

## ➤ What is a home exchange?

It is a non-commercial transaction where two parties agree to exchange homes for free for a specific time. You stay at my home for free while I stay at yours for free.

## ➤ Why is access to Behomm by invitation-only?

For security reasons. It protects our community against anonymous registrants and keeps connections authentic. Behomm is a true network of friends.

## ➤ How can I get an invitation?

To join Behomm, you must be invited either by a friend who already is a Behomm member or by Behomm's founders. To get an invitation from Behomm's founders, you can [apply here](#).

## ➤ Why is Behomm only for creatives and design lovers?

Because part of the success in home exchange is exchanging with somebody like you, with interests in common, you match easily. Our members share a similar passion for beauty and tasteful things.

## ➤ I'm not a creative professional. Can I still join Behomm?

Yes, you are more than welcome to join if you have passion for beauty. Please note that all homes go through an aesthetics selection.

## ➤ What is your selection criteria?

Our selection is based on the following:

**1. Basic:** kitchen and bathroom must be renovated and in good condition. From an Ikea kitchen to a Bulthaup are fit for Behomm. Taste has nothing to do with luxury.

**2. Aesthetics:** This is a subjective criteria. There are as many definitions of beauty as persons in the world, we do not consider our criteria the good-universal one at all. It is only our own idea of beauty. It can be from a minimal loft to a baroque castle. Beauty has no style.

As mentioned, beauty has nothing to do with luxury. A small flat with second hand furniture can be more beautiful than a mansion with elephant tusks in the living room.

**3. Spirit:** We love the life and creativity that a space transmits, things like kids drawings on the walls, illustrations... the art.mosphere... And also books, music CD's, vinyls, toys... The homeowner's "spirit".

**4. Size and location:** We do not select homes for their size or location.

...> **What about my valuable things at home?**

We've already done more than twenty exchanges and everything went perfectly. Since we launched there has not been a single case of robbery. Besides, insurance companies advise that your home is safer with people living inside than empty.

...> **Don't you feel strange in a home that is not yours?**

Many friends ask us this question. On our first exchange at arrival we did feel a bit strange, now we look forward to our next exchange...it's a special feeling, like living another life.

...> **Can I do non-simultaneous home exchanges?**

Yes, it's up to you and your exchange guests. We've personally done several non-simultaneous exchanges and it worked excellent.

...> **I live in a property that I rent. Can I exchange?**

Yes! As there is no economical transaction, the exchange is not a sublet. It's more as if you invited friends to your home. But as a courtesy, it's better to ask the home owner.

...> **How many days can I exchange homes?**

As long as you want... you can exchange homes for the period of time you agree upon with your exchange guests... a long weekend, a week, a month, even a sabbatical year.

...> **Can I exchange with a home bigger than mine?**

Yes! Your home may have a special feature: city center location, sun, beach, ski resort, great views, architectural value,... it's common that city members exchange with bigger homes outside of cities...

...> **Can I exchange homes as many times as I want?**

Yes. There is no limit on the number of home exchanges you can do.

...> **How about payment of home bills: water, gas...?**

If you use a reasonable amount of water, gas and electricity during your exchange and the bills are typical for the homeowner, they will pay their own bills as usual.

...> **Can I also exchange cars?**

Quite many people do it, as you can save on car rental costs. But before you make the agreement, check that your insurance policy allows your exchange guest to drive your car.

## ...> What about pets?

You can agree to exchange pets too, but most home exchangers usually leave their homes free of pets.

## ...> Can I list my home for rental at your site?

No, we are sorry. Behomm is only for home exchange. Renting is a totally different trip experience. Home exchange is about sharing and meeting people, while renting is about making money.

## ...> How do members contact each other?

Using our internal and secure message system. You'll receive an email to alert you of a new message, similar to how Facebook works.

## ...> Will other members see my email address?

To protect your privacy your email will never be public on Behomm.

## ...> Is there an exchange agreement?

We provide a simple pdf agreement for writing down clearly the exchange details: date of arrival, key exchange, adressess... We encourage members to fill it out to avoid misunderstandings.

