

Bike-Friendly Lodging System Comparison

Mary Shaw, August 2015

We've cycle toured in several areas that have networks of bike-friendly lodging. The benefit it brings to bicyclists is that we're sure we'll be welcome and we'll have safe storage, tools, and other support. The benefit to the proprietors is visibility to cycle tourists.

Canada: Bienvenue cyclistes !

http://www.routeverte.com/e/bienvenuecycliste_e

Bienvenue cyclistes !TM-certified accommodations include several B&Bs, hotels, hostels and campgrounds along the Route Verte and various local bikeways in Quebec. The web site helps you find accommodations along your route. Instructions on getting certified are at http://www.routeverte.com/e/certification_e

Supporting organizations: This is a project of Vélo Québec, which is in turn supported by the Ministry of Transport of Québec, the government of Québec, and regional partners. Promotional partners include tourism organizations. Vélo Québec is also the creator of Route Verte. They reach out to accommodations within 5 km of Route Verte.



Germany: Bett + Bike

<http://www.bettundbike.de/en>

Choose from over 5.500 hotels, bed&breakfasts, youth hostels, Friends of Nature houses, and camping sites that have a particular focus on cycling guests. Only those accommodations that fulfil the ADFC criteria for quality are permitted to display the Bett+Bike emblem. Covers Germany, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Croatia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland. web site allows you to search by city or by trail. An additional (higher-level) certification Bett+Bike Sport is under development.

Supporting organization: Allgemeiner Deutscher Fahrrad-Club e. V. (ADFC). The ADFC is a member of the [European Cyclists' Federation ECF](#)



France: Freewheeling France, Accueil Vélo

<http://www.freewheelingfrance.com/>

The 'Accueil Vélo' mark is the endorsement French tourist offices give to businesses that welcome cyclists. The label is of most use for cyclists when researching accommodation, but it's also used by tourist attractions, bike shops and hire outlets, tourist offices, restaurants, and other businesses to signal that they welcome cyclists; they must be within 5km of an official bike routes and offer a “warm welcome”. Separate guidelines apply to each category of business. There’s also a page of advice on being bicycle-friendly even if you don’t meet all the criteria at <http://www.freewheelingfrance.com/blog/how-to-make-your-accommodation-business-cycle-friendly.html>



Supporting organization: None ... “Hi! I'm Lyn, and I run Freewheeling France. It's an independent site covering anything and everything to do with cycling in France. It started as a spare-time labour of love; a blog idea that got a little out of hand and took on a life of its own.”

Belgium (Flanders): Bed and Bike

<http://www.visitflanders.com/en/themes/cycling/bed-and-bike/>

300 hotels, campsites, youth hostels and ‘Tourism for All’ centres in Flanders open their doors to the cyclist. The Tourist Office for Flanders has rewarded them with the bicyclefriendly accommodation label. Located within 5km of an official cycle route. This is a subset of the Visit Flanders tourism operation, one of many special interest sections.



Supporting organization: Visit Flanders, appears to be a tourism organization

Netherlands: Fietsers Welkom!

<http://en.nederlandfietsland.nl/en/practical/cycle-friendly-places>

In the Netherlands, places that carry the *Fietsers Welkom!* (Cyclists Welcome!) quality label, go the extra mile to cater to cyclists’ needs. You will enjoy a warm welcome, even when you have a punctured tyre or arrive all sweaty. There are over 1,000 cycle-friendly places to eat, drink and stay in the Netherlands. Lodging is not clearly separated from other businesses



Supporting organization: Nederland Fietsland, an initiative of Landelijk Fietsplatform, the official dutch organization for recreational cycling.

United Kingdom

<http://www.bedsforcyclists.co.uk/>

Identifies “cycle friendly places to stay along iconic routes”. The site is hard to navigate, and I can’t find the criteria for inclusion.

