



YHA Minehead – Access Statement

Introduction

Take to two wheels, relax on a beach or try a spot of badger watching at YHA Minehead – a country retreat in an attractive house high in Somerset's Exmoor hills, perfect for a weekend break or family get-together. For activity breaks, the nearby tracks are great for mountain biking and cycling holidays, while walkers can enjoy the Southwest Coast Path. Don't miss the medieval village of Dunster – a lovely short walk away.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this two-storey building, set just inside the boundary of Exmoor National Park. Unfortunately, none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meet modern standards of accessibility.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance, please phone 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk. You can also view photos of the hostel at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-minehead.

This access statement was last updated in February 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Taunton, 23.3 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is a mile away. A bus service from Taunton runs here.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The centre of the village (Alcombe) is one mile from the hostel. There is no pavement and limited street lighting along some of this route. The approach to the hostel is up a rough bridleway for 0.5 miles.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-minehead/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have onsite parking for up to 10 cars. This is located approximately 50m before the main building alongside the drive on right-hand side. The car park has a slight slope and is unpaved with stone, grass and chippings. There are no marked bays, but there is a drop-off point 10, from the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to help with moving to and from cars.

A sloped pathway with an even surface leads from the car park to the main entrance. There are no steps on the pathway up to the hostel.

Main entrance and reception

There are 2 sets of 4 steps up into the covered porch. There are then two steps up through a manual single-leaf door, which opens inwards into the reception lobby. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards.

There is a portable induction loop available on request at reception. The payphone is also located near to this area, as is the emergency phone to connect to a member of staff (on site) at night. A long bench provides seating in the reception hallway.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. All public areas, halls, stairs and landings are well lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights. The corridor flooring on the first floor is wooden.

There is no lift at this hostel so access to the first floor is by stairs only. The staircase to the first floor has a flight of 14 carpeted steps. Handrails are fitted on one side (right-hand side when going upstairs).

Public WCs

There is one gender-neutral WC downstairs close to reception. It has non-slip lino flooring and is well-lit though does not meet modern standards of accessibility.

A shower is available next to the downstairs WC.

Lounge

Our cosy lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single-leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards. There is a rug (not fixed) in the centre of the room.

The room is furnished with sofas, armchairs and coffee tables. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Dining room

The dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single-leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards. The room is well-lit.

There are long tables and long bench seating without arm or backrests. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Table service is available (please ask at reception). We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or any particular likes or dislikes – please advise us of these before your arrival.

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via two single-leaf doors. The floor is level and surfaced with vinyl.

The kitchen is well-lit and equipped with 2 catering-sized electric ovens (each with 4 hobs on top), microwave, 2 cordless kettles, 2 fridges, freezer and washing machine. There is a range of kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units – we are happy to move these to lower storage if required.

Laundry and drying facilities

From the main entrance, there are 7 steps down to the drying room. There is a single-leaf door to enter. The floor is level and the room is evenly lit. Staff are happy to assist if required.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Each room is carpeted and well-lit with ceiling lights plus a washbasin. All bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have fluorescent lighting and non-slip flooring. Standard showers have a step up to enter.

First floor

- Three rooms that sleep up to 3 people each. They include a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.
- Three rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and a set of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four communal showers (one is over a bath).
- Three communal WCs.

Grounds and garden

We have approximately 2 acres of gardens which slope heavily away from the main building. They are mainly laid to lawn, with hedging. Two three-seater benches with armrests are available in the garden along with four picnic tables.

Cycle store

The cycle shed is 15m from main entrance, connected by a gravel path.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Minehead, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Staff are not always on site but can be contacted in an emergency (including overnight) via the payphone outside reception.

- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. Our teams won't fetch you in the event of an emergency so, if the alarms go off, please get yourself out of the building through the nearest exit (don't wait for a member of staff). Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is intermittent within the hostel.
- Wi-Fi is available within the hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Minehead, Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW
- Telephone: 0345 3719033
- Email: minehead@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 181
- Local buses: First Bus 0117 244 4040, Webbers Bus 01278 452086
- Local taxi: Ad's Cabs 01643 804587, Alcombe Taxis 01643 475000, Gary's Taxis 01643 707766

We welcome your feedback to help us to continue making improvements. Please contact us directly if you have any queries or if you would like to make any comments.