



Members' guidance on taking up reciprocity

We have a number of reciprocal agreements with like-minded private member clubs that allow us to both visit and stay. Most clubs fiercely guard their standards and values and will welcome you provided you blend in with their 'look and feel'. It is up to each visiting Member to make sure that they fit in and accept the host's values for what they are.

Please remember you are representing Leander and, should you fail to abide by their code of conduct, the club will not hesitate to inform Leander. Reciprocity is a privilege, and the clubs you visit are entitled to withdraw it from individuals and, in extremis, from Leander without the right of challenge. Leander is, by most standards, a very relaxed club so some common themes are worth noting before you apply for reciprocity:

- A club is emphatically **not** a hotel and should not be treated as one. You should take care to understand, and to fit in with, both the rules and the ethos of the club you are visiting.
- You normally require a 'letter of good standing', supplied by our office, before each visit. These letters introduce you as an individual; they are not transferable and they apply only to that specific visit.
- Reciprocity agreements typically allow for up to six, spaced and pre-booked, visits in any one twelve-month period, subject to availability. These visits do not entitle you to assume all the privileges of club membership. You are a guest and might not, for example, be allowed to use 'member only' rooms or attend member events. If in doubt, be sure to seek guidance.
- Reciprocity may or may not include an ability to host your own guests. If allowed, remember that whilst Leander positively encourages Members to bring in guests, at most clubs there is still a formal process for signing-in guests, and they have to be escorted at all times. It will be your responsibility to ensure your guests abide by the rules of the host club.
- Security, especially in large cities, is likely to be tight. You will be expected to carry your Leander membership card, and it is advisable to have some form of photo ID. Military clubs may have additional layers of security.
- There will usually be a strict dress code which may, or may not, be more relaxed at weekends. If in doubt, seek guidance.
- Be alert to the fact that the relationship between members and club staff may be very different to that at Leander, where you will often find our athletes – Members themselves – working behind the bar. You will not go wrong by being polite and reasonable at all times.
- Feedback (good or bad) should be directed to our General Manager rather than the visited club.

Most members who take up reciprocity thoroughly enjoy the experience. We hope you do too.

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