

VRBO is an online vacation rental marketplace founded in 1995. In 2006, the company was acquired by HomeAway, and now the site receives 12 million visits per month. "VRBO" is an acronym standing for "Vacation Rental by Owner." You can list your home for \$349 a year or 10% per booking.

**VRBO says: "The world's largest selection of vacation rentals. Find the perfect place to stay, with no booking fees."**



## Pros:

- You can save money, and sometimes a lot
- Some hosts are wonderful, and some places are fantastic
- No booking fees
- Often lots of photos of the vacation rental
- Lots of filters, like prices, number of bedrooms/bathrooms, and property types

## Cons:

- The property isn't available for the dates you wanted, or the price has gone up
- Photos can be deceiving
- Lots of listings, but only a few are really good
- Some hosts are not nice or they are inexperienced
- Your options are limited if something goes wrong
- Reviews can sometimes be misleading—people don't want to leave a very bad review
- There's not hotel service or amenities, like Wi-Fi, maid service, or room service.
- It's usually pretty expensive to stay in a vacation rental in a good location or a location that's close to downtown
- You might be doing something illegal by staying in a vacation rental

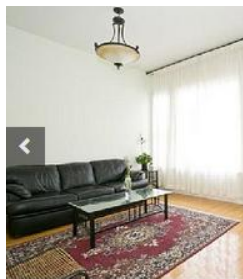
**\$223**  
per night

08/20/2015  08/21/2015 

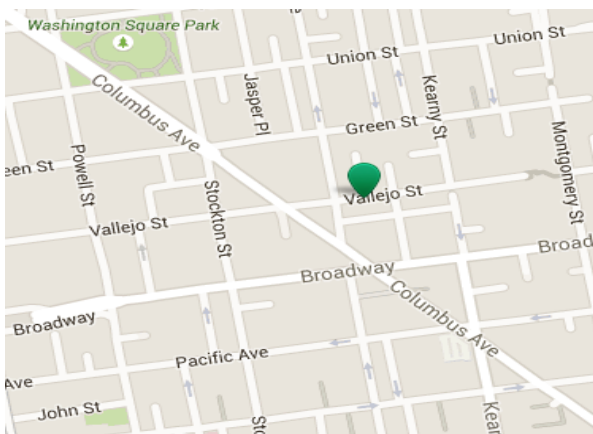
Minimum **\$298** 1 nights

**Book It**

[Detailed Price](#)



**\$298** /night  
1 BR 1 BA Sleeps 2



- 1Br/1Ba apartment
- Full Bed
- Full bathroom including shower and tub
- Full kitchen w/ coffee maker, toaster oven, fridge and microwave
- Dining table for two
- Hardwood floors
- Large windows allowing in ample natural light
- Modest decor and furnishings

Airbnb is a website for people to rent out lodging. It has over 1,000,000 listings in 34,000 cities and 190 countries. You can list your home free.

**Airbnb says: "Airbnb is a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world — online or from a mobile phone or tablet."**

## Pros:

- Travelers can often stay for less than the cost of a hotel room
- Some hosts are wonderful, and some places are fantastic
- You'll usually have access to a kitchen, which allows you to save money on meals
- You'll get a more local experience in the city
- You have the reassurance of extra safety because you have the keys
- Some hosts tell you local insights about the area you're staying in

## Cons:

- The property might not match the description on Airbnb
- Photos can be deceiving
- The host(s) might be unresponsive to guests' needs
- Airbnb holds guests money and can take a while to refund travelers if you need to cancel
- Hosts can cancel last minute, and then you'll be stuck having to look for a hotel, and your money won't be refunded for awhile
- Airbnb charges a processing fee
- Hosts can tack on an unnecessary cleaning fee
- You might be doing something illegal by staying in a vacation rental

|                        |            |              |
|------------------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>\$129</b> Per Night |            |              |
| Check In               | Check Out  | Guests       |
| 08/20/2015             | 08/21/2015 | 2            |
| <b>\$129</b> × 1 night |            | <b>\$129</b> |
| Cleaning fee           |            | <b>\$10</b>  |
| Service fee            |            | <b>\$17</b>  |
| Occupancy Taxes        |            | <b>\$19</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>           |            | <b>\$175</b> |

The Space

Bed type: **Real Bed**  
Property type: **Apartment**  
Accommodates: 2  
Bedrooms: 1

Amenities

- Kitchen
- Internet
- Heating

Prices

Cleaning Fee: **\$10**  
Security Deposit: **\$400**

# TripAdvisor Hotels



Founded: 2000      Headquarters: Newton, MA      CEO: Stephen Kaufer

TripAdvisor is an American travel website company providing reviews of travel-related content. It also includes interactive travel forums. TripAdvisor was an early adopter of user-generated content. The website services are free to users, who provide most of the content.

