

# Accessibility Guide for Tourism Services

## How to use...

A checklist evaluates how wheelchair accessible your accommodation is. Further you will find tips how to improve your facilities.

## What is Wheelchairtraveller?

Wheelchair Traveller (WCT) is a Non-For-Profit initiative which facilitates user-generated travel tips for wheelchair users and people with mobility issues. Further, the web-based platform intends to raise awareness in regards to the business opportunities concerning accessible travel.

## Quick Checklist

Please check, how accessible your facilities are at the moment:

	wheelchair accessible	not wheelchair accessible
Reception	No stairs, no steps, room to maneuver	Stairs, steps or narrow area
Path to the room	No stairs, no steps, gangway > 1 m	Stairs, high steps
Door to the room	Wide enough (> 1m), no step	high step, narrow door (< 70 cm)
Doors inside the room	Bathroom door wider than 70 cm	Bathroom door smaller than 70 cm
Bed in the room	Between 55-65 cm high, moveable	Lower than 55cm, not moveable
<b>Bathroom:</b> Space beneath the basin	yes	no
Space around the toilet	60-70 cm in front, 30 cm left or right	< 60 cm in front, no space left/right
No step into the shower	yes	no
Bathtub (if available)	Rim higher than 50 cm	Rim lower than 50 cm
Moveable shower head	yes	no
Drainage in the bathroom	yes	no
<b>Outside the room:</b> Breakfast and Dining area	On one side of a table there is at least 1m space, with removeable chairs	only little space around the table
Swimming Pool	wide, low steps or a ramp into the water	only ladders into the water

If some of the items on the red side describe your accommodation, you can definitely optimize your facilities. Below you will find some instruction, how to do it.

## Guidance on how to create accessible spaces:



*Keep enough space at one side of the bed.*

### Path to the room

The path leading to the room is at least one meter wide and has no stairs or a lift. If there are steps, they are not more than one and not higher than 20 cm. A wooden ramp might help to overcome them.

### Door to the room and to the bathroom

The door to and inside the room/apartment must have a width of at least 70 cm, as it will fit most manual wheelchairs.

### Bed in the room

The bed should have a 1 m space to at least one side. Alternatively it should be moveable. Also it should have a minimum height of 55-65 cm.

### Bathroom

#### Space beneath the washing basin

So that the wheelchair user can use the washing basin, there needs to be a space underneath for the wheelchair to roll under.

#### Space around the toilet

For an easy transfer from the wheelchair onto the toilet the space in front to one side of the toilet should be free. Removable bars would also be an advantage for further stability.



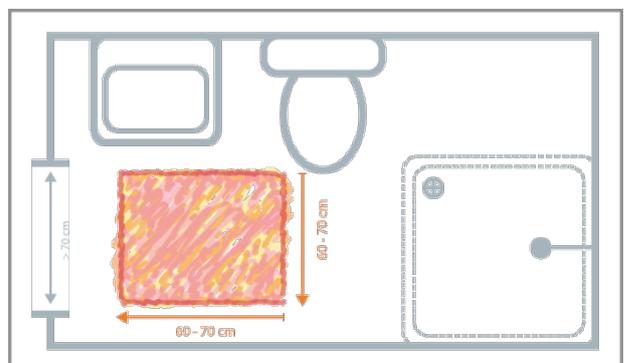
*In this bathroom a wheelchair user can roll under the basin.*

#### Roll-in shower

An accessible shower should have no steps or only a very low one. Further a moveable shower head for easy handling is great. Also you can offer a plastic chair, if needed and some bars for stability are also great.

#### Bathtub

If you can not provide an accessible shower, please ensure that your bathtub is high enough so that an easy transfer is possible



*For transfer to the toilet it's important that you can position the wheelchair next to it.*

(at least higher than 50cm). Also use instead of glass doors shower curtains or make sure that your glass partition can be moved to allow easy transfer into the bathtub.

### **Drainage/sink in the bathroom**

If you can't provide a roll-in shower or bathtub, a drainage in the bathroom might provide the opportunity to still shower outside the bathtub. A chair or even the toilet, combined with a bucket of water could be used.



### **Outside the room**

#### **Breakfast and Dining area**

Be sure that the breakfast and dining area are reachable without stairs, by lift or a ramp. At least one table should have at least one meter space to one side and supply removable chairs. The height of the table should be between 70-80cm. The wheelchair should be able to fit under the table, so there should be no table stance or cross wood work in the way.

#### **Swimming Pool**

Only a few wheelchair users will be fit enough to lift themselves out of the water or to climb a ladder. The high tech option would be a hydraulic lift. However, if that is not possible, broad stairs which is supported by a railing would do. The steps should be wide enough that a wheelchair can fit and not too narrow so that the wheelchair can be lifted into the pool step by step (20 cm high, > 25 cm long, > 1 m wide). If possible not on a corner as it is difficult to lift the wheelchair into it. The pool should provide an area, where you can stand upright (100 - 120 cm). This area should be marked at the edge.



*The most convenient way: a flat ramp at one side of the swimming pool*

## **Classification at [wheelchairtraveller.org](http://wheelchairtraveller.org)**

Wheelchairtraveller's focus is on tourism services in developing and emerging economies and is well aware of their financial and infrastructural limitations. Therefore we like to demonstrate that just with small efforts and little money a wheelchairaccessible room can be created. And don't forget, they will not only recommend you to wheelchairtravellers but al-

so to their friends and family members. Also, a room with additional space and easy access will not only be appreciated by wheelchair users. Elderly people, families or people with mobility difficulties might also honor the additional space.

The financial constraint is also the reason why we do not suggest a certified labelling scheme, but rather indicate with our classifications a very rough first idea of tourism services that are accessible for wheelchair users. Therefore please judge carefully and be honest. There is nothing more frustrating than a promised wheelchair accessible room, where the wheelchair does not fit. And you can be sure that the wheelchair traveller will complain, not only to friends and family but also on platforms like Tripadvisor.

## Wheelchairtraveller's Categories

### Completely wheelchair accessible:

In the check list all your answers are in the green area.

### Partially wheelchair accessible

Here we want to honor accommodation, whose owners tried their very best, even if there are some little barriers. So even if there is a high step to overcome or a low bathing tub. With the necessary helping hand, your accommodation can be wheelchair accessible!

### Not wheelchair accessible

If there is no chance for a wheelchair user to check into one of your rooms, please be so kind to let him know in advance.

## Contact for further information

One important part of our project is to help accommodations, restaurants and others points of interests to develop their facilities wheelchair accessible. So don't hesitate to contact us for questions, consultancy and further information. You don't will be charged for it, as our project is non-for-profit.

### Get in touch!

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and the entire

Wheelchair Traveller team



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