



We're frequent retiree travelers, and go to see the world about four times a year. We've been to France, Italy, Hong Kong and U.S. hotels, but every time we go, room rates are jumping higher. Now we're told that Airbnbs are not only much cheaper, but more comfy, quiet and private than hotels. What's your opinion? *JLB, Naples FL*

A: Over the past decade, the era of Airbnb has spread throughout the world, and now with many competitors. It keeps growing as travelers who prefer private homes increase. Of course, they're most economical for travel groups of four or more.

When first considering booking a private home, discuss it with friends and family who've experienced it. Check carefully online about location, outdoor/outdoor facilities, neighborhood and other amenities.