to cancel and get a refund.

Our trick is to see what the price is for 28 days, and that gives you the maximum discount (in percentage terms) that this host is prepared to offer

Then use that same discount percentage on your preferred window and that's your target price.

## **26. Booking starts on weekdays**

As most bookings start on Saturday and end on Friday, the app seems to give you a better price if you start your trip on a weekday.

For example, Saturday to Friday might be £700 for the week, but Tuesday to Monday is likely to be around £550.

Course, this depends on the availability of the property and your flexibility, but as we've said before, if you can be flexible, then you're going to get a good price.

## **27. Book any gaps for a discount**

Following on from the idea above, look at the booking calendar for the property you want to stay in, and try to find gaps either side of your planned trip, where the property is empty.

Like we said, most guests book a block starting on a Friday or Saturday, and if you're more flexible, you can often get extra days tacked on to your block for a steep discount.

For example, imagine a property has a booking ending on a Tuesday, and you want to stay the following Saturday for a week.

You can offer to arrive on Tuesday and stay for those 3 extra days, and you'll often get a steep discount on those extra days.

## **28. Book shoulder months**

'Shoulder months' are the months either side of the most popular period.

In a lot of summer destinations, July and August are often the most popular months for AirBnbs.

However, the same property could be half the price in June or September.

When we stayed in Brac, we paid about £1200 a week for August, then negotiated another 2 weeks in September at just £600.

## **29. Try to find the listing on other sites**

AirBnB is often the only place guests look, but this means the prices can be more expensive than booking the same property through other sites.

Also, Airbnb charges the host a higher fee, so it gives less space for negotiation.

So it's always worth looking for the same property on other listing sites such as Booking.com, VRBO and even on local agent's sites.

We found a property in Bosnia that was £900 a week on AirBnB, but a local agent was offering it at half the price on their local site.

Particularly check sites in the country's native language - you can use the translate page option on Google Chrome to translate to your native tongue.

Oh and look out for prices quoted in local currency - that could be another way to get it cheaper.

(Of course, the extra you pay to book through AirBnB provides security, and someone to complain to if things don't go to plan. Just bear this in mind when going 'off platform'.)

### **30. Look with hosts with no reviews**

Hosts that start out have no reviews, meaning they are often ignored by users.

If you find a good property but it has no reviews then:

1. Click on the host's profile - they sometimes have other properties with reviews, which tells you whether the host is decent or not
2. Get in touch and ask for a virtual viewing (maybe via FaceTime or Zoom).
3. Mention that you'd be happy to leave a decent review if you could provide a discount.

Just be aware that offering reviews in return for a discount could be against AirBnB's Terms and Conditions, so tread lightly with this!

## **Section 3: Travelling with pets?**

If, like us, you want to bring your pet with you to an Airbnb, it can seem like your choices are limited.

Most hosts have a policy of no pets... but as you'll see, that's actually rarely the case.

### **31. If you have a pet, don't filter by 'pets welcome'**

It sounds counter-intuitive, but you'll massively restrict your search results by ticking the 'pets welcome' box when you search.

This means you could miss out on a great property that would allow your dog, but just have the 'no pets' box ticked on Airbnb.

Instead, create your shortlist of properties and after you've started a conversation with them, mention you have a dog, and refer to your excellent reviews (see below for how to get good reviews when travelling with your dog).

This is the message we use to hosts who say they don't allow pets - we find this works about 75% of the time!

We love the look of your place!

My wife and I travel full time with our little dog Peanut and although Airbnb says that you don't accept pets, I wanted to check to see if you'd make an exception.

He's mature, well behaved, not allowed on the furniture and as we work from home we don't leave him on his own very often.

Is that ok with you?

You can check our reviews and you'll see that we always leave the house clean and tidy and the dog is never an issue.

Yours very hopefully...

Al & Leanne & (well-behaved) Peanut the Rescue Dog

(TOP TIP. Try to use the dog's name, age and breed - this can 'humanise' the dog, and if it's an older dog, can reassure the host that furniture won't get nibbled!)

