

The Fab 50 – the best places to stay in Ireland for 2023

From hip hotels to hidden cottages and woodland stays, the year's essential accommodation hotlist has landed...

4. Mount Congreve Gate Lodge, Co Waterford



The master bedroom in Mount Congreve's Gate Lodge

Why: Would you like the keys to [Mount Congreve's gardens](#)? Rent this refurbished 18th-century gate lodge, and you get exclusive access to the 70 acres and its walking trails after they close to the public at 8pm. The restoration is part of a €7m upgrade of the famous estate, and the first of three stays that will open to guests this year. "It just has a really good energy," commercial director Sara Dolan says of the place. "You can see people take a breath and look around, and their shoulders seem to drop." The first lodge to come online is a small two-bed bolthole sitting just inside the main gate. Guests will find heritage touches like French demi corbeille doubles in the small bedrooms, a walnut supper table and exposed original stone in the living area, plus antiques including a grandfather clock from the Waterford Treasures museum — softened with elements like Foxford throws, lots of greenery and an honesty bar. You can cook in the galley kitchen, fire up a barbecue, eat at the new Stables Café, or bring food back to the lodge. Or just crash in the hammock and leave the meal prep to someone else. — *PÓC*

Sustainability: There's a bioethanol stove, organic bedlinen, and local workers often have links to the estate — head contractor Hugh Maher's father, for example, was Mount Congreve's painter from 1988 to 2012.

Insider tip: Make use of the bikes provided. The back gate opens directly onto the Waterford Greenway, a 20-minute cycle from the city. The lodge is available to adults and children aged 12 and over.

Details: From €195-€270 per night (two-night minimum);
mountcongreve.com