



HAUS HIMMELFAHRT

36 measures for accessibility

Truly accessible hotels and accommodation are the absolute exception. Not everywhere that says accessibility on the outside actually provides accessibility inside. And this is despite the fact that accessibility is not (only) about wheelchair users, but about all of us!

The elderly gentleman with a cane, the lady with a walker, the young woman with a pram, the athlete with a temporary ice hockey injury - all people with motor difficulties have a hard time finding a suitable holiday environment. On this point, our societies are lazy. We seem ready to blame disability on the people concerned instead of overcoming these limitations as a society through accessibility. And this despite the fact that:

- a staircase or threshold only disables a mobility-impaired person if there is no lift or ramp and thus the disability is caused by social passivity and not by a walking disability;
- the European Union and all its 27 Member States ratified the relevant UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities many years ago;
- one in five people in our society has a disability, and this number is increasing as we grow older as a society. Anyone and everyone over 65 is happy to have a lift, brackets in the bathroom and the absence of trip hazards etc.

Against this background, it is important to us that accessibility is a central pillar for the concept of the Ascension House. This can be seen in the following measures, among others:

Overall structure

1. wheelchair accessible entrance and 6 wheelchair accessible car parking spaces;
2. new lift with controls in Braille, which guarantees accessibility to all floors; the staircase (as an alternative to the lift) is designed to be as barrier-free as possible (staircase design, trip protection, handrail etc.);
3. the balconies are kept extra generous with a width of over 2 metres (78,7 in) to allow maximum freedom of manoeuvre;
4. the interior doors of the flats are sliding doors to avoid any thresholds. Even the exterior doors use modern, hydraulic zero threshold technology;
5. the entrance doors to the flats have extended windows to allow a view into the garden from a wheelchair;

6. the seminar room/fireplace hall is at ground level, has extra wide doors and provides a large barrier-free meeting zone;
7. the large garden is designed at ground level, has paved (but concrete-free) and thus suitable paths for wheelchairs and walkers with a width of at least 140 cm (55 in);
8. there is access from the seminar room/fireplace hall to a general bathroom, which offers an additional, barrier-free bathroom with a sit-down bath, which allows relaxation especially for mobility-impaired or elderly people;
9. all sockets, switches and other operating elements have been designed and placed in accordance with the relevant accessibility standards;
10. flat designations are also in Braille to facilitate orientation for people with visual impairments;

Bathrooms

11. the bathrooms meet all accessibility requirements despite their small size (150 cm/59 in manoeuvring zone and particularly deep and high toilet bowl);
12. grab rails to the left and right of the WC provide the necessary safety;
13. the WCs have hydraulic flush release technology so that there is no need to turn around to flush the toilet;
14. showers in bathrooms are zero threshold (no shower tray) and do not have fixed shower walls to allow maximum turning and moving space;
15. folding shower seats in all showers;
16. quality vertical and horizontal grab rails in the showers for maximum safety and convenience;
17. all bathroom controls in mobility-oriented design (single-arm mixers instead of rotary controls, etc.);
18. the washbasins are not only completely accessible from underneath, but also have two handholds integrated into the ceramics for pulling them up. The siphon and other water technology below the washbasin are moved as far up as possible to allow maximum space;
19. alarm cords allow you to call for help if you need it; a clearly audible and visible alarm sign can be found in the kitchen;
20. the mirror in the bathroom starts directly above the washbasin and is kept as large as possible to allow wheelchair users and children as well as smaller persons to use as much mirror surface as possible without effort;

Kitchens

21. The kitchens are accessible from underneath to enable wheelchair users to operate the hobs, work surfaces and wash-up facilities;
22. kitchens do not have overhead units and place all appliances at wheelchair accessible heights;
23. sockets are integrated into the front of the kitchen furniture to guarantee easy accessibility;
24. no tables with blocking bottom braces and no fixed furniture to allow maximum flexibility, especially around tables;

Bedrooms and beds

25. In all bedrooms, the double bed has adjustable slatted frames and is designed at a barrier-free height (50 cm/19,7 in). The bed has integrated holding and support options according to Gabana technology;
26. the night switches on the double bed are conveniently accessible and plugs are mounted directly on the bed for easy operation;
27. in addition to the double bed in the bedroom, each flat also has another bed in the kitchen-living room so that personal carers or caregivers can live in the flat;
28. in the "Friedrich" and "Georg-Otto" flats, the couch in the kitchen-living room conceals a fully equipped nursing bed including multidimensional lifting technology (trapeze, bed table, wheelchair, etc. can be provided if required).
29. The windows facing the garden in the bedroom and in the kitchen are set at a wheelchair-oriented height - insofar as this was compatible with the requirements of the preservation order - in order to allow a view into the garden from a wheelchair;

Wellness zone

30. The wellness zone can be reached barrier-free via the lift;
31. recreational bed and waterbed in the wellness zone are kept high (50 cm/19,7 in) to make it easier for everyone to use;
32. the sauna is barrier-free - a wide glass door and a sliding bench in the lower row of seats allow wheelchair access;
33. the bathroom in the wellness zone is just as barrier-free as the other bathrooms in Haus Himmelfahrt;
34. instead of fitness equipment that can only be used by fully mobile people, Haus Himmelfahrt has opted for a WaterGrinder. The device originates from sailing and provides an efficient upper body workout. Grinders are known to be popular with wheelchair users.

Partnerships

35. We select our partners according to the criterion of inclusion, among other things. For example, we source our mattresses and blankets from a social project run by people with long-term conditions. Our kitchenware was made by people with disabilities. Similarly, some furnishings come from local inclusion projects;

External communication

36. I was not impressed by the warning of tourism professionals that promoting accessibility in the tourism industry "discourages". Quite the contrary. It has encouraged me not to hide accessibility as our inner conviction, but to proactively communicate it to the outside world. The hiking guide "Barrier-free nature experiences for all" is available in the flat. Likewise, another important South Tyrol guide: "Cultural Experience for All". It presents over 80 selected and tested barrier-free cultural institutions in the province. Information on accessibility in South Tyrol can be found at: www.suedtirolfueralle.it

Incidentally, we believe, somewhat immodestly, that Haus Himmelfahrt shows that accessibility does not mean having to compromise on aesthetics. There are no barriers on the way to accessibility, except those in the mind, and here, too, we can perhaps make a small contribution with Haus Himmelfahrt.

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