

The HomeExchange Dictionary



Exchange

Noun

An exchange is any kind of trip planned on HomeExchange. Whether you're hosting, traveling as a guest or going to each other's homes, it is considered an exchange.

Example: I've just finalized an exchange with a lovely couple from Melbourne, and they'll be coming to stay in December when I go to my parents' for Christmas!

GuestPoints (aka GP)

Noun

GuestPoints are a mechanism designed by HomeExchange to give you more flexibility in arranging your exchanges. They're used to facilitate non-reciprocal exchanges, so you can still travel to your hosts' home, and offer them GuestPoints for your stay that they can then use to travel to another home or destination of their choice.

Example: I'm planning a trip to Florida, and I would love to stay at your home. I'm happy to welcome you to mine, but if you don't plan on traveling here, I could offer you GuestPoints for hosting me instead :-)

Read more about GuestPoints [here](#).

Reciprocal Exchange

Noun

An exchange where you and another HomeExchanger will be going to each other's homes.

Example: I see that you would like to come to California, where I live, and I would love to visit New York, where you live! I think we could work out a reciprocal exchange of some sort!

Read our FAQ [here](#).

Non-Reciprocal Exchange

Noun

An exchange where you will be going to your hosts' home, but they will not be coming to yours. Or, from the other perspective, an exchange where your guest will go to your home, but you do not go to theirs.

Example: We'll be heading to visit our family in the month of July, so our home will be available if anyone would like to come for a non-reciprocal exchange.

Read our FAQ [here](#).

Simultaneous Exchange

Noun

A reciprocal exchange that happens at the same time, so both exchange partners go to each other's homes around the same dates.

Example: I'm so glad that you can also take time off work from 20-27 August. Shall we do a simultaneous exchange then?

Non-Simultaneous Exchange

Noun

A reciprocal exchange where exchange partners go to each other's homes during different dates.

Example: I'll be doing a non-simultaneous exchange with Jane! So she and her family will come in August, when we'll be away visiting family, and we'll go to their secondary home in November. We can't wait!

Hospitality Exchange

Noun

An exchange where a member hosts guests while they are also at home.

Example: I'll have guests coming to stay with us in our guest rooms in July, and we're already planning to do a barbecue together with some neighbors! I can't wait!

Listing

Noun

The page about your home where others can see the pictures, description, etc. that you shared.

Example: Hello! We'd be happy to host you at our home :-) I'm not sure if you've seen in our listing, but we recently got a foosball table that I'm sure your kids will love!

Reverse Search

Noun

The reverse search is a function to help you find members who are interested in your location (city, region or country), which can be really useful when you're looking for reciprocal exchanges.

Example: Hello! I found you with the reverse search filter, and I'm so glad to see that you'd like to come to Dublin, where I live :-) Would you be interested in doing a reciprocal exchange?

Learn more about how to use the reverse search [here](#).

Active Member/Subscriber

Noun

Someone who has paid for the annual membership/subscription. The membership/subscription is required for you to finalize your exchange.

Example: I've just activated my subscription; I'm so happy, I'll be able to do as many exchanges as I want for 12 months!

Become an active member/subscriber [here](#).

Preferred Destinations

Noun

Destinations that you would love to travel to and are saved to your account and profile.

This helps you show up in reverse search results to help other members know where you would like to visit..

Example: Hello! I see that you have Hawaii listed as your preferred destination! I have a secondary home there and will be happy to welcome you there if you would like :-)

Learn more about how to save your preferred destinations and how to use them [here](#).

Slow Travel

Noun

This is an approach to traveling where the notion of time is different from your daily routine. It's a break for travelers to focus on their well-being and take time for themselves. It also includes the desire of the traveler for deep immersion into their travel destination; to connect with local people and actively experience their culture - food, way of life, and traditions.

Responsible Travel

Noun

Responsible travel is being environmentally, culturally and economically aware of the impact you may have while traveling and trying to minimize it. It is based on three pillars - participating in the local economy (choosing to dine at and purchase from local establishments), preserving natural resources and reducing the impact of tourism on the environment.

Host

Verb

Welcoming someone and helping them feel at home in your home, just as you would with your friends and family.

Example: I'll be hosting Jane and Dylan in my home this weekend so I just want to be sure that everything is in order and comfortable for them when they arrive.

Home Book

Noun

A book that hosts usually prepare for guests to introduce themselves and their home. It contains lots of useful information to help guests familiarize themselves with their hosts' home, such as directions for how to use the washing machine, the remote controls, where they can find the towels, etc.

You can download our home book template [here](#).

Welcome Basket

Noun

Doesn't necessarily have to be a basket, but providing some gifts that hosts usually leave for their guests' arrival to their home. This warm welcome can include things such as local products that guests can keep as souvenirs, or some snacks and food for their guests in case they are arriving late at night/after a long journey. These amenities are usually accompanied by a welcome note.

Thank You Gift

Noun

It doesn't necessarily have to be a gift; even a card would be much-appreciated! Guests usually leave something behind to thank their hosts for opening up their homes to them. It could be something local that they brought from home, some fresh flowers from the market, a box of chocolate, etc.

Read more about what HomeExchangers typically leave as thank you gifts [here](#).

Trust

Verb

Going on vacation completely at ease, knowing that your guests will take care of your home, water your plants and feed your cat.

Share

Verb

When your children prepare their rooms and bring out their favorite toys for your guests to use.

Respect

Noun/verb

The feeling that comes from taking pictures of your host's home when you first arrive so that when you leave, you can leave everything as it was.

Communication

Noun

The key to having a successful exchange. The more transparent and fluid the communication is with your exchange partner, the better your exchange will be!

Read more about important things to communicate about [here](#).