



HomeExchange Open Homes Day

Frequently asked questions

What is HomeExchange's Open Homes Day?

The HomeExchange Open Homes Day is going to be held on **Sunday 9th June 2024**. For 2 hours (ideally from 2pm to 4pm, but the time slot you choose is up to you), HomeExchange members who want to help us spread the word about home exchanging will meet with other families and travel-lovers for a cup of tea and a chat (or something a little stronger if you prefer – make this as much of a party as you like!) These hosts will share their experiences of traveling with HomeExchange, and they will answer questions from their guests about this incredible way of exploring the world.

As part of this event, we would like to show the great diversity of homes and wonderful places which our members can travel to by exchanging their properties through HomeExchange. We also want to demonstrate the friendly nature of our community, so we're excited to connect potential HomeExchangers with those who really represent the interests and values of our dynamic community. And if our members want to invite their friends and neighbors to meet up with them to discover more about home exchanging, then we can't think of a better way of demonstrating this!

All HomeExchange members interested in taking part and receiving guests during the Open Homes Day must register via [this form](#) and be willing to share their home exchange experience for just two hours on Sunday 9th June.

What will HomeExchange offer me as a thank you for hosting an Open Homes Day event?

We're offering two great incentives!

1) HOST GUESTPOINTS: As a token of thanks for your hospitality and for sharing your experience with people who are curious about the concept of HomeExchange, we would be delighted to offer you **300 GuestPoints**. The 300 GP for hosting will be added to your account in the month after the event (by 9th July 2024).

2) SPONSORSHIP GUESTPOINTS: In addition, you will receive double the GuestPoints for each person who visits your home, who then registers for an account and pays their annual subscription fee before midnight on 9th July 2024, using your personalized 'Refer your friends' code. So this means that while you would normally get 250 GuestPoints for each friend you invite with your personalized code, you will instead receive **500 GuestPoints**.

The sponsorship GP will be obtained when friends/attendees to your event activate their subscription with your sponsorship code between June 9th and July 9th 2024. In this case, the first 250 GP will be added to your account when your friend activates their membership, and the remaining 250 GP will be added in the week of July 23rd if they still have an active subscription.

Who is participating in the Open Homes Day?

The hosts will all be members of HomeExchange who have been encouraged to meet guests in their home, in their garden, in the park or even in a cafe for 2 hours, so that they can share their experiences of home exchanging, and answer questions about how this wonderful way of traveling works. To participate in the event, all hosts must register via the form that HomeExchange has prepared. [You can find this form here.](#)

The guests to your Open Homes Day can be your friends, neighbors, family members, or people from your neighborhood and/or city who are curious about the concept of home exchanging, and want to meet other people who share their homes "for real".

To visit one of these homes (even if you know the host personally), [guests must register their attendance \(via this form\)](#) so that our HomeExchangers have an idea of how many people to expect at their home that day. Prior to registering via the form, guests must look on the map that we have created (showing all homes that are taking part) and make a note of the number of the house they want to visit (all homes have been

allocated a unique reference number) as this number will need to be indicated on the registration form. [You can find all of this info \(map and registration form\) here.](#)

How can I register to participate in the Open Homes Day?

Are you a HomeExchanger who is happy to meet local travel-enthusiasts on June 9th? Then [you need to register](#) your participation by May 8th 2024.

Do you have friends, family, neighbors etc who want to find out more about home exchanging? Then even if you know these people well and you'd like to host an event (and receive the relevant GuestPoints), [you must still register to take part!](#) The map with all the participating members (which is how future guests can see the reference number of the event they want to attend) is available [here](#).

Do I have to host guests in my home?

No, you can meet up with people anywhere you like! Simply decide where you'd like to host an event (it could be in your home, your garden, in the park, in a cafe, in a pub or anywhere else you think would be suitable), then tell us the address and the time you'll be there [on the registration form](#).

As a host, will I know how many people have registered to meet me, and who they are?

Absolutely! We want you to feel comfortable with who you are meeting up with, so we will send you the names, phone numbers and email addresses of visitors who have registered for your event. This means that if you'd like to, you can contact them in advance to introduce yourself and ask them any questions (such as how many members of their family are attending, or what time they are planning on coming). People who register for your event will receive the full address of where to meet you (be that in your home, or a public place) as well as your email address and phone number the week before the Open Homes Day.

How many guests can I expect to attend my event?

The week before June 9th, we will inform you of the number of guests who have registered for your event. If you want to invite your friends, family etc, please make sure they also register via the relevant form - we will be making this available soon. Then if they choose to become members of HomeExchange, you will be eligible to receive the extra Sponsorship GuestPoints, and so will they!

As this is the first time that an Open Homes Day has been organized in this country, we can't be 100% sure about how many people you can expect. However, in Germany and Holland where Open Homes Day have recently taken place, there were around 4-5 attendees at each event.

If I host an Open Homes Day at my home, who will know my address?

[We have created a map showing all the events taking place](#) on Open Homes Day. On this map you CAN'T see the exact address of the home or the event, but rather an approximate location. This map will be shared in the emails and publicity material that HomeExchange creates to announce the event, and will also be shared with the media.

Then the week before the event, each host's event details, phone number and email address will be shared with guests who have registered to visit their specific event (but not with anyone else). Likewise, each host will receive information about their visitors, in case they want to contact them in advance.

