

Visitors with an interest in biking have been considered by VisitScotland in the development of the Bikers Welcome scheme which recognises the special efforts made by businesses to provide for motorcyclists, and to help them choose suitable accommodation.



BIKERS WELCOME SCHEME

Touring Scotland by motorbike is an increasingly popular activity. Many bikers enjoy the freedom of touring Scotland on a motorbike enjoying access to Scotland's dramatic scenery. Many clubs organise tours and rallies and seek out suitable accommodation en-route.

Many bikers only use their cherished machines for holidays escaping the rat-race of daily life when they use other forms of transport. The image of a biker has changed in recent years and many motorbikes are now seen as revolutionary in concept and design with many prestige and individual models for sale.

These motorbikes can be the "pride and joy" of the owner and they need safe secure parking and facilities for maintaining their machines in top condition both mechanically and visually. According to the Motorcycle Industry Association, motorcycle-related tourism expenditure in the UK is £569 million supporting 13,250 jobs.

There are some additional facilities and services required to meet the needs of the bikers combined with a flexible approach and a welcoming attitude. Those wishing to apply for the Bikers Welcome Scheme should display a positive attitude towards bikers and a genuine desire to meet and anticipate their particular needs.

To become a member you must provide the following and your VisitScotland Quality and Tourism Advisor will verify what the required facilities exist when they visit or for non Quality Assured customers a representative from VisitScotland will arrange to come along and verify.

BIKERS WELCOME SCHEME CORE CRITERIA

1. A separate space should be available for drying outdoor clothing and footwear at an ambient temperature of approx. 30°C, so clothes can dry overnight. Dehumidifier can be used.
2. You should have a supply of recommended tours including viewpoints, visitor attractions etc available for reference. This can be suggested Apps for Smartphone and GPS.
3. Visor cleaning/boot cleaning facilities, this would mean keeping visor spray or supplying hot, soapy water, soft cloths, black boot polish and brushes etc.
4. Wash down facilities for motorbikes should be available for guests use.

5. Degrease hand wash should be available to guests on request.
6. Information on location/opening times of local garages specialising in motorbikes.
7. Consider motorbike books, magazines and motorbikers' logbook for guests to record day trips.
8. Information on location and opening times of local petrol stations.
9. Information on location and opening times of local motorbike shops.
10. You should provide safe parking for motorbikes. Hard standing preferable.
11. Daily weather forecast should be available.
12. Display Safe Biking information where readily available.
13. Free unrestricted WiFi available.
14. A range of chargers for commonly used mobile devices.

ADDITIONAL BIKERS WELCOME SCHEME CRITERIA FOR SERVICED ACCOMMODATION

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

15. Hot or cold drinks should be available on arrival.
16. Early breakfast option from 7am, or for very early leavers a tray the night before.
17. Able to offer a late evening meal (available until 8pm) if there are no other meal providers within one mile. A late night snack should be offered after 8pm.
18. Information on the location and opening times of the nearest shops and late opening eating establishments (and directions).
19. You should be able to offer a packed lunch or filled flask if required. Recyclable packing to be encouraged.

ADDITIONAL BIKERS WELCOME SCHEME CRITERIA FOR SELF CATERING/HOSTEL ACCOMMODATION

Must provide all core criteria, plus the following:

15. Flasks, lunch box and cups should be available. Recyclable packaging to be encouraged.
16. Information on the location and opening times of the nearest shops and late opening eating establishments (and directions).
17. Clothes washing facilities or location of the nearest launderette facility.