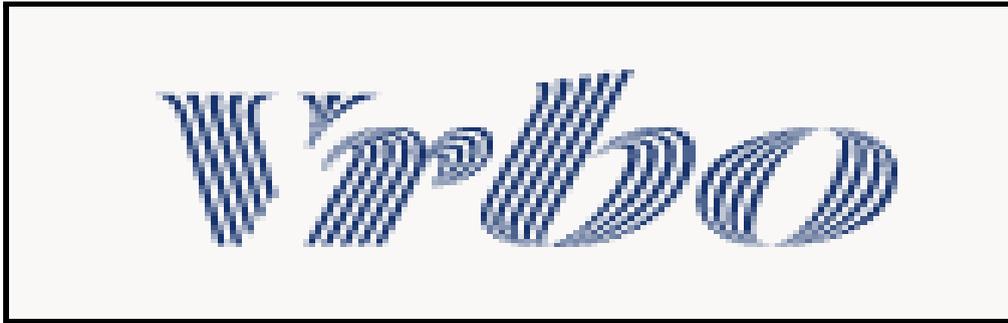




AIRBNB ALTERNATIVES: THE BEST SITES LIKE AIRBNB IN 2022



1. Vrbo

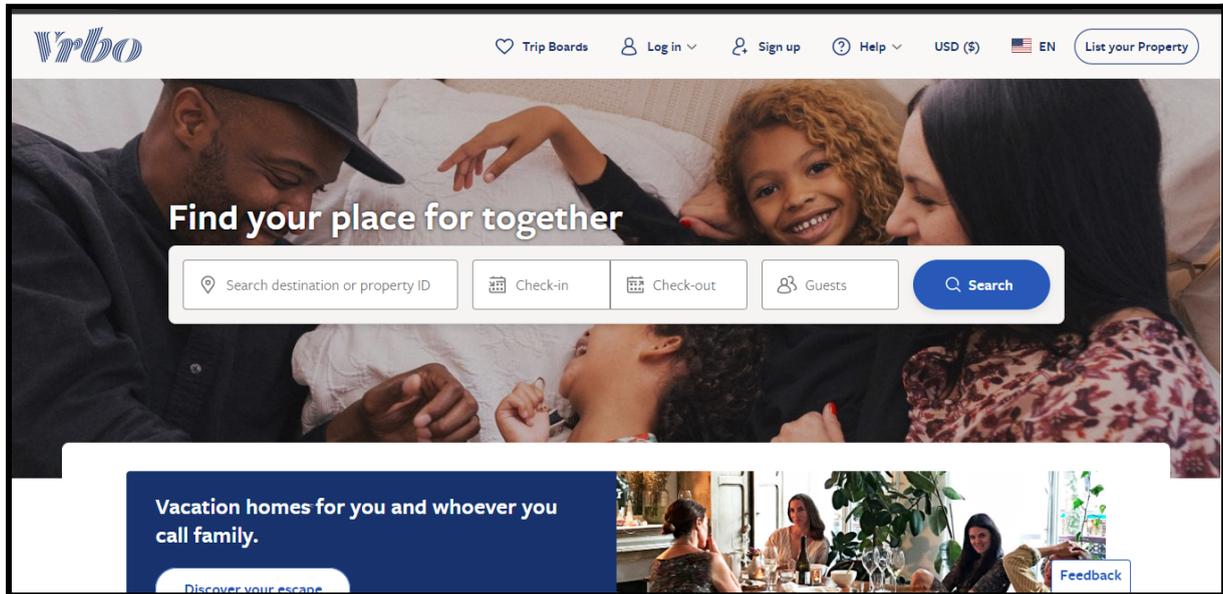


First up in my list of AirBnB alternatives is Vrbo (UK version here), or Vacation Rentals by Owner. Whilst perhaps not as well known as AirBnB, these guys have over a million properties on their books and have been operating since 1996, a full 12 years longer than AirBnB.

The Vrbo model is a little different though, as they only rent out vacation properties. This means it's not a hosted experience, and generally works best for families or groups of four or more looking for a slightly longer stay – although there are certainly many properties suited to couples. Originally, Vrbo didn't charge guests a service / booking fee, passing this to the host instead, but they changed that in 2016, adding a booking fee to bookings.



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Otherwise, the products are fairly similar. AirBnB offers a slightly slicker user experience, but it is much more popular. If you can't find what you're looking for on AirBnB, then definitely give Vrbo / Vrbo UK a try.

