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Bainbridge vacation rental checklist

Decatur County, Georgia | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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Bainbridge has allowed short-term rentals since 2018, defined as renting one to six rooms of a home for less than 30 days, with or without the owner living there. You need a city occupational tax certificate and must pay the city's 8% hotel-motel tax.

> Our only source for the rules is 2018 news coverage. Confirm current zoning, permit, and parking rules with the city.

Licensing steps

STATE OF GEORGIA

- [ ] **Know what the platform collects**
  Airbnb collects state and local sales tax, the $5-a-night state hotel-motel fee, and the local hotel-motel tax on its Georgia bookings. Ask any other platform what it collects, and keep records either way.
- [ ] **Register for direct bookings**
  If guests book and pay you directly, register for sales tax with the Georgia Tax Center and file the local hotel-motel tax with your city or county. If your city or county requires a business license or occupation tax for the rental, the DOR treats you as an innkeeper and you also owe the $5 state fee on direct bookings.
  Georgia Tax Center: https://gtc.dor.ga.gov/
- [ ] **Check your city or county**
  Most of the rules are local: short-term rental permits, business licenses (occupation tax), zoning limits, and caps. Some cities ban rentals in residential zones. Pick your area.

DECATUR COUNTY, GEORGIA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Business licenses, zoning, and the local hotel-motel tax are set by each city and the county. Pick your area.

CITY OF BAINBRIDGE

- [ ] **Get an occupational tax certificate**
  The city treats a short-term rental as a lodging business that needs an occupational tax certificate. Ask the City of Bainbridge which zones allow it and what other guidelines apply; we couldn't find the rules in the online code.
- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays here owe 9% sales tax, the local hotel-motel tax, and the $5-a-night state fee. Airbnb collects all three on its bookings. For direct bookings, file sales tax (and the $5 fee, if you need a local license) with the Georgia Tax Center. Bainbridge's hotel-motel tax is 8%; for direct bookings, file it with the City of Bainbridge.

Official sources

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in Georgia. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2745

Georgia Department of Revenue: Rule 560-13-2-.01 amendment notice (2025)-
. https://dor.georgia.gov/document/document/notice-fet-2025-01-rule-560-13-2-01-state-hotel-motel-feepdf/download

The Post-Searchlight: City Council opens door to short-term rentals (May 15, 2018). https://www.thepostsearchlight.com/?p=177641

City of Bainbridge (Municode): Code of ordinances. https://library.municode.com/ga/bainbridge/codes/code_of_ordinances

Georgia Department of Community Affairs: Hotel/motel excise tax rates and revenue report-
. https://dca.georgia.gov/document/document/hotel-motel-tax-revenue-report/download