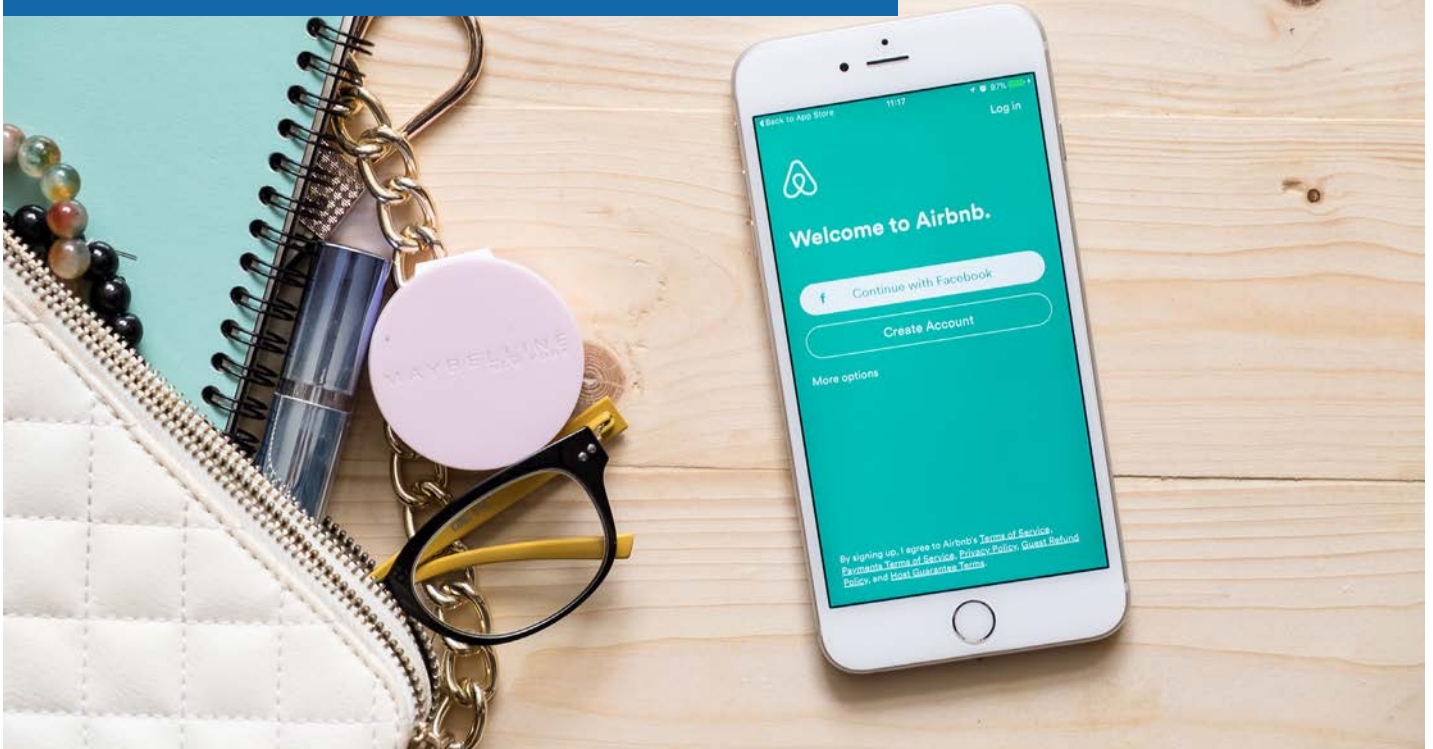


Finding accessible Airbnb Properties



Airbnb started in 2008 with two designers who needed rent money and had space to share, and three travellers looking for affordable lodging. Today, more than 3 million active Airbnb listings are available across 191 countries, including 65,000 cities and countries (more than the top five hotel chains combined).

Hosts and guests opt to create Airbnb accounts so they can list and book unique accommodations anywhere in the world.

Hosts set their own rates and keep all but a small percentage of the price guests pay to share or utilise their space. Once signed up, hosts gain access to reference tools to help them set prices based on travel trends and similar listings.

All the reviews on Airbnb are written by hosts and travellers from the Airbnb community, so any review you see is based on a stay that a guest had in a host's listing. Reviews can only happen after a reservation is complete, and until 14 days after checkout, so reviews are based on actual and current experiences.

Since beginning in 2008, there have been more than 100 million guest arrivals at Airbnb listings. Airbnb use a smart messaging system so hosts and guests can communicate and plan. Helplines are available and there is a secure platform for financial transactions. Guests pay through Airbnb when they book a listing. Hosts receive payment through Airbnb 24 hours after a check in.

Airbnb community members share their homes, neighbourhoods, and experiences.

Hot Tip

If the property is within a managed complex and you book through Airbnb, if something within the property stops working, or you lose your keys, you will need to contact the host directly, not the onsite manager.

Accommodable purchase

In 2017, Airbnb acquired Accommodable, a startup based out of London that focused on travel listings that are disability or accessibility friendly. As part of the acquisition, Accommodable's network of properties was integrated in to the wider Airbnb network of properties, as well as an expansion of the filtered searches for accessible properties.

Once you select your destination, you have access to search filters including basic accessibility filters, such as wide doorways and step free access. As of this year, there are now 27 accessibility filters for properties including step free access, flat paths, wide doorways, lifts and fixed grab bars for showers and toilets as well as roll in showers and lowered or adjustable beds. This is a massive upgrade of Airbnb's original and only accessible filter which was simply "wheelchair access".



Airbnb plans to expand its accessibility filters to encompass more than just wheelchair accessibility. However, for now, this is a huge step on behalf of a mainstream service towards a more inclusive and accessible society, especially for people with mobility and accessibility issues who travel.

CONTACT DETAILS

Airbnb

 www.airbnb.com.au

Information sourced from Airbnb, Tech Crunch and Travel Mole.