

Best Board Games for Hospitality

Creating Unforgettable Family
Experiences in Short-Term Rentals



Board Games Transform Guest Experience

Driving Positive Reviews & Repeat Bookings



Weather-Proof Entertainment

Provides fun during bad weather or when local activities are limited.



Digital Detox & Bonding

Encourages families to unplug and create lasting memories together.



Relaxed Evenings

Low-energy activity perfect for unwinding after busy exploration days.



Cost-Effective Amenity

Budget-friendly and space-efficient compared to large game tables.



Homey Atmosphere

Thoughtful touches that make rentals stand out from sterile hotels.



"Family game nights create immeasurable rewards through shared laughter and lessons, making memories that guests associate with your property."

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Strategic Selection Criteria

Ensuring Maximum Guest Engagement



Simplicity First

Pick games that are easy to learn or familiar classics that most guests already know.



Quick Setup

Prefer games with fast setup and short play sessions for immediate fun.



Durability Matters

Select high-quality versions with fewer small pieces to minimize loss and damage.



Age Diversity

Include games spanning multiple age ranges from preschoolers (3+) to adults.



Variety is Key

Offer a mix of treasured classics and modern popular games for different preferences.

Essential Basics



Playing Cards



Chess



Checkers



Backgammon



Poker Set

Treasured Classics

Universal Appeal Across Generations

Monopoly

 8+  2-8

Quintessential family game everyone knows; create real estate empires while avoiding bankruptcy.

The Game of Life

 9+  2-4

Journey through life stages from college to retirement; TripAdvisor Edition adds vacation theme.

Sorry!

 6+  2-4

Simple race game with satisfying bump-and-slide mechanics; compact Rivals Edition perfect for couples.

Clue

 8+  3-6

Classic mystery whodunit engages problem-solving skills; Clue Junior available for younger children.



Travel Tip

Monopoly Deal card game offers the classic experience in just 15 minutes with minimal space requirements.

Modern Popular Games

Fresh Excitement for Family Game Night

Codenames

 10+  4+  15-30m

Word association game requiring creative thinking. Teams compete to contact all their agents first. Any number of players can join mid-game, making it perfect for flexible groups.

Ticket to Ride

 8+  2-5  30-60m

Build train routes across continents in this modern classic. It offers the perfect balance of strategy and luck, easy enough for kids but engaging for adults.

Azul

 8+  2-4  30-45m

A beautiful tile-drafting game where players artfully decorate palace walls to impress the king. Visually stunning components and simple rules with deep strategy.

Pandemic Legacy

 13+  2-4  60m

An immersive cooperative experience where players work together as a team of specialists to cure global diseases and save humanity. High stakes and high engagement.

Games for Young Children

Prevent Boredom & Create Positive Memories

Candy Land

3+ 2-4

No reading required. A colorful quest through a sweet fantasy world that captivates imagination.

Chutes & Ladders

3+ 2-4

Simple race based on luck with minimal counting skills needed. Keeps kids giggling with ups and downs.

Spot It

4+ 2-8

Fast-paced visual matching game. Portable, quick to play, and fun for mixed age groups.

Exploding Kittens

7+ 2-5

Quirky card game with humorous illustrations. Strategic yet simple enough for older kids.



❤️ Parent Appeal

These games require no reading and minimal setup, allowing parents to relax while children stay engaged and entertained.

Quick Card and Party Games

Maximize Entertainment with Minimal Space

Card Games (3-5 Players)

- **Uno:** Universal appeal, simple rules, endless replayability
- **Phase 10:** Rummy-style game with progressive challenges
- **Sushi Go!:** Fast-paced card drafting, 15-min games

Party Games (Larger Groups)

- **Pictionary:** Drawing and guessing encourages creativity
- **Taboo:** Word-guessing game creating hilarious moments
- **Jenga:** Physical dexterity game with universal appeal
- **Charades:** No materials needed, works for all ages



Space Advantage

Card games take up minimal bookshelf space while offering limitless gaming potential for guests. Perfect for compact rentals!

Strategic and Cooperative Games

Engaging Options for Serious Gamers & Families

Gateway Strategy

Settlers of Catan

10+ | 3-4p

Resource management and trading. The modern classic that introduced millions to strategic gaming.

Splendor

10+ | 2-4p

Elegant gem-collecting game. Minimal components but offers deep strategic decision-making.

Kingdomino

8+ | 2-4p

Tile-laying kingdom building. Easy to teach but offers meaningful decisions every turn.

Cooperative Games

Pandemic

8+ | 2-4p

Work together as a specialized team to treat infections and find cures to save humanity.

Forbidden Island

10+ | 2-4p

A cooperative treasure hunt with rising water tension. Capture the treasure before the island sinks!

Puzzle and Brain Teaser Games

Quiet Entertainment for Relaxing Moments



Jigsaw Puzzles

Large puzzles (500-1000 pieces) engage groups working together. Choose scenic or vacation-themed images.



Escape Room Kits

Tabletop escape room experiences create exciting collaborative challenges for families.



Brain Teasers

Rubik's Cubes and individual logic puzzles provide focused entertainment without requiring multiple players.



PLACEMENT

Keep puzzles in common areas where guests can work on them casually throughout their stay.



DURABILITY

Check puzzles regularly to ensure all pieces are present. Use storage systems to prevent loss.



Space Considerations

Tailoring Selection to Property Size

Practical Tips for Maintenance

Ensuring a Premium Guest Experience



Organization

- Store games in clear, labeled bins or on dedicated shelves.
- Create a simple inventory list with age ranges and player counts.
- Check games between guests to ensure all pieces are present.
- Replace damaged or incomplete games immediately.



Communication

- Highlight game availability in your listing and welcome book.
- Provide brief descriptions for less familiar games.
- Consider laminated instruction summaries for complex games.



Quality Control

- Choose durable editions designed for repeated use.
- Avoid games with tiny pieces that easily get lost.
- Select games with sturdy boxes that withstand frequent handling.



Presentation Matters: Display games attractively as a featured amenity rather than hiding them away. This signals to guests that you've thoughtfully curated their entertainment options.

Investment Returns

Small Cost, Significant Impact

The Investment

Initial Setup

\$150-300

Annual Upkeep

\$20-50

**Based on a comprehensive 10-15 game collection*

The Returns



Competitive Advantage

Stand out in crowded markets by offering "family-friendly" amenities.



Higher Value Perception

Justify higher nightly rates with thoughtful entertainment options.



Guest Loyalty

Create loyal guests who return for the complete experience.

Recommended Starter Collection

Essential 10-Game Set for New Hosts

The Essentials Checklist

★ Classics (4)

- Monopoly or Monopoly Deal
- Uno
- Playing Cards (2 decks)
- Chess/Checkers Combo

^K Kids (2)

- Candy Land
- Spot It

🐦 Modern Family (3)

- Ticket to Ride
- Azul
- Codenames

PUZZLE (1)

- 500-piece Jigsaw (Scenic)



TOTAL INVESTMENT

\$200 - \$250

Approximate Cost

↗ Expansion Strategy

Add 2-3 games annually based on guest demographics and feedback to keep the collection fresh.