



## YHA Black Sail – Access Statement

### **Introduction**

If you are looking to get away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life, then YHA Black Sail is the perfect place. Remote and accessibly only on foot or by bike, this hostel is a rural retreat that lovers of the great outdoors can normally only dream about. Located in a traffic-free valley that is being returned to a 'wild' state, enjoy as tranquil a stay in the Lakes as it gets.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this single-storey building, located in the stunning Ennerdale valley. All of our rooms are on the ground floor, though none are accessible to modern standards.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require assistance, please phone 01629 592700 or email [customerservices@yha.org.uk](mailto:customerservices@yha.org.uk). You can also view photos of the hostel at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-black-sail](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-black-sail).

This access statement was last updated in May 2024.

### **Pre-arrival**

- The nearest rail station is St Bees, 17.2 miles away.
- YHA Black Sail is only accessible by foot or bike. The nearest road is 2.5 miles away in the Buttermere valley, accessing the hostel via 'Scarth Gap pass'. Guests can leave their cars in the Bowness Knott car park and walk or cycle 6 miles up the Ennerdale valley to the hostel. Vehicles are not authorised beyond the gate at Bowness Knott.
- Footpaths can be steep in places but are generally suitable for walkers and cyclists of all levels.
- The nearest bus stops are at YHA Honister or Gatesgarth Buttermere. Both are 2.5 miles away by hill path and on the 77 bus service from Keswick.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-black-sail/directions](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-black-sail/directions).
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

### **Car parking and arrival**

There is no car parking on-site as the hostel can only be reached on foot or bike. The nearest parking is at Bowness Knott car park (6 miles away), Bleach Green car park (8 miles away) or in the Buttermere Valley at Gatesgarth Farm.

### **Main entrance and reception**

Access into the hostel is via a manual, single leaf door which opens inwards. There is a raised threshold followed by a welcome mat in the doorway.

Reception is located in the self-catering kitchen. There is a raised threshold to enter this room. Seating is provided in the lounge and dining room next door. The room is level with tiled flooring and is well-lit with ceiling lights.

## **Shared areas**

### **Rooms and corridors**

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. All public areas are well-lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights. Flooring is either polished wood or tile.

### **Lounge and dining room**

Our cosy combined lounge and dining room is just through the main entrance. The room is level throughout and the flooring is polished wood. The room is well-lit with wall and ceiling lights. We also have a log burner which helps to keep the chills away on cold nights.

There are tables and bench-style seating available. Furniture can be moved to some extent, but space is limited – please ask if you require assistance.

We have a table licence at YHA Black Sail and can also offer breakfast, evening meals and packed lunches. Table service is available in the dining room (please ask if needed). We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or particular likes or dislikes – please advise us of these before arrival.

### **Self-catering kitchen**

The self-catering kitchen is located next to the dining room. There is a shallow step down through a single leaf door. Lighting and flooring is as described above.

The kitchen is equipped with a standard domestic cooker with oven, 4 gas rings and grill, domestic fridge and a range of kitchen utensils. We have kettles, though these are not electric and must be heated on the stove. The sink is fitted with lever taps. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units – we are happy to move these to lower storage if required.

## **Bedrooms and bathrooms**

Access to the bedrooms is from outside, so please bring a torch. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Rooms have polished wood flooring and are well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All bedding is provided.

Access to showers and WCs is also external. Bathrooms have fluorescent lighting and non-slip flooring. Standard showers have a step up to enter.

### **Ground floor**

- Two rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 8 people. It includes 4 sets of bunk beds.
- One shower.
- Two WCs.

## **Grounds and garden**

Right on our doorstep is the stunning Ennerdale valley, with grassy hills rising up to meet the rocky mountain crags. We have a bench on the front paved area, from which you can take in the breathtaking scenery. Further seating can be found just in front of the hostel, in the form of some cunningly placed boulders!

## **Additional information**

- Card payments are not available at this hostel so please bring cash.
- Although the hostel has electricity, there are no sockets in bedrooms or common areas.
- Pets are not permitted at YHA Black Sail, except when hiring the whole hostel through YHA Exclusive Hire. Assistance dogs are welcome – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- A member of staff is always available on site, including at night.
- Braille signs are fitted on room and corridor doors.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or a similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel is poor, depending on the operator..
- Wi-Fi is not available at this hostel.

## **Contact information**

- Address: YHA Black Sail, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX
- Telephone: 0345 3719680
- Email: [black sail@yha.org.uk](mailto:black sail@yha.org.uk)
- Ordnance Survey map: 89

**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.**