If you're a property owner Vrbo have two different models – either you can pay an annual fee, or you can list for free and pay a fee per booking. Sign up as an owner on Vrbo USA [here](#), or Vrbo UK [here](#).

2. Booking.com

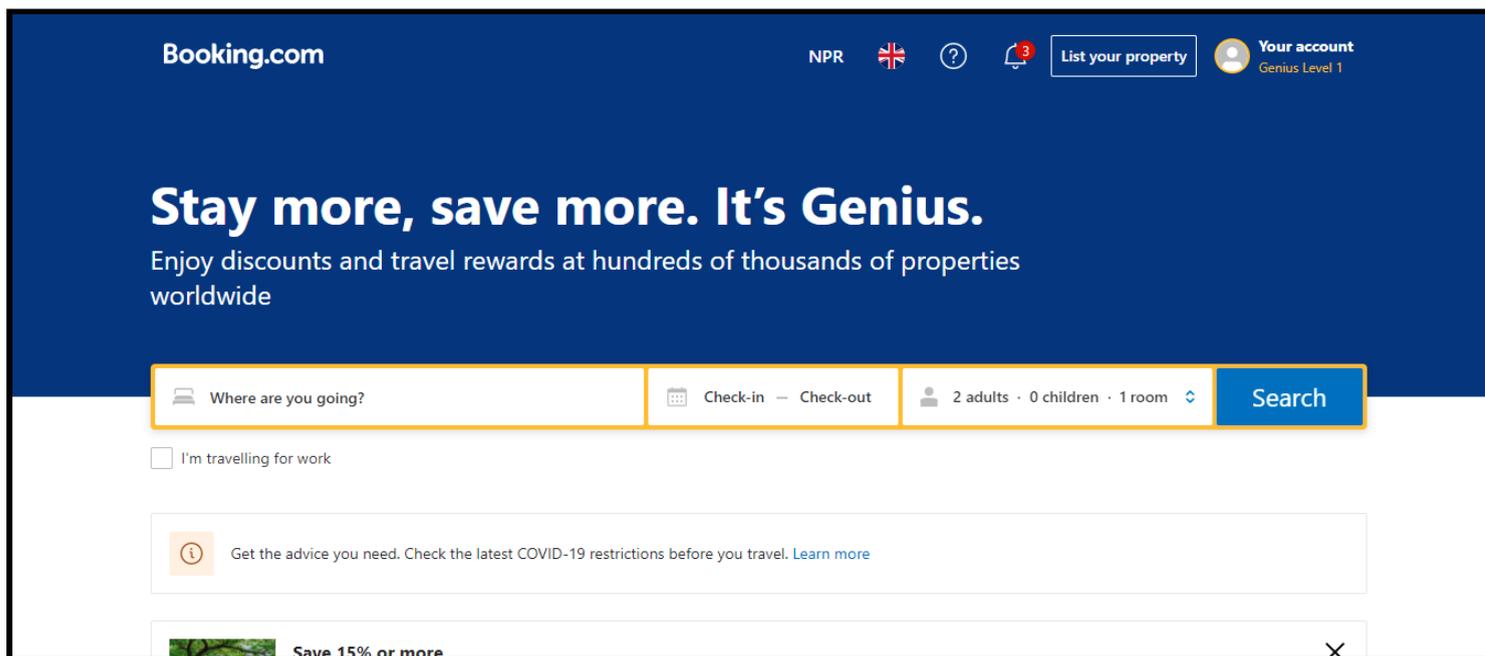
The Booking.com logo, featuring the text 'Booking.com' in a white, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.



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Like I said, a couple of curveballs. Remember when people stayed in hotels, and someone would come to make your bed and clean your room? Sure, they love apartments, but every now and then, you just want a hotel. And the best place generally, they've found, for getting a great deal in any hotel anywhere in the world, tends to be [booking.com](https://www.booking.com).



But, what you might not have realised, is that [Booking.com](https://www.booking.com) also lists homes and apartments. So



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if you're already a fan of the site and want to keep using it for your apartment booking, you can.

They are normally our go-to choice for hotel bookings when they travel – they find they have a great choice, the site is easy to use, and the prices are usually the best. So definitely worth trying for your apartment hunt too!

For property owners, it's free to list on Booking.com, with a fee applied per booking.