## **32. Clean the house extra-well**

A lot of guests think that if there's a cleaning fee (which there usually is), then they don't have to clean when they leave, but when traveling with a dog, this is an opportunity to delight the owner.



So, make sure you leave the house as clean as you can - this often means another great review, plus the host feels that allowing the dog was justified.

### **33. Use flip-flops or rubber-bottomed shoes to get hair off furniture**

Speaking of cleaning, if you find there's a lot of dog hair on the furniture, put a flip-flop on your hand and brush the fabric gently.

You'll find that the hair gathers in one corner, meaning removing dog hair from furniture is a breeze!

### **34. Roll up the rugs when you arrive**

It's a good idea to remove any rugs in the property when you get there - getting dog hair from a rug can be a real pain!

Roll them, don't fold them - folding can damage the rug.

And don't forget to put them back before you leave!

### **35. Bring your pet's bed**

Bring something that the dog knows is theirs to sleep in.

This can discourage them from sleeping on furniture, plus it helps them settle much quicker.

We travel full-time with our dog (Peanut), and the initial stress of moving disappears when he sees his bed in the corner of the room!

### **36. Plan the first walk before you get there**

Often, by the time we've unpacked and set up the house, it can be dark, so it's a good idea to use Google Maps to plan where you'll walk the dog on that first night/morning.

It's also a good way to avoid strolling into dodgy areas late at night. We've done that, and it's pretty scary!

For bonus points, try to find a route that includes a bar or a cafe!

### **37. Look for dog parks (great way to find friends)**

Again, use Google Maps to find dog parks - not only will it allow your dog to have some off-leash time and meet other dogs, it's a great way for you to meet other dog owners.

Ask them (the owners, not the dogs!) about walks, about pet-friendly bars and restaurants and also if there are any other dog parks nearby.

Also it can be a good idea to ask about recommended vets... see the next hack.

### **38. Find a good vet before you need them**

With every new place we visit, we always try to find the vet with the best reviews and - this is important - 24 hour emergency availability.

Then save it in Google maps, or, even better, create a WhatsApp group with the other guests and paste in the details.

Should you have a pet emergency, you won't need to go scrolling through Google (or risk finding a bad vet).

### **39. Ask for a review specifically mentioning your dog (and how clean you were)**

This is a big one.

We've found that the reason we get such a good success rate with booking properties that say 'no pets' is that we've got 40-50 recent reviews that *specifically* mention the dog, and how clean we left the property.

This is not an accident!

When we leave any property, we always take a video of the house and send it to the owner directly.

Then we ask the owner to write a review that *specifically* mentions the dog, and how clean we left it.

Then, when you find a dream property that does not normally allow dogs, you can point the host back to page after page of excellent reviews on AirBnB.

#### **40. Have two profiles (do not link them)**

This is a bit of a cheat, but we each have a profile on Airbnb.

This means that if we ever get a bad review from a grumpy host (we got one in Malaga, which was completely made-up!), then we have a backup account to use.

Try to keep them totally separate though - don't invite the other user to trips, and try to avoid using the same card details for both.

### **Section 4: Your first 24 hours in an AirBnB**

So you've landed, got your bags out the car, and you're admiring your new pad.

What do you need to do before heading out to explore?

#### **41. Create a Whatsapp group with your guests**

We've found this to be invaluable - just create a group with you and your other guests, and you can use it to store important and useful info.

Even though it's just the two of us, we'll often create a private group and add things like:

1. The host's phone number.
2. The address of the property
3. A 'pin drop' on Google maps (great if you get lost!)
4. The local vets phone number
5. A photo of the wifi password
6. Links to local recommended restaurants

That way, everyone has all the info they require.

Just make sure not to clog up the group with chatter - keep it strictly as a data store, and chat to your guests outside of the group.

