



The Transition Network

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## Ah Paris! Ah Air B&B! And a Toy Poodle!

By Marticia Moore Madory



After traveling around the world for many years with her husband, Rhoda Super faced a new challenge after the death of her mate a few years ago. How to continue enjoying extended visits to world capitals and accommodate the emotional needs of her toy poodle, who is still in mourning from the loss of its best buddy - her husband?

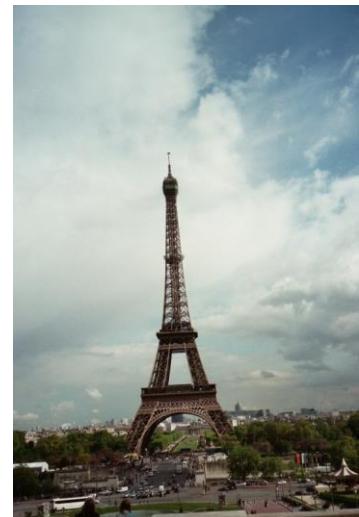
***"I wanted to spend a full month exploring Paris, but couldn't leave the dog behind."***

So she looked into the possibility of renting a studio apartment, with pet privileges, through Air B&B.

Studying some guidebooks - particularly the one by Rick Steves, she had found that Air B&B offered the most choices and met the largest number of her requirements. Those included price, location, and permission to bring her little dog along. (The manager asked her to send a photo of both her and the dog. Size and breed seemed to be important considerations.) In the end, having a dog in Paris turned out to be a social plus; it enabled her to become acquainted with other dog walkers and local residents, easing the loneliness factor of traveling alone.

She reserved a studio apartment located on Ile Saint-Louis in May for the entire month of September. (The island is centrally-located near important sites of the city, and is connected to the other arrondissements by four bridges.)

Rhoda recalls that the management was responsive to her concerns. She had been promised that a façade-improvement project would be completed by the time she arrived, but that wasn't the case. So when she arrived, there were workmen laboring in front of her window all day, making it impossible to





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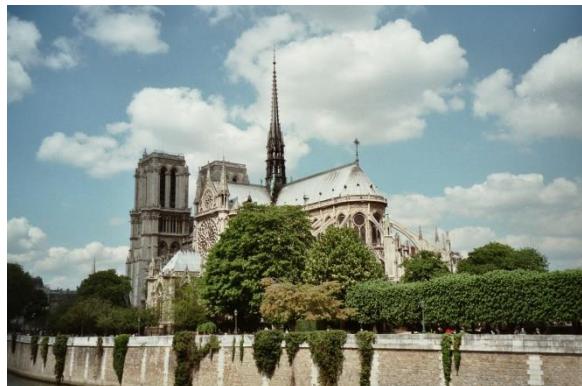
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leave the window open when the weather was warm. Evidently, as in New York City, it pays to speak up for your rights, too: her complaints about this broken promise yielded a rent cut of 50 percent!

"When I checked the next day," she observes, "the refund had already appeared in my bank account."

Her space was spotless and generally well-equipped with supplies, she said. When she objected to an inadequate kitchen inventory, the stock of dishes and cookware was promptly expanded. And a malfunctioning washing machine was also repaired at her request.

Otherwise, the apartment was in an attractive building "and more than adequate for me," she noted. Built in the 1700s in the traditional pattern of Paris apartments, it featured living units surrounding a central courtyard; a double-locking system with separate keys for entering the courtyard and the apartment; and a 24-hour caretaker.



In preparation for her visit, Rhoda made a list of museums she wanted to visit, and identified other sites outside of Paris where she could go for day trips, such as Chartres. She has similar plans for her next Air B&B adventure – two September weeks in London (a shorter stay because she was afraid her dog couldn't handle the airline's restrictions against an animal traveling in the cabin with her).

"I found that Air B&B London has more properties available, some of them apparently quite luxurious," she recalls. But it will be a studio again for Rhoda, in the Fitzrovia neighborhood, a pleasant residential area close to the British Museum. Then it's off to Bath, Cambridge, Stonehenge, the Cotswolds, and Salisbury Cathedral – all reachable on day trips from London.

We'll expect another Air B&B review when Rhoda returns from London in the fall!