3. The Plum Guide



If you like the idea of AirBnB but are worried that such a variety of choice means there could be a



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lack of quality, then you will want to check out the Plum Guide.

The Plum Guide accepts less than 5% of the properties that apply to be on their site, and they personally vet every single one against over 150 criteria. Everything from shower pressure to the quality of the linen is tested. So you know the quality of every property will be high.

Of course, this does mean that there is a reduced choice, but the good news is that they still have plenty of homes to choose from in destinations around the world, across a range of budgets.

You can read our detailed Plum Guide review to learn more about this service and our experiences using it.



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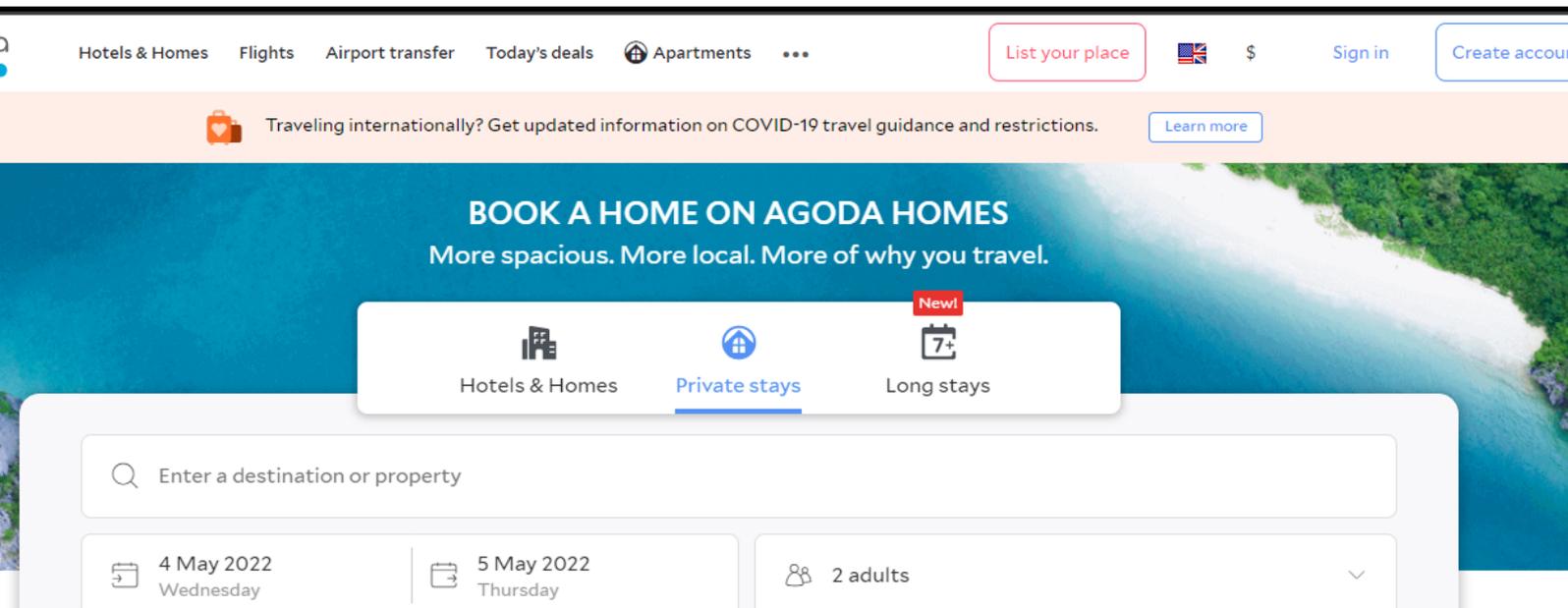
4. Agoda Homes



Agoda is a well-known portal for hotel bookings, but they also have an apartment rental offering known as Agoda Homes.

This lists apartments, vacation rentals, private villas and bungalows, and there are almost a million properties to choose from. So you'll have plenty of options to choose from.

If you're a property owner, it's also free to list your property on Agoda, which will put your property in the Agoda search engine.





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5. Homestay



For me, Homestay is what AirBnB was supposed to be. It's a genuinely hosted experience, meaning you always stay in a host's home. This means you get a genuine, local experience, with the feeling of living with a local..