**TripAdvisor says: "TripAdvisor is the world's largest travel site, enabling travelers to plan and book the perfect trip. TripAdvisor has 340 million unique monthly visitors."**

## Pros:

- "Just for You" TripAdvisor option—finds the best hotel in your budget and style
- Shows real-travelers reviews and photos
- Review summaries, including reviews of location, sleep quality, rooms, value, and more
- Room tips from real travelers are shared
- Shows prices from tons of different travel sites, pricing the hotel cost from lowest to highest
- Lists the best attractions in a city, state, or country, based on reviews

- You can write your own reviews, and share your real experience with other travelers
- Traveler forums help you get information without having to read all the reviews

## Cons:

- You can't be sure that all reviews are true, since travelers may get a discount if they write a good review or be charged extra if they write a bad review
- Guests can report the smallest problems, such as there weren't enough pillows, and the hotel will look bad, causing you to not want to stay there
- TripAdvisor has some poorly-written reviews

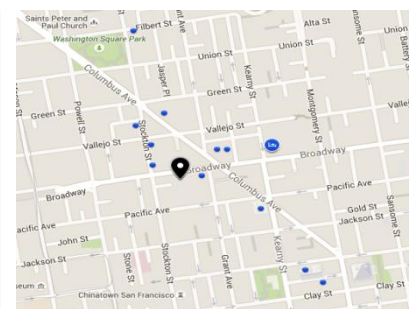
Best prices for your stay

08/20/2015      08/21/2015

|  |                                     |                    |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
|  | <b>\$177*</b><br>+\$29 taxes & fees | <b>View Deal</b> > |
|  | <b>\$177*</b><br>+\$29 taxes & fees | <b>View Deal</b> > |
|  | <b>\$173*</b><br>+\$28 taxes & fees | <b>View Deal</b> > |

eDreams      \$173\*      Priceline      \$173\*  
AMOMA      Despegar.com      \*Disclaimer

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Room                                    | \$173           |
| 1 × Queen Room <b>FREE cancellation</b> |                 |
| 14 % TAX                                | \$24.22         |
| 2.25 % City tax                         | \$3.89          |
| Booking.com fee                         | Always FREE     |
| <b>Today you'll pay</b>                 | <b>\$0</b>      |
| <b>You'll pay at stay</b>               | <b>\$201.11</b> |



## Royal Pacific Motor Inn



310 Reviews | #138 of 234 Hotels in San Francisco

# TripAdvisor Rentals



Founded: 2000      Headquarters: Newton, MA      CEO: Stephen Kaufer

TripAdvisor lists over 630,000 beach houses, cabins, condos, and vacation rentals. You can read traveler's reviews, view photos, and check rates of properties on TripAdvisor.

**TripAdvisor says: "Vacation rentals—rent cabins, condos, and beach houses from TripAdvisor and enjoy space, amenities, comfort, and value, hard to find in some traditional hotel experiences."**

## Pros:

- Real traveler's advice and reviews for the locations you're looking at
- TripAdvisor's "Peace of Mind" protection covers you up to \$10,000 if the home doesn't match the description or you're prevented from entering
- TripAdvisor shows response rate of owners

## Cons:

- Since TripAdvisor doesn't specialize in vacation rentals, there aren't tons of properties—such as only 34 in San Francisco.
- TripAdvisor lists all the vacation rentals, and then you must click each one to see if your dates are available (very time-consuming and unefficient)

Check in    Check out    Guests

8/20/2015    8/21/2015    2

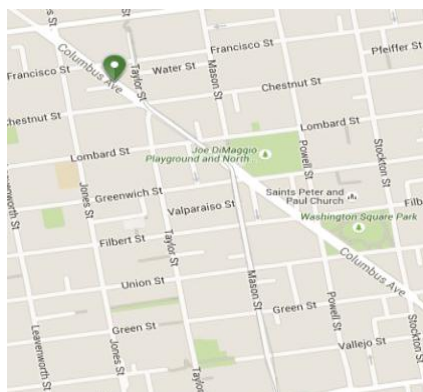
Your dates are **Available!**

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Rate for 1 night | \$199 |
| Tax              | \$55  |
| Owner Fees       | \$200 |

\*Estimated Subtotal

**\$454**

1 night min. stay



# The Conclusion:

**1. TripAdvisor Hotels** ranks the best, because it specializes in finding hotel costs from tons of different websites, ensuring you get the best price. Also, TripAdvisor has reviews from fellow travelers who explain what's to like and not like at your hotel. Lastly, with a hotel, you don't have to worry about unresponsive hosts or getting locked out of your room, because you're staying in a larger place.

**2.** Your options may be limited when something goes wrong, but **VRBO** is a great site for finding vacation rentals. When searching properties, you can specify the number of bedrooms you want, if you want a private bathroom, and how much you want to spend, among other things. Also, VRBO shows you exactly where your property is located.

**3. TripAdvisor Rentals** ranks third in the list of best travel lodging sites. Though TripAdvisor doesn't have as many rental properties as Airbnb, TripAdvisor's "Peace of Mind protection" is great for travelers. You won't have to worry about the property being bad and you not being able to afford a hotel since the protection is there.

**4.** Lastly comes **Airbnb**, which ranks fourth because of the fact that it holds traveler's money for a long time, even if the money needs to be refunded. If a host cancels last minute, which they can do, you'll be stuck finding a pricey hotel or vacation rental at the last-minute, and you won't have your money back from Airbnb yet. Also, we've found that the properties listed on Airbnb usually aren't as good as the ones on VRBO, probably because you can list your property for free on Airbnb, unlike VRBO.