

Deciding to start working with Airbnb began solely as a fiscal opportunity. I am a retired bookseller from San Diego State University's Aztec Shops, the university bookstore. I have a small house with two detached bedrooms that I have rented long term for sixteen years. I do live on the property and am here during the time my guests are here.

Let me focus on what my experiences have been with Airbnb and how I see this model as being a helpful and positive addition to this neighborhood and the city of San Diego. To get a visual of this neighborhood, picture houses mostly built in the 1920's, small in square feet, and with rather tiny bedrooms. Many of the homes are two bedrooms, each bedroom perhaps 10x12 feet. So as families grow in size, kids grow up, move out, have kids, these houses no longer fit for overnight family visits, especially during the holidays when everyone likes to gather.

One of my very first guests was a young man who now lives in LA but grew up only three doors down from this house. He came to spend time with his mom and professor dad during the Christmas holidays, but needed a place close by, affordable, and walkable. He came with his lovely girlfriend who he now lives with in LA. Another set of guests fitting this model were grandparents coming to visit their brand new grandbaby living a few blocks away. They too needed an affordable and close by place.

When I describe the studio to perspective guests, I am very clear that this is a quiet family neighborhood. At the same time, I do talk up San Diego, and the special places to see and things to do here. I have had guests traveling in order to experience new cities. They might even be considering moving here. They are not looking for a hotel experience, nor are they wanting to their stay to be in a hostel. They have done their homework, and this neighborhood seems to fit the description of where they would consider living. While here, the guests might go to the zoo, whale watching, Dine out in Little Italy, explore downtown, go to the beach, catch a game, run in a marathon, walk Adams Avenue and generally get the feel for this area.

I am always amazed and pleased at the quality of people who choose to stay here. I have had guests from Italy, China, Chicago, Germany, Australia, Seattle, Georgia, England, to name a few. I had no idea when I started this venture that it would turn into such an adventure! I hope that the problems and concerns of short term rental situations can be ironed out. I am happy to pay taxes and do! I understand the concerns of neighbors. I am a good neighbor, respectful, mature, clean, and quiet. This opportunity is allowing for upgrades on this house that I would not have been able to consider before. My upgrades will only increase the overall value of the neighborhood. Personally, I see it as a winning proposition for all concerned. Let's work it out!