It is worth mentioning that there are a few downsides to Homestay – the main one being availability. Whilst they have properties in over 150 countries, they don't have the choice of somewhere like AirBnB (although the same can be said for nearly every AirBnB alternative on this list!).

For example, they tried to find accommodation in New Orleans on our recent trip there, and there were hundreds of locations on AirBnB, and less than ten on Homestay.

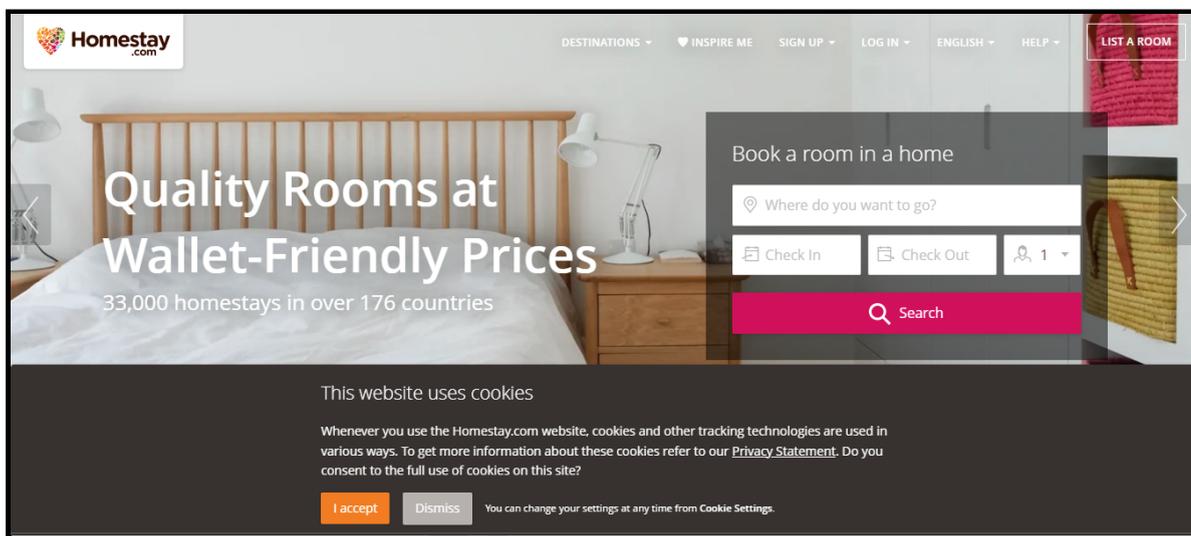


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If you're a property owner, it's free to list on Homestay. Do bear in mind that Homestay is a hosted experience, so is by definition a bit more hands on.

If that sounds good to you, you can sign up as a Homestay host here.





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6. Sonder



They also guarantee certain amenities and services, such as WiFi, towels and bedding, high quality coffee and contactless check-in.

Sonder also offers both short term rentals and longer term stays, meaning they are a good option if you are looking for a longer term apartment rental option.

Sonder has properties in 27 cities around the world, with over 8,500 options to choose from. They range from the mid-range to the luxury, and basically offer the convenience of cleanliness of a good hotel stay, with the flexibility of an apartment rental.

