

Culture Beyond Covid: May Heritage Panel 2022 Findings at a glance

People are increasingly returning to indoor heritage sites, with the same or higher frequency as before Covid from 40% in our November 2021 report to 57%



People attending a museum has increased to 64%, as opposed to 32% in Panel 1

People visiting
historic houses
increased from 47%
in Panel 1 to 56%

Those who have not returned to indoor heritage sites are now at 8%

There has been a reduction in people feeling completely safe visiting indoor heritage as legally enforceable restrictions are removed, from 58% in Panel 1 to 29%



More people than previously identified are feeling unsafe at built heritage (8% to 14%)



74% are visiting a garden at built heritage sites, which is higher than those attending indoor heritage



84% of people are visiting natural heritage with the same or higher frequency as before Covid (with 30% attending more often)



Showing you have both an outdoor and indoor offer will increase your appeal as an indoor heritage site

There has been an increased awareness of the heritage offer in NI with 65% looking to spend time in NI and 77% looking to find new places to visit in their local area

Half of respondents will keep visiting heritage places they discovered during Covid restrictions

45% will continue to prefer outdoor activities as Covid continues

What are people's summer plans?



80% plan to have local days out close to home

71% have days out further afield in NI

Equal numbers (52%) will holiday in NI and elsewhere

How can you provide a good heritage experience for your visitors this summer? Our Heritage Panel offered some suggestions...

"Space to move around, less formal tours, more flexible selfguided tours" "Plenty of activity on site. Country fairs at gardens and musical events" "Well signposted walks, sufficient information on what to see or what to expect to see"

And there were some more suggestions...



"Good access for those who have poor mobility not just wheelchair users"

"More activities for families and young people aged 12-16"

"Good facilities, toilets, cafe etc. Well maintained Children's activities, good play parks"

Our tips

- For outdoor heritage sites, people are also looking for information, interpretation and a story. There is also the same desire for a fuller experience with catering and practical information, for example toilets and level access.
- Managing capacity to allow social distancing and offering specific slots for people who would prefer to visit with restrictions in place will increase accessibility for this segment.
- People are looking to revisit the places they would go to before Covid – they need to know practical information about anything that has changed; they also want positive information about what's new to encourage them to re-visit.
- There is also a desire to visit new places with events, activities and a full day experience being key factors that people are looking for.