## **42. Take photos of damage asap**

Regardless of whether you're checking in directly with the host/agent, or it's a self check in, go round the property and take photos or videos of any pre-existing damage.

We usually send those to the host with the message:

'Hey there. We love the property. We did notice a little bit of damage, which we're about to send you photos of.

We don't need you to do anything - just want to make sure that you don't think we did it!'

This will protect you if you get accused of damage on checkout (and you can send it to AirBnB if you need to defend any claims of damage from the host).

## **43. Thank the host**

Sounds trivial, but if you message the host and thank them for such a lovely house, then it starts the relationship on the right foot, and also can make overcoming problems and getting great reviews easier.

We often do that the day after we've moved (and about 24 hours after we've sent a message about damage).

It's nice to be nice.

#### **44. Take a photo of the wifi password as soon as you arrive**

You'll be surprised how many times you'll use it.

Share it with other guests on the WhatsApp group to avoid being hassled for the password.

#### **45. Take a video inventory**

This is particularly important if you travel with a dog.

Walk around the house with your video on, and save it. It will be a lifeline if you get a claim.

It's also useful if you move things around during your stay - you'll know how things should be when you clean up and leave.

Oh and move stuff you think you might break!

#### **46. Test the shower and hot water straight away**

This should be one of the first things you do!

You do not want to discover that there's no hot water, or the shower is broken the next morning - particular if that's a Saturday when it's difficult to get tradespeople out to fix it.

Also, if the boiler is switched off, discovering this the night before means you won't have to wait an hour for the water to heat up the next morning. (Most European houses have immersion boilers that store hot water. It's rare to find a combie)

**Ask where the electrical safety cutout is (and how to reset it)**

In some countries, the electrical system can be less sturdy than in your home country.

We've had a few instances where running the dishwasher and washing machine at the same time results in the electricity safety system cutting the power. (This is particularly likely in older properties).

It's a good idea to ask where the fuse board is and how to reset it, before this happens.

This is particularly important if you don't have 4G on your phone - when the router goes down you can be without internet!

Bonus: Take a picture of the fuse board so you know which switches are normally on, and which are not.

## **47. Check lightbulbs**

In a similar view, go round and check all light bulbs work, and replace them before nightfall.

It's not fun trying to find the toilet in the dark!

## **Section 5: Some quick tips for great (and safe) stays**

### **48. Have a backup wifi 4g router**

We've had a couple of times where the host has left us without internet, or the house internet is really slow.

It's really annoying to not be able to work or communicate with the outside world.

Consider buying a mobile router that accepts a sim card. Often, the 4G 'Pay As You Go' is not only very cheap, but faster too.

This is especially important if you plan to work from your AirBnB.

(We use the Huawei 4G router - about £80 from Amazon).

## **49. Use a VPN for security**

If you are logging into your bank account, or even your email, then consider downloading a VPN app.

VPN apps, like NordVPN and ExpressVPN aren't just for accessing iPlayer or Netflix from your home country (although that's a happy side-benefit!).

They can also protect you from anyone monitoring your internet usage.

If a property is popular, then there could be hundreds of people who know the wifi password - it just takes a nefarious nerd to track your activity, and potentially capture sensitive data and passwords.

## **50. Bring international power adapters**

Kinda obvious this one, but make sure you bring not only a few adapters for your electronic equipment, but if you have room, bring a 3-way trailing socket and some USB chargers.

Our travel bag looks like an electronics stockroom, but we've always got whatever we need to make sure we stay charged.

(We also carry a small extension cable with a double USB plug, and a mini-usb cable and lightning cable. This means we can charge devices whilst sitting outside!)

## **51. Bring your own coffee**

In almost every property we've stayed in, there is coffee provided, but it's either cheap & horrible instant stuff or ground coffee that's been open for ages.

If you're coffee snobs like us, don't assume that the Nespresso machine provided will have the pods you like, or enough for the trip.

Often the pods are cheap supermarket alternatives, or there's just enough for two cups.