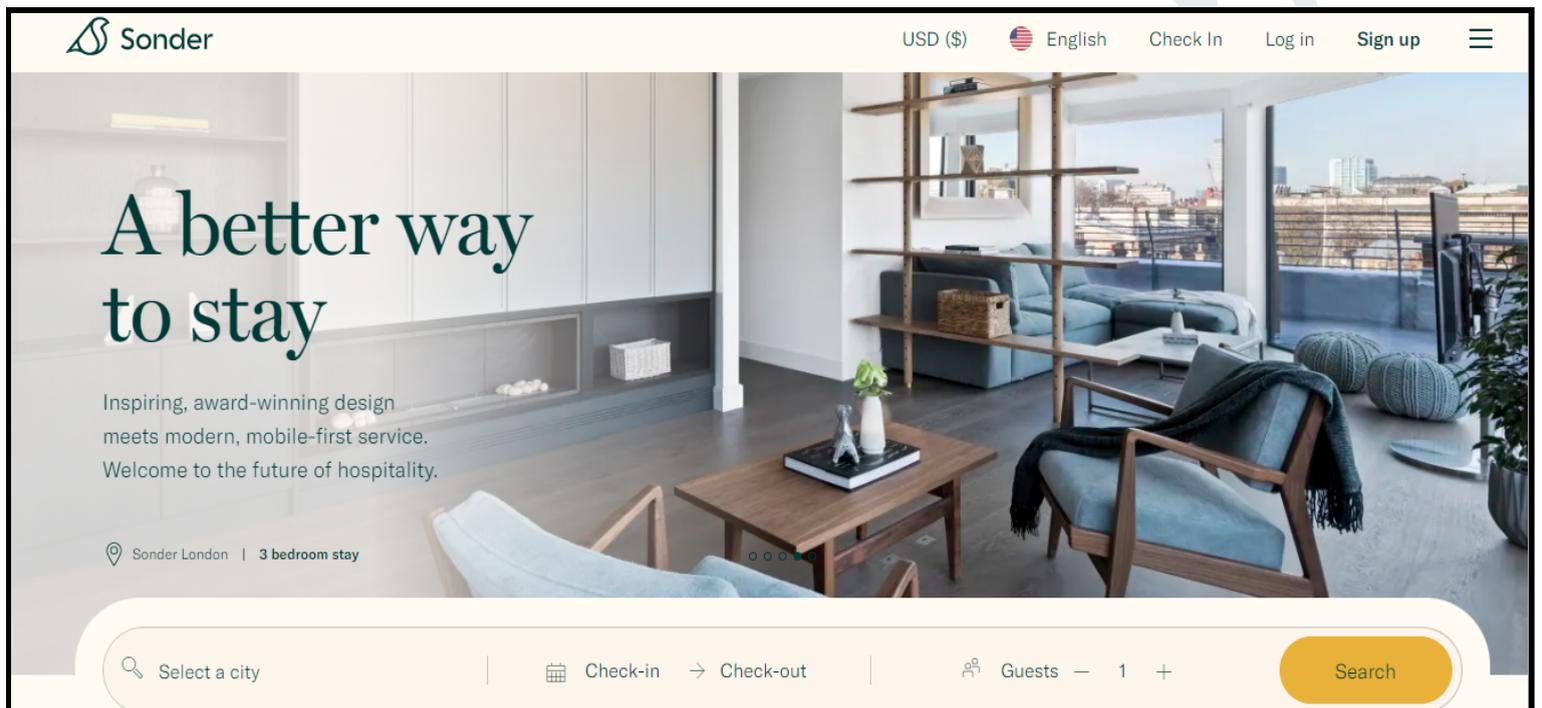
For property owners, Sonder does accept applications if you want a hands-off approach to renting your property. They will lease your property from you, so you don't have to worry



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about bookings, cleaning or anything else. It's a good option if you just want a consistent income. You can find out more at this link.





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7. Blueground



BLUEGROUND

Another option to consider if you're looking for longer term apartment rental is Blueground. They specialise in stays of 30 days or longer for folks looking for fully furnished apartments.

They don't actually own the apartments, but they do handle all the furnishings and interior design of the properties they offer so you can be assured of the quality. Properties come ready to go with WiFi, linens/towels, fully equipped kitchen and toiletries.

This is a great option if you're between properties, thinking of the digital nomad life, or simply want to skip the hassle of buying furniture somewhere you don't know if you'll be staying forever.

