

Groups Welcome Scheme - Serviced/Self Catering and Hostel Accommodation

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GROUPS WELCOME SCHEME

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When travelling as a group there are various extra facilities and services which make the organisation and management run more smoothly. Organised group checkins, preselected meals and accurate information prior to the arrival all go towards making a more enjoyable trip.

Scotland is very popular for family trips, youth groups, weekend gatherings in the country, city breaks and sporting breaks for fishing or skiing. All are 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. For sporting and active groups, the additional storage and drying facilities are very important and should be large enough for the whole group to use at once.

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.

GROUPS WELCOME CRITERIA FOR SERVICED ACCOMMODATION

1. Ample parking for coach/minibus.
2. Drying area and equipment storage suitable for size of group i.e. skis, golf clubs, larger luggage.
3. Express check-in for groups and additional keys as needed.
4. Dining options of large or small groups, varying table size and room set-up.
5. Accommodation can be for sole use of groups or contained within normal operations.
6. Member of staff identified as group liaison or primary contact within business.
7. All-inclusive or flexible menus available on request, if meals available.

8. Flexible eating times for groups depending on style of accommodation.
9. Information on the location and opening times of the nearest shops and late opening eating establishments suitable for group bookings (and directions). Prebooking offered in advance.
10. Advance payment/group invoicing facilities available if required.
11. Information on the location and opening times of local group activities, visitor attractions and group friendly eating establishments (and directions).

GROUPS WELCOME CRITERIA FOR SELF CATERING/ HOSTEL

1. A minimum bathroom:bed ratio of 1:6.
2. Drying area and equipment storage suitable for the size of the group i.e. skis, golf clubs, larger luggage.
3. Suitable bulk catering equipment i.e. pots, pans, utensils and cooker space - oven and hob.
4. Sufficient crockery, cutlery and glassware to ensure the whole group can eat several courses without washing up.
5. Dining table and chairs to allow the whole group to eat together.
6. Ample parking for coach/mini-bus, on-site or close to the property.
7. Information on the location and opening times of local group activities, visitor attractions and group friendly eating establishments (and directions).
8. Advance payment/group invoicing facilities available if required.