I exchange my second home/holiday home on HomeExchange, but I won't be at that address on June 9th. Can I participate in the Open Homes Day at my main home, which is a different address from the one registered with HE?

You can host an event wherever you like! If you only exchange your secondary residence/holiday home, but would prefer to participate in the Open Homes Day at another address, then please go ahead! The main objective of this day is to talk to your guests about your experience of exchanging homes, help them overcome any worries they have about the concept, tell them how you prepare for exchanges, how you travel, what destinations you have visited etc etc...

All of this means that the focus is on you – not your home – so we're very happy for you to receive guests at your preferred location. You could even host people in your local park or a cafe.

I'd like to host an event on June 9th, but I can't do 2-4pm. Can I host an event earlier or later in the day?

Of course! You can specify the time you want to host your event via the registration form. A week before the event, we'll also send you the names and email addresses for anyone who has registered to attend your event, so you can email your guests to remind them of the time that you'll be ready to receive them.

If no one registers to visit my home, or no one comes despite having registered, will I still receive the 300 GuestPoints for hosting?

Yes, you will still receive the 300 extra Host GuestPoints for participating. These GuestPoints will be added to your account in the month after the event (by 9th July 2024).

Is there any financial compensation for meeting up with guests, or to go towards food/drinks for the event?

No, there isn't. You can organize your Open Homes Day however you like. So you can receive guests in your living room, in your garden, in a local park, the pub or wherever you wish. And of course you can offer your guests something to eat and drink if you wish, but this will be at your own expense. In the countries where Open Homes Days have already been held, the hosts offered tea and coffee, some crisps or cakes etc.

However, none of this is strictly necessary and as we unfortunately can't offer any financial compensation towards your event, we wouldn't dream of asking you to pay for anything. So if you want to invite guests for a simple chat, then that's absolutely fine! And likewise, if you're meeting them in a public place, then it's fair to assume that they'll buy their own drink if they want one.

All you need to do is to make your guests feel welcome, share your home exchange experiences, help them overcome any worries they have about home exchanging,

answer their questions – and most importantly, show them that our wonderful community are friendly and kind!

How will HomeExchange get guests to visit the different events on Open Homes Day?

We will announce the event by email to anyone who is not yet a HomeExchange member, but whose email address is in our database.

We will also use our different social media channels (both organic content and paid advertising), our webinars and blog articles to announce the event. Various press releases will also be sent to local, regional and national media outlets, so the Open Homes Day might get coverage in things like local newspapers.

How can you (as a host), help encourage visitors to attend your Open Homes Day event?

Although the HomeExchange team will work to get visitors to all events happening on Open Homes Day, you can also help us publicize the event so that you get more guests popping in to find out about this wonderful way of traveling. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Share the event on your personal social networks, and invite those who follow you on Instagram, X, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.
- Put some posters up! We'll send you these posters as part of your information pack, so it would be great if you could pop some in your home (perhaps on your front door, or your fence?), and you could even ask trusted local businesses (such as your favorite bakery, corner shop, cafe, hairdresser, library etc) if they'd be willing to display one in their window or on their notice board.
- Get in touch with any local media news outlets or Facebook groups that share information about activities and events taking place in your area.
- Send a message to your contacts and your WhatsApp groups. School parents' WhatsApp groups are a great way to find other people who appreciate cost-effective travels!

- Do you know any local journalists? Share your exchange experience and your Open Homes Day with them. You never know, they may even want to interview you!
- Do you have contact with any civic centers? Perhaps you can also share event information with them.
- Plus anything else you can think of!

[Regardless of how you get guests to attend your get-together, please do ensure that everyone registers for your event via this form.](#)

If someone registers via the website and then activates their subscription with my personalized 'Refer your friends' code during or after the Open Homes Day, will we both receive double bonus GuestPoints?

Yes. If any of your guests or friends who are not yet members of HomeExchange register to attend your event, and they then use your 'Refer your friends' code when they pay their annual subscription within one month of the event (until midnight on 9th July 2024), both you and they will receive double the GuestPoints. That is, **you will receive 250 GP x 2 = 500 extra GuestPoints for every person who joins us... that could mean a LOT of GuestPoints for you!**

If any of your attendees are already members of HomeExchange but they weren't sponsored by someone else when they joined us, they can also use your 'Refer your friends' code, and you will both receive the usual 250 GuestPoints.

Where can I find my custom 'Refer your friends' code?

You can [find your sponsor code on the website](#) or the app. Simply log into your account, then go to "My account", and click on "Refer your friends".

- If you are on the website, you will see "Invite your friends - Share your code with them." Just below this line, you will find your personal code in a dotted box.
- If you are on the app, you will see "Become a sponsor!" Just below this line, you will find your personal code in a dotted box.

Important: This code must be entered by the new member before midnight on July 9th 2024 so we can add double GuestPoints to both of your accounts.

I've already referred the usual maximum of 10 (or close to 10 friends). Can I still receive double the GuestPoints?

You certainly can! Once you've registered to host an event, just send us an email with your email address (the one that is registered to your HomeExchange account) and your home ID. In this email, let us know that you're close to your maximum referral limit, and that you'd like this to be lifted as part of the Open Homes Day initiative. Et voila! We'll get this sorted for you. You can email us on uk@homeexchange.com

Thank you very much for taking part in the Open Homes Day!

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us by email at:
uk@homeexchange.com

We look forward to celebrating this wonderful way of traveling on June 9th!

Suzie Dalton and the HomeExchange team