Supporting organization: Appears to be a personal project of the site’s founder, per news article at <http://road.cc/content/news/112826-beds-cyclists-launch-bike-friendly-hotel-map-browser>

United States, New York

http://www.esbba.com/inns_bikefriendly.php

The Bicyclist Welcome! recognition program evaluates B&Bs according to criteria important to bicyclists, such as: a covered and locked location to store bicycles at night; a pump and tools for making minor repairs; information about local bicycle services; no-smoking rooms; and a breakfast that takes into account bicyclists' nutritional needs, including fruits, vegetables, and high-carb foods. Looks like a section of the B&B association’s web site

Supporting organizations: Empire State Bed and Breakfast Association in partnership with Parks & Trails NY created The Bicyclists Welcome! Program.



United States: Bed, Breakfast, and Biking

<http://www.bbbiking.com/>

I can’t find criteria for inclusion. Coverage appears to be US and Canada, favoring bike trails. Looking at GAP/C&O listings, they seem to include everything within miles (Leisenring, Irwin)

Supporting organizations: Totally unclear. Best I could find was the copyright notice 2002-2010 PMD Enterprises, Inc. 218 South 100 West * Cedar City, UT 84720 plus “Brought to you by Cedar City Sidewalk”. Copyright notice hasn’t been updated since 2010. they sell listings (2010 prices).

United State: Bikeabout

<http://www.bikabout.com/>

Just now launching, offers a lodging directory, I can’t find criteria for inclusion, each hotel entry lists what it thinks is important. Sponsorship also unclear.

Comparison of B&Bs, Hotels, etc. All features are required

Feature	Bienvenue cyclistes	Bett + Bike	Accueil Vélo	Flanders Bed & Bike	Fietsers Welkom!	Welcome Bicyclists NY
Bike storage	Covered, locked bike storage at night	Bicycles are securely stored	Safe, secure bike storage	Secured bike shed	Safe bike parking	Covered, locked storage
Bike cleaning			Hose, buckets, etc			
Tools	Pump and tools for minor repairs	Tools available for simple repairs; nearby shop can help with major repairs	Basic repair kit and tools	Bicycle repair kit	Pump, tire repair, first-aid kit	Pump and tools for minor repairs
Food	If restaurant service, cyclist nutrition supported, generous portions of fruits, vegs, carbs	In the morning a hearty breakfast will be waiting	Breakfasts geared for cyclists		Fill up water bottle	Breakfast with cyclist nutrition, generous portions of fruits, vegs, carbs
Information	Information about local bike shops, tourist offices	Information about regional bike trails and bus/train schedules	Advice on local bike routes. Weather information	Cycle maps	Cycle maps	Information about local bike services
One night?		OK to stay only one night			One night ok	
Drying room, laundry		It is possible to dry wet clothing and gear	Laundry facilities & clothes drying area		Muddy bikers welcome	
Luggage transfer		<see additional services>	Provide or arrange luggage transfer			
Bike rental	Information about bike rental	<see additional services >	Bike rental on site or via local partner	Bicycle hire		
Additional services		At least two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public transport info - Shuttle service - Bikes for rent - Bike day trips - Luggage transfer along route - Overnight reservation - Replacement parts - Information re next lodging on route - Packed lunch - Guestbook for cyclists 			Charge electric bikes	No smoking rooms

Comparison of campsites. All features are required

The certification is awarded to businesses/organizations, so evidently water, shower, rest rooms are simply assumed.

Feature	Bienvenue cyclistes	Bett + Bike	Others (camping not listed separately)
Availability	Camping space without reservation if traveling only by bike	Separate tent site not accessible by car for bicyclists. No additional fees for bicycles	
Campsite		Flat grass lawn to pitch tent; not gravel, pebbles, or compacted soil	
Bike Storage		Bike racks at tent site or within sight	
Food	Sheltered location to eat in bad weather		
Drying area		It is possible to dry wet clothing and gear	
Tools	Pump and tools for minor repairs	Tools are available for simple repairs; nearby shop can help with major repairs	
Information	Information about local bike shops, bike rental, tourist offices	Information about regional bike trails and bus/train schedules is available	
Additional services		At least two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roofed storage or secured room - Table and seats at tent site - Place for guests to cook; supplies for sale - Routes to tent area are well lit - Information about other bike-friendly camping in the region - Rental tents/campers/etc - Bikes for rent 	