## ...> Is Behomm involved in the agreements between members?

Behomm is just a place for members to contact other members to do home exchanges. Behomm is not involved in the agreements between members.

## ...> Why did you create Behomm?

We're passionate home exchange travellers, we got captured by some ideas we couldn't get rid of them:

- 1. SIMILAR PEOPLE:** we could connect all creatives and design lovers to exchange homes... like-minded people, with a similar passion for beauty and tasteful things and avoid all the time we were wasting in other exchange sites searching for people like us.
- 2. SECURITY:** we could build a secure community of friends by invitation, avoiding anonymous people.
- 3. SHARE FRIENDS:** we could share friends... listing them like in Facebook... and exchanging with the friends of our friends... a new and more trustful type of home exchange... creating the first social community worldwide for doing home exchange.
- 4. CLEAN DESIGN:** we could design a site with the clean design we like and didn't find.

And above all we do believe this is the the future for traveling, kinder and more sustainable since it uses existing resources (member's homes).

→ **How can I exchange with friends of my friends?**

On Behomm there's a search engine for finding your friends and listing them. Then you'll be able to see all of their friends' homes and consider exchanging with them.

→ **Am I limited to exchanging only with my friends and their friends?**

Certainly not. You can exchange with any member of the community.

→ **Is it safe to exchange with members that are not friends of my friends?**

Before you exchange homes, you will email with your exchange guests many times to agree on details... so you get to know them well enough that they should no longer be strangers.

→ **How does my home insurance work?**

Check with your insurance company that you're covered while your home is occupied by your guests.

→ **How does the reply rate work?**

The reply rate is your reputation on Behomm. It only measures the replies to exchange offers, not to the rest of messages. Members have 25 days to reply to exchange offers. After this period of time it doesn't matter if they reply or not since the reply rate does not measure it; otherwise members could reply at the end of a year to all exchange offers and have a 100% reply rate.

→ **What is "hospitality"?**

Besides home exchange, members can also do hospitality. It means that a member is open for hosting other members while she is also in her home. Usually for a short period (2-3 days max.).

→ **What is the "Have a Coffee" feature?**

When a member has this feature listed at her account means that she is open to meeting other Behomm members for a coffee while they are on a trip to her location.

→ **Why should I exchange homes instead of staying at a hotel?**

Apart from the fact that you'll save money:

- 1. Enjoy the comforts of a home:** much more space and things owners often have, like toys for kids, movies, music CDs, books, magazines, computers, video games...
- 2. Get a real taste of life as a local, not a tourist:** follow partner tips that don't appear in the travel guides: eat at their favourite restaurants, shop at local markets, meet neighbours...
- 3. Enjoy cultural exchange:** meeting your guests can be a very enriching experience, you'll learn from this cultural exchange.
- 4. Make personal connections:** the people you exchange with may become good friends.
- 5. Keep your home cared for while you're away:** insurance companies advise that your home is safer with people living inside than empty.

## ...> What are the most important tips for an exchange?

1. Exchange with members similar to you: with kids, no kids,...
2. Get to know your guests through emails, phone calls, skype,...
3. Fill out an agreement to avoid misunderstandings.
4. Leave your home very clean and in order.
5. Treat your exchange partners as your guests.

## ...> How about doing home exchange with kids?

Your family may enjoy of two great benefits:

1. **Comfortable accommodations:** if you exchange with a family similar to yours in size and structure, with kids of similar age, the home should have toys, video games, highchairs, cots... and be a child-safe home.
2. **Educational value:** home exchange is so educational for kids, they learn to share... their bed... their toys... their things... a useful value for their future, they will be more flexible and open.

## ...> What is the most important thing in home exchange?

To consider your exchange partners your guests. This is the attitude of home exchange! It's not just about finding free accommodations and saving money... And also to thoroughly clean your home and leave your exchanger's home as clean as you found it.

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### **Warning: Behomm is addictive!**

After an exchange, you'll reaffirm your faith in human beings...  
you enjoyed life without paying any money... people shared what they had...  
you'll feel a better world is possible!