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Travelers Rest vacation rental checklist

Greenville County, South Carolina | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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Travelers Rest requires every short-term rental (under 30 days) to register with the city, pay $250 a year, and pass a yearly safety inspection. Guests are capped at 2 per bedroom or 8 total, and the city adds a 3% accommodations tax.

> Renting no more than twice a year for 14 days total is exempt from registration.

> A first violation gets a written warning; a second within 12 months revokes registration for 12 months.

> Airbnb collects the state-collected tax on its bookings here, but its South Carolina tax article doesn't list this area's county or city accommodations tax. File that one yourself for every booking.

Licensing steps

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Get a retail license for direct bookings**
  If you take bookings yourself, you need a SCDOR retail license for each rental property and must file and pay electronically through MyDORWAY. If you rent only through a property manager or an online travel company that takes the payment, they remit the state tax and you don't need a license. Rent no more than one week a quarter and you can file once a year instead.
  MyDORWAY: https://mydorway.dor.sc.gov/
- [ ] **Know what the platform collects**
  Airbnb collects the 5% sales tax, 2% accommodations tax, and the local sales taxes the state collects, on its bookings. It also collects some county and city accommodations taxes, but only in the places it lists. Everything else is yours to file.
- [ ] **Register for local taxes**
  Many counties and cities charge their own accommodations tax (up to 3%), a hospitality tax, or a beach preservation fee. They collect these directly, so you register with the county or city even if a platform pays your state tax.
- [ ] **Check your property tax rate**
  A home that is your legal residence keeps the 4% assessment ratio only if it is rented out 72 days or less a year. Rent it more and it is taxed as a 6% rental property. Ask your county assessor.
- [ ] **Then your county and city**
  Business licenses, rental permits, and zoning are where South Carolina towns differ most. Pick your area.

GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Permits, zoning, and the local accommodations tax are set by each city. Pick your area.

CITY OF TRAVELERS REST

- [ ] **Register with the city**
  All owners sign the city's form, list the number of rental units and last year's rental days, and pay the fee. If the home isn't owner-occupied, name a person in charge who lives or has an office within 50 miles.

- [ ] **Pass the safety inspection**
  Inspectors check smoke detectors in every bedroom, hallway, and common area, a 5-lb ABC fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide detectors with gas or an attached garage, egress windows, handrails, pool gates, and a posted evacuation plan on each sleeping room door.
- [ ] **Register for state and local taxes**
  The state-collected tax on stays here is 7% (state sales and accommodations tax plus local sales taxes). Airbnb collects it on its bookings; for direct bookings, get a SCDOR retail license and file through MyDORWAY. File the city's 3% local accommodations tax with the City of Travelers Rest for every booking.

Inspection checklist

- [ ] **Evacuation plan posted on each sleeping room door.**
- [ ] **Smoke detector in every bedroom, adjoining hallway, and common area; one per story.**
- [ ] **Fire extinguisher, 5-lb ABC, charged and in date.**
- [ ] **Carbon monoxide detector if gas appliances or attached garage.**
- [ ] **House number at least 3 inches tall, visible from the street.**

House rules for guests

Parking: On site, on paved or improved surfaces only

Signs: No rental signs in residential districts

Travelers Rest asks for drawings with your application.
Make the site sketch, floor plans, and evacuation maps to scale from your measurements at FireEscapePlan.com.

Official sources

South Carolina Department of Revenue: Accommodations tax. https://dor.sc.gov/tax/accommodations

Airbnb: Collection and remittance by Airbnb in South Carolina. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2328

South Carolina Department of Revenue: Revenue Ruling #15-4: vacation rentals of a residence-
. https://dor.sc.gov/resources-site/lawandpolicy/Advisory%20Opinions/RR15-4.pdf

City of Travelers Rest (Municode): Code section-
. https://library.municode.com/sc/travelers_rest/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT7LIRE_CH7.34REDWUNSHTERE

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. https://library.municode.com/sc/travelers_rest/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT1GOAD_CH1.20FIAD_DIV3LOACTA