



Press Release – March 12, 2015

Fifteen per cent of the HomeExchange.com community is made up of teachers

Invented by academics, the home swapping trend is increasing in popularity among teachers. A new Collection is dedicated to the teaching community on the world's largest and fastest growing online home exchange company, HomeExchange.com.

It all started in the 1950s within a community of American professors. As a way to vacation on a budget, or for temporary moves to teach at other universities, they launched a new concept – the home swap. Without knowing it, they contributed to a movement which would be a tremendous success 60 years later – the sharing economy or ‘collaborative consumption’.

Based on the simple concept of ‘you stay in my home whilst I stay in yours’, HomeExchange members trade their homes at a time that is convenient to both parties and reap the benefits of a safe, affordable way to explore the world while living like a true local on vacation. HomeExchange sees over 130,000 successful home exchanges every year and is positively regarded as an economic, cultural and environmentally sustainable way to travel.

HomeExchange was founded in 1992 by Californian travel enthusiast, Ed Kushins. At the time, members referred to a printed catalogue and sent each other photos of their homes in the post. The arrival of the internet changed everything and in 2002, the company became HomeExchange.com.

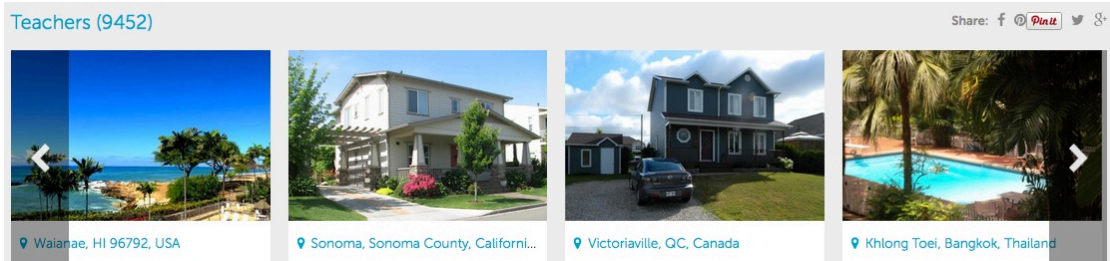
As of today, 65,000 members have joined HomeExchange.com, and among them, almost 10,000 teachers in 150 countries, including 600 in Canada.

Going on vacation during the school holidays can be expensive for families and teachers who are only able to travel during peak periods. The annual membership for HomeExchange is 170 \$ CA; a minimal cost in comparison to the value in exchanging homes. With no hotel bills and the ability to exchange everything from cars to boats to bicycles, HomeExchange represents an economical style of travel that has the additional benefit of reducing carbon footprints.

“either you have money and no time, or, as in our case, time and no money. Even though we had a couple of months, filling that time with travel just wasn’t an option because of the expense.

That’s when we discovered HomeExchange. For the price of airfare, we could have as long as we wanted anywhere in the world! It was a revelation for us! We had our son by this time and wanted him to know that there was a wider world outside of southern California” said Anita and Randy, teachers in Long Beach, CA.

In addition to the financial rewards, some other benefits are highlighted by teachers including the opportunity to immerse in local cultures, practice foreign languages, and of course meet new friends.



In January 2015, HomeExchange.com launched its new Collections functionality, which allows members to search for likeminded people within a specific category including Golfers, Pet Friendly, Gourmet and more. In response to the growing education community travelling each year through the site, HomeExchange.com dedicated a Collection to "Teachers".

About HomeExchange.com

Founded in 1992 by Ed Kushins, HomeExchange.com was a pioneer, early adopter, and promoter of the "collaborative consumption" movement. Building upon a foundation of trust and enthusiasm, HomeExchange.com has evolved into the largest and fastest growing online home exchange travel community in the world. This year, their 65,000+ members will make over 130,000 home swaps across more than 150 countries, eluding the cost of traditional accommodation and saving over 50% on each vacation. HomeExchange.com makes it easy to plan and enjoy a home exchange vacation in almost any country, city, or area of interest, and offers travellers a memorable, authentic 'live like a local' experience. The site is now available in 15 different languages. HomeExchange.com was named one of the fastest growing private companies in America in 2013 on the Inc. 500 / 5000 list for the third consecutive year.

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Notes to Editor

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