

The access checklist

The wheelchair edition. One page per place.

This is the sheet we use ourselves. Four questions, asked the same way every time, first down the phone and then again at the door. It is not a rating and it is not a promise. It is a specification you can plan against, and a script you can read to a venue that has never been asked these questions properly before.

Print one copy per place. Fill it in before you book, then correct it when you arrive. What you end up with is the thing nobody sells: a list you can trust, in your own handwriting.

HOW TO USE IT

- ☐ **Call, do not email.**
Reception will guess in writing and check in person. Ask for the duty manager if the phone is answered by a booking line.
- ☐ **Ask for millimetres, not adjectives.**
Wide, small step and mostly flat are not measurements. A door is 800 mm or it is not.
- ☐ **Ask somebody to go and look.**
The single most useful sentence: would you mind walking down and measuring it while I hold?
- ☐ **Write the date and the name.**
Who told you, and when. If it is wrong on arrival, you have something to point at.
- ☐ **Re-check on the day.**
Lifts break, cubicles fill with high chairs, and a ramp gets stored in a shed. Confirm on arrival.

OUR GRADING SCALE, FOR REFERENCE

- A1 Independent**
Step free from car park to view. Sealed or boardwalk surface, 900 mm minimum clear width, nothing sustained steeper than 1:20. A1 describes the physical route, not a guarantee for every wheelchair user.
- A2 Assistance advised**
Largely firm and flat with one named obstacle: a short 1:12 pull, a cambered section, a threshold of 15 to 25 mm.
- A3 Not accessible**
Steps, mud or sustained gradient. We do not recommend it for a standard manual chair or a conventional powerchair, and we always publish an alternative.

WHAT THIS SHEET DELIBERATELY DOES NOT ASK

We do not ask whether a place is accessible. It is the wrong question, and the answer is almost always yes. We ask for the four things that actually end a day: the door you can get through, the step nobody mentioned, the toilet that turns out to be upstairs, and the table you cannot pull under. Everything else can be worked around on the day.

Bring a folding rule or a tape. Nobody minds. In four years of asking, not one Irish hotel has told us to stop measuring, and several have since fixed what we found.

Hotel, restaurant, pub or attraction

Place name and town

Spoke to name and role, plus the date

Phone / email

1. BEST ENTRY POINT

- Which door do wheelchair users actually use?
 - How far is it from accessible parking or the set-down point, and what is the surface between?
 - Is that door kept unlocked, or does somebody have to be called?
 - Clear opening width of the door, measured with the door open (mm)
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2. STEPS AND GRADIENTS

- Number of steps at the entrance, and their height (mm)
 - Is there a permanent ramp, a portable ramp or neither? Gradient?
 - Threshold height at the door, measured (mm)
 - Any steps inside: to the restaurant, the bar, the terrace, the lift lobby?
 - Lift: internal dimensions and door width (mm). Does it reach every floor you need?
 - Floor surfaces: cobbles, gravel, deep pile carpet, polished stone when wet?
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3. ACCESSIBLE TOILET

- Is there one, and which floor is it on?
 - Door width and the route to reach it (mm, and any steps)
 - Transfer space: left or right of the pan, facing it?
 - Grab rails on both sides? Emergency cord reaching the floor?
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- Is it kept unlocked, and is it used for storage?

- Changing Places facility on site?

4. SEATING AND TURNING SPACE

- Table height and whether the base allows a chair to pull under (mm)
- Fixed banquettes or loose chairs that can be removed?
- Turning circle in the room with the furniture where it normally sits (mm)
- Which table have they noted for you, and is it away from the door draught?

NOTES, AND ANYTHING THEY VOLUNTEERED

For hotels only

An accessible room in Ireland can mean a wet room and a hoist, or it can mean a slightly wider door. Ask room by room. Ask for photographs. A hotel that will not send a photograph of the bathroom is telling you something.

- Bedroom door width, and the corridor width outside it (mm)

- Bed height to the top of the mattress, and clearance underneath for a hoist (mm)

- Clear space on which side of the bed?

- Roll-in shower or a bath? Shower seat fixed or loose?

- Toilet transfer side in the bathroom, facing the pan

- Grab rails, emergency cord, and where the cord hangs

- Hoist available on site, or a supplier they use?

- Accessible parking: how many spaces, and how far from that door?

- Assistance dog: any conditions, and is there a relief area?

- Evacuation plan for a wheelchair user, and where the refuge point is

ROOM NOTES, AND WHO CONFIRMED THEM

What you decided, and why

Grade you would give it A1, A2 or A3

The one obstacle the thing that would ruin the day if nobody had warned you

What you would tell a friend

Alternative if this does not work

Date checked, and how phoned, emailed, or stood in the room

SEND IT BACK TO US

If you fill this in for a place we have graded, or for a place we have not, we want it. Corrections are logged and published with the date, and we credit the person who sent them unless they ask us not to. Email hello@theirelandedit.com with the venue, the field, what you found and when you were there.

Conditions change. Lifts break, ramps get stored away and a cubicle becomes a cupboard. If any feature on this sheet is essential to your visit, confirm it directly before you travel.