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Dear Clients and Friends:

Have you ever done a home exchange? Now the internet can make travel easier and cheaper than ever. You might start with [www.intervac-homeexchange.com](http://www.intervac-homeexchange.com), which claims its founders invented the concept of swapping homes in 1953. They have over 30,000 vacation homes waiting for exchange in 140 different countries.

The intriguing listings come with color photos, including a picture of the family who wants to exchange. Each home has its own map that lets you zoom in or out, and the satellite views give you an idea of the surrounding neighborhood. Is there a car available for use? How many adults, children or pets are allowed, and for how long? How many floors, bedrooms and baths? What are the amenities? How far to shopping, the beach or public transportation? All those questions are answered in each listing.

You may be surprised by the possibilities. You can, of course, do a direct exchange with another family. But maybe you just want to find a house sitter to look after your home, mail and pets while you're away. Double exchanges are available for extended families or people who always travel with friends. You can also do a hospitality exchange, where you live with them in their home for a while, then they'll come and visit with you.

If you're willing to trade homes for a few weeks, the cost of a trip to Europe or anywhere else can be pared down to not much more than air fare. You're simply changing where you choose to live for a while, and you have to pay to get there. Right now you can fly round trip from San Diego to Zurich for \$692, Frankfurt for \$752 or Paris for \$1,060. Are you like me, with a bunch of SkyMiles that keep piling up? Turn them into fun, see another part of the world and don't forget to send me a postcard!

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford