



ACCOMMODATION WELCOME SCHEMES

Help your guests find
the perfect place to stay

Contents	Page
Introduction	3
Anglers Welcome Scheme	4
Bikers Welcome Scheme	6
Cyclists Welcome Scheme	8
Dogs Welcome Scheme	10
Families Welcome Scheme	12
Film Crew Welcome Scheme	14
Golfers Welcome Scheme	16
Groups Welcome Scheme	18
Mountain Bikers Welcome Scheme	20
Walkers Welcome Scheme	22

Introduction

Welcome schemes for specific visitor groups

Tourism Northern Ireland's (Tourism NI) Welcome Schemes are **free** to join and open to accommodation providers who are participating in Tourism NI's Quality Grading Scheme. The Schemes recognise the special efforts made by tourism businesses to accommodate different visitor groups and will help direct guests to suitable establishments that pay particular attention to their various needs.

It is essential that anyone wishing to join any of the Welcome Schemes does so out of a genuine desire to have a flexible and inclusive approach to accommodate their visitors' diverse needs.

If you would like to apply for any of the Welcome Schemes you should meet the relevant criteria detailed in this booklet and your Tourism NI Quality Advisor will verify when they visit.

Tourism NI does not guarantee any minimum volume of business or any minimum number of referrals to accommodation providers who participate in a Welcome Scheme.

In providing the Welcome Schemes, setting the Welcome Scheme criteria and assessing accommodation, Tourism NI is not acting in an advisory capacity or as a health and safety consultant. It remains accommodation providers' responsibility to ensure that they are meeting their legal obligations and Tourism NI does not accept any liability in this regard. Accommodation providers may wish to seek health and safety advice from an appropriately qualified consultant or solicitor.

For full Terms and Conditions please visit www.tourismni.com. By applying to participate in, and/or participating in, a Welcome Scheme, an accommodation provider shall be deemed to have accepted Tourism NI's terms and conditions set out in www.tourismni.com, as amended by Tourism NI from time to time.



Anglers
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland is undoubtedly one of the finest angling destinations in Europe. Whether it's coarse, game or sea fishing - we have it all!

Game and Coarse anglers are well catered for with Salmon, Grilse, Pike, Bream, Sea Trout, Sonaghan and Perch all in plentiful supply and sea anglers will be amazed at the variety of shore, rock and boat fishing opportunities along our readily accessible coastline.

Anglers Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. A separate space should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
2. Information should be provided on nearby angling options and local slipways/boat launching sites (where available)
3. A chest freezer/deep freezer should be available for guests' use
4. You should provide facilities for washing fishing gear, and for gutting and preparing fish, by guests or by the Chef
5. Information on location/opening times of the nearest tackle and bait shop (and directions) should be available
6. You should provide a safe storage area for guests' rod boxes/equipment
7. Information on local permits and rod licensing should be available
8. The daily weather forecast should be available as well as tide tables (where a marine location)
9. Information on local activities, entertainment and dining in the area

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

10. You should be able to offer a packed lunch and filled flask if required
11. Flexible evening meal times (if provided)
12. An early or late breakfast option should be available



Bikers
Welcome



TOURISM
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IRELAND

Every year Northern Ireland hosts a number of world class road races making it the perfect destination for any motorbike enthusiast.

Bikers can enjoy exciting racing events as well as enjoying the freedom of touring Northern Ireland's stunning coast lines and landscapes by motorbike.

Bikers Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. You should provide safe parking for motorbikes (think of where a bike can be attached to). Covered, hard standing is preferable
2. An area should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
3. You should be in a position to recommend a range of local, regional and national tours - for instance, information on nature of the roads (e.g. twisting, narrow, rough etc.), scenery, parking, viewpoints, attractions, nearest racing courses etc. available for reference
4. Visor cleaning/boot cleaning facilities. This would mean keeping visor spray or supplying hot, soapy water and soft cloths, black boot polish/dubbin and brushes etc.
5. Wash down facilities for motorbikes and riders outer garments should be available for guest use
6. Degrease hand wash and rags/paper towels (or appropriate workshop hand wipes) should be available to guests on request
7. Details of local garages/mechanics specialising in motorbikes
8. Consider motorbike books, magazines and motorbikers' logbook for guests to record day trips
9. Information on location and opening times of local petrol stations
10. Information on location and opening times of local motorbike shops
11. Daily and weekly Met Office information (or similar) should be available as well as travel and road information
12. Display Safe Biking information where readily available
13. Current Road Racing calendar (listing NI/ROI road races)

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

14. Hot or cold drinks should be available on arrival
15. An early breakfast should be available or, for early leavers, a tray the night before
16. You should be able to offer a packed lunch and filled flask if required
17. You should be able to offer a late evening meal if there are no other meal providers within one mile. A late night snack should be offered for late arrivals
18. Information on location and opening times of nearest local late-opening eating establishments (and directions), if meals are not provided

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

19. Flasks, cups and storage containers for day trips
20. Information on location and opening times of nearest local late-opening eating establishments (and directions) and grocery shops



Cyclists
Welcome



TOURISM
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Cycling holidays in Northern Ireland continue to increase especially following the success of the Giro d'Italia and Gran Fondo.

Some visitors like to cycle old roads and others enjoy the stunning scenic route sampling Northern Ireland's extensive range of backdrops including undulating glens, stunning coastline and picturesque villages.

Cycling Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. A separate space should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
2. You should have a supply of maps and local cycling routes available for visitor reference e.g. **cycleni.com** routes and brochures
3. You should have information on local public transport services which accommodate bicycles e.g. bus and train
4. Contact details of nearest cycle specialist should be made available
5. You should provide a lockable shed for bike storage
6. Information on local activities, entertainment and dining in the area should be available
7. Leave No Trace code of ethics should be available for visitor reference. See **www.leavenotraceireland.org**
8. Details should be displayed for emergency and local rescue services available

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

9. You should be able to offer a packed lunch and filled flask if required
10. Flexible evening meal times (if provided)
11. Early breakfast option from 7am
12. A hot drink should be available upon arrival
13. The daily weather forecast should be available

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

14. Telephone numbers for local weather links (directions to nearest phone box if phone is not provided) and radio frequency and times for local weather forecast
15. Clothes washing facilities or location of nearest laundrette facility
16. Flasks, cups and storage containers for day trips



Dogs
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland is the perfect place for man's best friend. With wide open spaces to run about and some excellent walking options there's no reason for visitors to leave their special friend behind.

Whether you are interested in a leisurely stroll around the edge of a lake, a refreshing walk along the coastline or a more adventurous hike through a stunning forest park, there are plenty of options to suit everyone.

Dogs Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. Dogs welcome inside
2. Water bowl and food bowl available on request
3. Details of suggested local dog walks
4. Details and directions to local pet shop and vet
5. Suitable exercise area for dogs nearby, with directions
6. One of the following facilities to be available on request: toys, chews/treats, bedding, spare leads (all can be chargeable)
7. Suitable towels available for use on pets, old towels for wet and muddy paws to protect carpets and interiors
8. Torch and/or nightlights to be available on request
9. A scoop and disposal bags provided. Where dogs are permitted access to grounds, a dedicated bin for waste disposal to be provided
10. Storage space provided for animal transportation crate/cage brought by owners
11. Where dogs have free access to garden areas, suitable fencing should be provided

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

12. Dogs allowed in bedrooms but not left alone
13. Food preparation area available, such as access to kitchen or utility room with designated utensils.

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

14. Food preparation facilities, a designated chopping board and knife and feeding bowl.



Families
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland is great for families, whether you want to experience the outdoors, fun unique attractions and activities or great value family breaks.

With Northern Ireland's interactive museums and galleries, exhilarating outdoor adventures and plenty of places to get up close to animals, more and more families are getting together to spend time in Northern Ireland.

