

42 miles, 12 days, 11 nights, 8 hosts, 7 Districts, 2 new roommates, 1 future business partner, a journey with countless new friends I'll never forget, and thousands of new friendships, memories and stories to come. I'm not your typical Airbnb guest, and story.

Tuesday February 3rd, 2015. I arrived in San Francisco at approximately 2:00pm. Exhilaration runs throughout my body because this city is going to be my new home. I have no return ticket back to Wisconsin and I literally have my life in a backpack and two duffel bags. Yet, the noteworthy thing is that I have no employment, no permanent living accommodation and I personally know less than 10 of the 830,000+ people that live in the city. Off to a good start!

The night of the 3rd I crashed at a friend's place to drop off a couple bags full of was the first time I had ever used Airbnb, but by February 14th I had become a pro. In 12 days I had walked 42 miles around the city, covering 7 Districts, while meeting absolutely amazing people and hosts of the Airbnb community all along the way.

These 8 different hosts covered a variety of different accommodation specifications, ethnicities, lifestyles and occupations: I had the pleasure to sleep in a luxury penthouse in SOMA, on an incredibly comfy couch in Chinatown, a humungous beanbag in a condo out in Bayview, and I rented out my own one bedroom apartment in the Lower Pac Heights. I also had my own private room on Filbert Street, nestled up in a cottage out in Noe Valley, crashed in a room with two bunk beds and 3 other travelers in the Mission, enjoyed a great sleep on a pull out couch in the Western Addition and came back for second helpings for that incredibly comfy couch out in Chinatown to wrap up 12 days of sleeping in new locations every night. My hosts ranged from Russian, Syrian, White, Black, Australian, Indian, from the East Coast, and were Californians. Some were mothers, married couples, hippies, gay, straight, marketing executives, flight attendants, Airbnb employees, chefs, accountants, Startup Entrepreneurs, healthcare workers, cartographers, designers and developers.

There were so many amazing experiences regularly, every day with someone new. For the first time in my life over a two-week span, I didn't care about what was going on with Facebook and didn't use my smartphone (unless I was using the GPS, messaging a host, writing reviews, snapping the occasional snap chat or calling my mother to tell her I wasn't dead). I didn't care how much money everything cost and I truly tried living in the moment, constantly. It was the most adventurous and life-changing 2-week span I've ever had.

One set of Airbnb hosts in particular changed my life forever when they became my roommate on February 15th. With my new role as a host with Zain and Duncan

from France, New York, Israel, Utah, Brazil, Belgium, Russia, Japan, Canada, Colorado, Germany, Los Angeles, Australia, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Scotland within my first 2 weeks of living at the Treat Street Clubhouse. The different countries and states represented that stay here will only continue to grow!

We have 4 beds and five spots available for travelers and people who want a hostel like community. I'm beyond excited to continually meet new people from all over the country and all over the world. Within two weeks of "moving" to San Francisco, I had officially found a permanent living scenario and it's ALL because of Airbnb and it's platform for "space". But I found out through personal experience that Airbnb really isn't a platform to simply rent space. It's much, much deeper than that.

To come full circle, even though I moved to San Francisco without a job, without a place to live, and with many more unknowns I will experience along the way, my move has deliberate purpose, and ultimately that is to change the world. Initially,

amongst other applicants and "create" my own interview with the company through personal experience and story through using the service; meeting lots of hosts and getting to know the city the headquarters is located in. But I found out by talking with all the hosts, becoming a host myself and through meeting and talking with all of our guests that my priorities were mixed up. Don't get me wrong; Airbnb would be an amazing company to work for. I have NOTHING but great experiences and amazing stories from this past month. But you see, I have this big hairy audacious goal, and it would be a disservice to society if I didn't do that RIGHT NOW. That BHAG is why I'm ultimately in SF, and it's how I'm going to change the world. And that (BHAG) is to do what Airbnb has done and built with accommodation and travel, but in an entirely different industry: group planning and organization.

Because of this platform, millions of people have formed lasting friendships, marriages, relationships, and found new friends. What I've personally gotten out of it are two amazing roommates and a future business partner. Airbnb isn't about "renting space". If you want my honest opinion, it's even deeper than some of Brian, Joe and Nate's core values of belonging, friendship, meeting new people and making the world more connected. There is more to it than that. From my perspective it's about changing lives. The series of events that have happened to me over the past month wouldn't have been possible without Airbnb. And for that I'll forever be grateful.