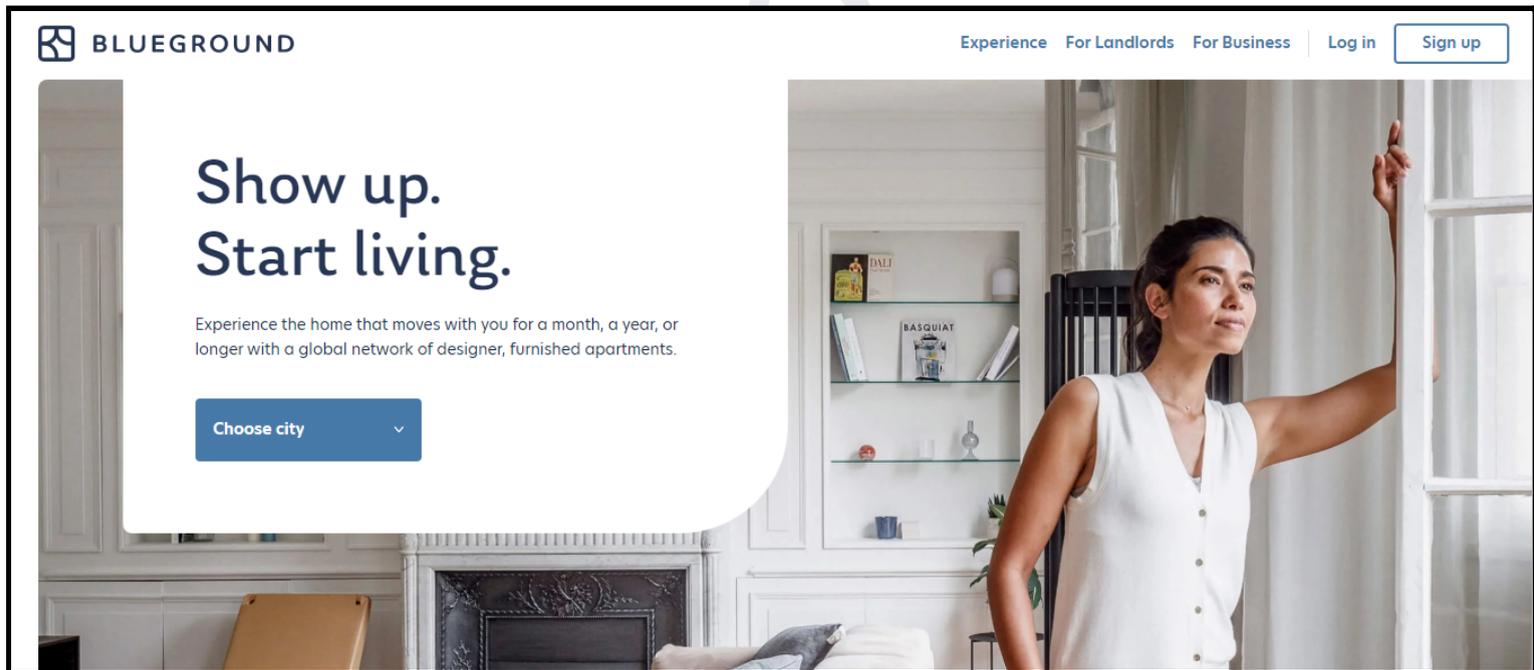


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Blueground has over 5,000 properties in 18 cities around the world in North America, Europe and the Middle East. Definitely worth checking out if you want a longer vacation rental.

For property owners. Blueground will rent your property from you for a fixed monthly income, which is a great option if you want to skip the hassle of finding tenants or handling a high turnover of guests. You can sign up as a host here.





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8. House Sitting

Paying to stay somewhere is all well and good, but what if you could live all around the world, entirely for free? Sounds impossible? Well, it isn't, thanks to the concept of house sitting.

The way this works is that people who own houses occasionally want to leave them and go on trips. These can be for any length of time from a few days to weeks or even months. Rather than their houses sitting empty, they offer them up to people to stay in, usually entirely for free, in return for looking after the property, tending the garden, and generally keeping in in order. In many cases, they will also have pets that they want looking after – putting a pet into a boarding house for a prolonged period of time can be expensive, so house sitting is a win-win situation.

There are lots of house sitting options out there – one of the biggest and most popular communities to join is TrustedHousesitters. There is a fee to



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join, but once you're in, you'll have a world of choice when it comes to free accommodation around the world! Pretty cool.

For property owners, there's an annual subscription required to list your home, and you have to be a member of the TrustedHouseSitter community. Sign up as an owner using this link.

9. Homes and Villas by Marriott International



HOMES & VILLAS

BY MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

Marriott is one of the more well known international hotel brands, with properties all around the world. They also operate their own vacation rental platform, Homes and Villas by Marriott International, which has private



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properties available for rent in over 45 countries worldwide.

All the homes which are listed are managed by a premium property management company. The homes all come with fast WiFi, professional cleaning, 24/7 support for any issues and premium linens and amenities. Another benefit is that if you are a Marriott Bonvoy member you can earn and redeem Marriott points on stays at their vacation rental properties.

So if you were looking for a vacation rental where you can earn reward points, this is a great option!

For property owners, in order to be listed on the Homes and Villas site you need to be registered with one of the home management companies Marriott works with. You can contact Marriott to find the appropriate company for your area.

Earn 1,000 bonus points per night when you book now through April 26 and stay through July 31. Details [here](#).