Families Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. Suitable cot, or children's beds and bedding should be available
2. You should provide a secure storage area for guests' use, i.e. for pushchairs
3. Safety features should be in place such as cordless blinds, no trailing cables etc.
4. If a playroom/outdoor play area is available, it should be secure and well maintained
5. High chairs and suitable crockery and cutlery for small children should be available
6. Contact details for local doctor and a first aid kit should be available to guests
7. Local activity details e.g. local visitor attractions, eateries, shops, walks, recreation. Consider providing bad weather options
8. A step or children's loo seat in bathroom should be considered

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

9. Facilities for warming milk and preparing baby food
10. Fridge storage available
11. You should be able to offer a family sized room or interconnecting room
12. Tea tray/kettle should have restricted access
13. You should be able to offer early evening, family friendly dining with children's menu or portions available, where meals provided. Vegetarian and healthy options should be offered
14. Public toilets (M&F) or separate facility where provided, to have changing facility, also consider low level urinal/step or children's loo seat

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

15. Stair gates to be provided (where necessary)
16. A baby bath



Film Crew
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland is increasingly used as a location for international and local TV and film productions offering unspoilt beauty, unique landscapes, urban scenes and rural settings. Northern Ireland is now a place where fans can visit, immerse themselves in their programme of choice, sample our local culture and enjoy new and exciting experiences.

Film Crew Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. Willingness to negotiate rates
2. Flexible arrival times, with 24 hour access to the premises, once checked in
3. Arrangements should be available for company billing
4. Respect confidentiality of the nature of the filming business, locations, guest residents etc.
5. Ample parking for film crew vehicles with adequate consideration given to security of vehicles and crew equipment
6. Laundry service available
7. Secure ground floor storage area
8. Free Wi-Fi available throughout the premises
9. Desk areas in rooms or dedicated work centre (if possible)
10. Taxi service nearby
11. Knowledge of local information such as half day closing, public holidays, road closures, petrol station opening hours, car repair, nearest hospital/doctor etc.
12. Provision of tourist information on places of interest, restaurants, special events, car and van hire
13. Longer lets available

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

14. Flexibility in meal times is essential, arranged to suit crew requirements, such as early breakfasts before filming, later dinners or snacks
15. Extended bar/lounge service hours to suit crew requirements, within the law.
16. Servicing of rooms available throughout the day and evening arranged to suit the crew's work patterns
17. Private lounge or meeting room available

Location will always be the main factor for film crews selecting accommodation.



Golfers
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland's golf history extends well over a century, when Royal Belfast became the first golf club on this island in 1881. The passion quickly caught on and continues today with the historic courses nurturing more than a few legends.

For visitors seeking championship challenges, scenic settings, a slice of history or idyllic tranquillity, Northern Ireland has it all.

Golfers Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. A separate space should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
2. Information on location and opening times of nearest local late-opening eating establishments (and directions), if meals are not provided
3. Information should be provided on local courses (clubhouse facilities, course maps, contact numbers, usual visitor tee times, dress code, directions, green fees or their acceptance of Golf Passes or saver voucher schemes)
4. Details of local sports/golf shops, club hire, caddies, coaching, availability of practice areas, driving ranges
5. General information on the local area with suggestions for the non-golfer
6. You should have information available on local public transport services e.g. bus and golfers taxi services
7. You should provide a secure storage area for guests' golf clubs/equipment

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

8. Flexible evening meal times (if provided)
9. An early breakfast option from 7am
10. The daily weather forecast should be available
11. Booking of tee times if required

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

12. The daily weather forecast should be available (seven day forecast or more often if practical)
13. Clothes washing facilities or location of nearest laundrette facility



Groups
Welcome



TOURISM
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Northern Ireland is very popular with family trips and youth groups, for weekend gatherings in the country, city breaks and sporting breaks, all looking for a different style of accommodation.

Bus tours may prefer the convenience of hotels with full catering and possibly entertainment, while smaller groups may enjoy the homely atmosphere of a guest house. Self catering is ideal for family groups, either in a large single house or in a group of chalets or apartments, as long as they can eat and cater as a group.