Getting a Nespresso delivery in another country is a challenge - we know!

## **52. Don't use the store cupboard stuff**

We never use the herbs, spices, sugar or even salt provided. Even before the global pandemic, we still bought fresh stuff from the local shop. These days, we travel around with our own supply!

Also consider bringing things like Thai Curry paste if you use it often. Finding that kind of thing can be tough in other countries.

## **53. Ask the host for recommendations**

If you like eating out, or visiting local landmarks, then ask the host for recommendations.

You'll often be told about restaurants or hidden-away treats that only locals know about.

## **54. Leave the house clean even if there's a cleaning fee**

We mentioned this when talking about traveling with a dog, but even if you don't have a pet, it's a good idea to clean the house before you leave.

This means that you're likely to get a good review, and also having a good relationship with the owner means you can often book directly with them if you return - that can save a lot of money!



## **55. Send photos to the owner directly**

Once you've cleaned, send some photos to the owner directly.

A cleaning company is not likely to mention how clean the house was (not in their interest!), so by showing the owner directly, you can get that coveted good review.

## **56. Triple check drawers, under beds and in the safe**

Leanne (my wife) always chuckles when I do a 'final sweep' of the house, but in most cases, I've found chargers still in walls, clothes under the bed, and in Melbourne, I even found our passports still in the wall safe...

...and we were *just* about to shut the self-locking door and head to the airport.

Yeah, I know. That would have ruined our day.

Also, if you've used Netflix or any other video platform on the TV, remember to log out. We've had people purchase films on our account and seriously mess with our 'recommendations' page. I mean, Real Housewives of Beverly Hills? Really??

## **57. Chase those good reviews**

I keep banging on about reviews, but a collection of great reviews is a fantastic way to get good discounts (and, as mentioned, to convince a 'pet free' property to take your dog).

Just like Uber, a host will use your reviews to decide if they want to rent to you.

So work hard to get those reviews - it'll be worth it in the long run.

## **58. No reviews yet? Stay single nights over a few months to increase review count**

Talking of reviews, if you're starting from scratch, and need to build them up, try booking single nights locally or book multiple, shorter stays in one trip. You may also want to stay in a 'pets allowed' Airbnb if you travel with your dog to make sure they're mentioned in the review too.

Leave it clean, build the relationship with the host and specifically ask them to leave a good review.

## **59. Use AirBnB experiences**

AirBnB experiences are a little different from the main property booking. However, they're a great way to meet locals and do something interesting on your trip.

They're obviously not for everyone, but if you have an interest in, say, photography, or food and wine, take a look at what's available when you plan your holiday - it could work out cheaper than booking experiences with a local tourist agency (where they're often heavily marked up)

## **60. Keep in touch with the owner**

If you liked the property and surrounding area, it's a good idea to keep in touch with the owner.

This means you could book directly next time, saving you both the AirBnB fees.

You could even refer friends to the host and get referral fees!

## **61. Owners have to reply within a certain timescale**

Not really a hack, but it's worth knowing that owners only have a certain amount of time to respond to questions within the app.

So if your question is urgent, use the 'contact the host' option within the app.

If it's not urgent, consider giving them a break and contacting them directly through WhatsApp, or equivalent.

We've found hosts appreciate it when you understand this.

## Frequently asked questions

"Airbnb, a community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world – allows users to rent out their homes or apartments while they are away in order to create additional income."

Airbnb is one of the most popular sites worldwide. The company has managed to gain popularity by creating trust between renters and home owners. For instance, when a guest has their security deposit returned, the money may be transferred directly from host to guest.

The popularity of airbnb is partially due to the unique experiences in each place they visit. The ability to stay with locals instead of hotels or traditional accommodations allows for more opportunities to immerse yourself in local culture and meet people.

The Airbnb concept is a great way for home owners to make extra money and guests to save money on accommodations. When you are booking your next trip, use these helpful tips: