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BEYOND AIRBNB

The next generation of accommodation-swapping-and-searching sites comes with all sorts of added perks—and a few surprises.

By Diana Hubbell

VACATION RENTALS BY OWNERS

VRBO, owned by the somewhat similar HomeAway, quickly impresses with its wide variety of upscale getaways. With more than 1 million properties, including nearly 38,000 in Asia, the choices are practically endless. Looking for pet-friendly? They've got a database of 200,000 options. Searching for a sunny seaside escape this winter? A recent search turned up a 100-square-meter condo overlooking the beach on Penang for US\$90 per night and a three-bedroom pool villa in Nusa Dua, Bali, for US\$353 per night. vrbo.com.



9FLATS

Claiming to rent out everything from condos to igloos, this site has a portfolio of more than 130,000 apartments. We found plenty in Southeast Asia for under US\$100, many for less than US\$50. If you're thinking of renting out your place while you're out of town, 9Flats is one of the safest ways to do it. The 12 to 15 percent commission fee includes insurance that will cover up to US\$630,000 in damages. 9flats.com.

TRAVELMOB

Specifically geared toward Asia, this Singapore-based site and its corresponding app have curated great stays from Taipei to Tokyo. Cruising through the listings, we stumbled across

everything from a sprawling 400-square-meter villa in Koh Samui for US\$460 per night to a three-bedroom pool villa in Seminyak with complimentary car usage for US\$162 per night. travelmob.com.

TRUSTED HOUSE SITTERS

What if someone told you that you could stay for free in a luxury condo, villa or home anywhere from

Australia to Singapore? The only catch is that you may have to look after a lonely German Shepherd or feed the fish during your vacation. It's a small

trade-off that almost 10,000 registered house sitters around the globe are willing to make. Signing up as a sitter requires a monthly fee starting

from US\$7.99. Given that the hotel savings from a single weekend away can easily cover a year's membership, it's easy to see why this is a tempting option.

Bonus: you're allowed to search by pet types, meaning a city-living cat-lover traveler won't get stuck herding sheep. trustedhousesitters.com.