HOMES & VILLAS
BY MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

Destinations Saved Homes Look Up Reservation About & FAQs Marriott.com

SIGN IN

Earn 1,000 Bonus Points Per Night

Book your Summer Vacation Home Rental. Earn 1,000 points per night now through April 26 on stays through July 31, 2022.

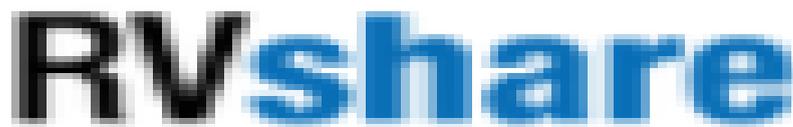
The screenshot shows a promotional banner for 'HOMES & VILLAS BY MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL'. The background is a photograph of a modern vacation home with a large infinity pool overlooking the ocean. The text on the banner promotes a bonus offer: 'Earn 1,000 Bonus Points Per Night' for stays booked through April 26 and completed by July 31, 2022. The banner also includes navigation links like 'Destinations', 'Saved Homes', and 'Look Up Reservation', and a 'SIGN IN' button.



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10. RV Sharing Sites

The logo for 'RVshare' is displayed in a large, bold, blue font. The 'RV' is in a dark blue, and 'share' is in a lighter blue. The logo is centered within a black rectangular border.

This one's a bit off the wall, but have you considered a campervan / RV rental instead of an apartment? This will give you the flexibility to sleep in various locations, cook for yourself and generally have a flexible approach to your trip.

If this sounds good, they recommend you try out a company like RVShare. This is a peer to peer rental agency. This means you are renting from people who own an RV, and who are letting it out when they aren't using it. Basically, they're like the AirBnB of RV rental!

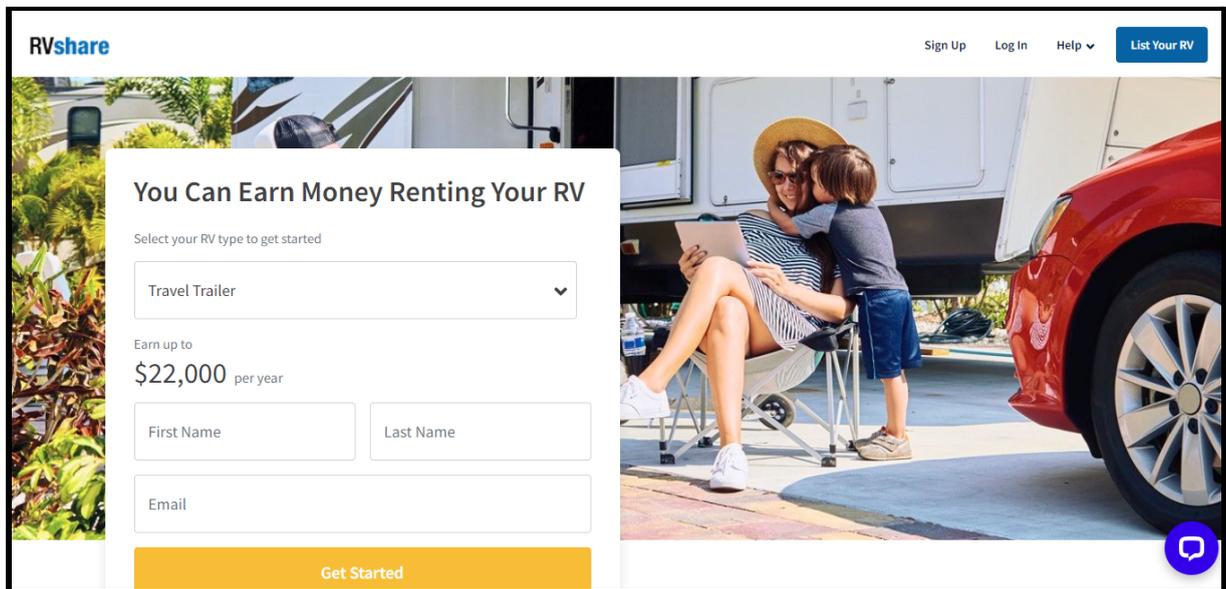
Of course, you might prefer a traditional camper rental option. In that case they recommend Motorhome



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For RV owners: If you have an RV that you want to make some money off when you're not using it, you can list it for free on RVShare here.





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Thank You

Growyourbnb