Groups Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. Drying area and equipment storage suitable for size of group i.e. golf clubs, larger luggage
2. Information on the location and opening times of the nearest shops, group friendly eating establishments, local group activities, visitor attractions (and directions). Pre-booking offered in advance
3. Advance payment/group invoicing facilities available if required

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

8. Ample parking for coach/minibus
5. Express check-in for groups and additional keys as needed
6. Dining options for large or small groups, varying table size and room set-up
7. Accommodation can be for sole use of groups or contained within normal operations
8. Member of staff identified as group liaison or primary contact within business
9. All-inclusive or flexible menus available on request, if meals available
10. Flexible eating times for groups depending on style of accommodation

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

11. Ample parking for coach/minibus, on-site or close to the property
12. Suitable bulk catering equipment i.e. pots, pans, utensils and cooker space - oven and hob
13. Sufficient crockery, cutlery and glassware to ensure the whole group can eat several courses without washing up
14. Dining table and chairs to allow the whole group to eat together



Mountain Bikers
Welcome



Over £2 million pounds has been invested to create a network of over 100km of purpose built mountain bike trails in Northern Ireland - creating a world class mountain biking destination. Over 100,000 people are expected to visit Northern Ireland's official mountain bike trails every year. Such is the nature of mountain biking, these trail centres are generally located 'off the beaten track' and so can be a real tourism catalyst for rural economies.

Contrary to popular belief, typical mountain bikers are not adrenaline fuelled teenagers but generally professionals between 25 and 45 years old. They are a sociable bunch and true year-round adventure seekers at heart. However post adventure they need to be looked after. They have a keen appreciation of value for money however prioritise convenience, comfort and security of their bikes above all else.

Mountain Bikers Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. A separate space should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
2. You should have a supply of MountainBikeNI Official Trail Cards for your local trail centre
3. You should have information on local public transport services which accommodate bicycles e.g. bus and train
4. Contact details of nearest cycle shop should be made available
5. The daily weather forecast and any trail diversion for your local trail centre should be available
6. You should provide a lockable shed for bike storage
7. You should provide a small selection of bike tools/puncture repair kit and pump
8. Information on local activities, entertainment and dining in the area
9. Leave No Trace code of ethics should be available for visitor reference. See www.leavenotraceireland.org
10. You should provide information on nearest mountain bike hire provider and/or information on those offering tuition and guiding on the trails
11. Premises must be located in close proximity to Mountain Bike Trails
12. Details should be displayed for emergency and local rescue services available

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

13. You should be able to offer a packed lunch and filled flask if required
14. Flexible evening meal times (if provided)
15. Early breakfast option from 7am

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

13. Telephone numbers for local weather links (directions to nearest phone box if phone is not provided) and radio frequency and times for local weather forecast
14. Clothes washing facilities or location of nearest laundrette facility



Walkers
Welcome



TOURISM
NORTHERN
IRELAND

With a vast array of forest parks, coastal paths, mountains, beaches and much more Northern Ireland is home to many beautiful regions for walking, all with their own unique appeal.

From the secluded coastal tracks, lush glens and quaint fishing villages of the North Coast and Antrim, to the impressive granite tor capped summits and dramatic views found in the Mourne Mountains there is something for both the serious Rambler and for those who want to take a short stroll.

Walkers Welcome Scheme

Core Criteria

1. A separate space should be available with an appropriate environment for drying outdoor clothing and footwear, so clothes can dry overnight (options include using a dehumidifier in a sealed area)
2. You should have Ordnance Survey maps and a supply of local walking routes available for visitor reference e.g. walkni.com
3. You should have information on local public transport services e.g. bus and train and the Translink Rambler Bus Service
4. Contact details available for local walk guides
5. The daily weather forecast should be available
6. Information on local activities, entertainment and dining in the area
7. Leave No Trace code of ethics should be available for visitor reference. See www.leaveonotraceireland.org
8. Details should be displayed for emergency and local rescue services available

Additional Criteria for Serviced Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

9. You should be able to offer a packed lunch and filled flask if required
10. A hot drink should be available upon arrival
11. Flexible evening meal times (if provided)
12. Early breakfast option from 7am

Additional Criteria for Self Catering/Hostel Accommodation

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

13. Telephone numbers for local weather links (directions to nearest phone box if phone is not provided) and radio frequency and times for local weather forecast
14. Clothes washing facilities or location of nearest laundrette facility

Contact details for further information

For more information/application forms for grading contact the Quality & Standards department:

Tel: 028 9044 1682

You can also email this department at qa@tourism.com or write to us at our offices at:

**Tourism Northern Ireland, Floors 10-12 Linum Chambers,
Bedford Square, Belfast BT2 7ES.**

To request a copy of this document please contact the Quality & Standards department.