



YHA Hawkshead – Access Statement

Introduction

If you're looking for a rural retreat in the Lake District, why not try YHA Hawkshead? This grade II listed Regency style building, in a glorious setting overlooking the tranquil Esthwaite Water, is an ideal base for cheap family breaks, school trips and activity breaks. For something a bit different you could book one of our camping pods which are available all year round.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 194-bed hostel. Our beds are split between the main house and the courtyard lodge, both of which are 2-storey buildings. We have ground floor rooms in the courtyard lodge. Unfortunately, none of our facilities meets modern accessibility standards.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any 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-hawkshead.

This access statement was last updated in January 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Windermere, 10 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is in Hawkshead village, approximately a mile away. There is a limited bus service which runs to this stop.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance.
- The roads approaching the hostel from Hawkshead village are level and surfaced with tarmac. There are no pavements and no street lighting. From the road there is a driveway to the hostel which is about 85m long and moderately inclined. The drive is unlit at night.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-hawkshead/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

There is ample parking onsite next to the main entrance. There are no marked bays but we would be happy to reserve a place close to the hostel entrance if required. Guests can also be dropped off right outside the main entrance.

The car park is level and surfaced with gravel. There is very limited lighting at night. The gravel leads right up to the hostel entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist you with moving to and from cars.

Main entrance and reception

There are two stone steps up to a manual single-leaf door which opens inwards. There is no level access into the hostel. There is a coded entry pad to enter the hostel at a height of approximately 1.3m.

The reception is on the ground floor and has level access from the entrance hall. This area is spacious and there is a wooden bench with armrests. The floor is level and surfaced with laminate and the room is evenly lit. The reception desk is at a 1m height. The reception also acts as our café bar – snacks and hot and cold drinks are served from here.

Public areas

Halls and corridors

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. Public areas, halls, stairs and landings are well-lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights. The flooring in the main house and courtyard lodge is short-pile carpet.

There is no lift so access to the first floors is by stairs only. In the main house the staircase is wide and sweeping and there is a second staircase which is straighter and narrow (both have a handrail to one side). To reach the first floor of the courtyard lodge there is an external wooden staircase with a wire mesh covering and a handrail on one side.

Due to the age of the main house, the first floor has some steps in the corridor and to access some rooms. It is not level throughout.

WCs

There is one public gender-neutral WC close to reception (clear door opening 92cm). This WC has grab rails, a low-level washbasin fitted with a single mixer lever tap and an emergency cord. It is well-lit and has non-slip flooring. Transfer onto the toilet is left-handed.

Lounge

The lounge in the main house is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single-leaf door. The floor is level and covered with carpet and the room is well-lit. This room is spacious and furnished with coffee tables and sofas. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Dining room

Our dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from the entrance hall via a single-leaf door. The room is level with laminate flooring. The room is brightly lit by bay windows in the day and by ceiling lights at night.

There are tables and straight-backed chairs without armrests. Furniture is well spaced but can all be moved – please ask at reception if you need assistance.

The serving area is in the next room, through a single-leaf door. 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 of the courtyard lodge. To reach the courtyard lodge there is steep tarmac slope (gradient of 1:8 for 18m) and then a loose gravel courtyard to cross. There is then one step up (5cm high) into the self-catering area through a single-leaf door. The lobby door leading to the self-catering kitchen is 74cm and the kitchen door has a clear opening width of 76cm.

This room is open plan. The flooring is level and surfaced with non-slip lino.

There is a dining room/lounge off the same lobby. This room has laminate flooring and the doorway is 73cm. The room is lit by ceiling lights and reading lamps. There are dining tables with benches and a range of chairs and sofas. All the furniture can be moved as required.

Drying facilities

The drying room is located in the basement of the main building. There is a flight of 13 stone steps from which there is level access. The steps have painted contrasting nosing and a handrail to one side. There is a curve towards the bottom so some steps become narrower at one side. The flooring in this area is stone flags.

Multi-use room

This is another lounge with a snack kitchen more dining space. There is 18cm step up into this area and the door is 68.5cm wide. The room has ceiling lights and non-slip lino flooring.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. All rooms include a wash basin. Our bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All bedding is provided.

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

Main house

First floor

- 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.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 8 people each. They include 4 sets of bunk beds.
- Six communal showers.
- Six communal WCs.

Courtyard lodge

Ground floor

- Two rooms that sleep up to 3 people each. They include a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.
- One en-suite 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 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and a set of bunk beds.
- Five communal showers.
- Eight communal WCs.

First floor

There are 12 steps up to this floor.

- Two rooms that sleep up to 3 people each. They include a set of bunk beds and a single bed.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One communal shower.
- Three communal WCs.

Camping & Cabins accommodation

YHA Hawkshead offers camping pods, cabins, bell tents and tipis in the grounds. Our camping cabins and tipis are located either down the drive from the main hostel building or on the front lawn. The drive is moderately steep in places.

The path leading from the drive to the camping pods, tipis, bell tents and cabin is surfaced with gravel. There is lighting at night along this path but we recommend that guests also bring a torch.

All bedding is provided. We have shower and toilet facilities for campers as well as a camping wash-up area. These can all be reached either via the hostel drive or via steps from the campsite.

The front lawn glamping area has bell tents and can be reached down the first drive which is moderately steep in places or by walking down a flight of stone steps with handrails on each side.

Camping pods

We have 8 camping pods with heating and lighting inside. Four of the pods sleep up to 2 people each and include 2 single futon beds. The other four pods sleep up to 4 people each and include a double futon bed and 2 single futon beds.

All pods have 1 or 2 steps up onto the wooden porch, followed by a raised threshold to enter. The doors are glazed and open outwards. Each porch has two plastic garden chairs. These can be moved if required.

Cabin

We have one cabin which sleeps up to 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double futon bed underneath and a set of bunk beds.

There is a step up onto a large wooden porch, followed by a raised threshold to enter the cabin. There is heating and lighting in the cabin.

Tipis

We have 3 tipis which each sleep up to 4 people. They include a double futon bed and 2 single futon beds.

Access is along a gravel path and then over a grass lawn. There is a small step up onto the platform that the tipi rests on. There is a small solar lamp in the tipi.

Bell tents

We have 10 bell tents which each sleep up to 5 people. They include a double bed and 3 single beds. The bell tents have small steps up to the tent platform. Two of the tents are reached by walking over a flat stone bridge over a small stream running through the camping field.

Grounds and garden

Our large garden slopes moderately away from the main building. Access to the lawn area is down one flight of stone steps, with a handrail on both sides. There is also step-free access from the driveway. Two three-seater benches with armrests and a picnic table are available on the gravel area overlooking the garden.

We also have a tiled, covered veranda area with a step up. There are various picnic benches and a three-seater benches with armrests around the grounds. There is also woodland out to the back of the hostel.

Cycle store

The cycle store is approximately 50m from the main entrance. It is connected by a sloping gravel driveway and then a narrow path.

Additional information

- Dogs can stay in our Camping & Cabins accommodation with access to some dedicated communal rooms in the hostel (these are signposted). Pet dogs are not permitted in the hostel bedrooms, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – 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.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or any emergency requiring evacuation. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.

- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is limited within the immediate vicinity, dependent on the network (O2 and Vodafone have good coverage).
- Wi-Fi is available.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Hawkshead, Esthwaite Lodge, Hawkshead, Cumbria, LA22 0QD
- Telephone: 0345 3719321
- Email: hawkshead@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 96
- Local buses: Stagecoach line 505 runs from Windermere, Ambleside and Coniston and stops a mile away from the hostel www.stagecoachbus.com
- Local taxis: Lakes Cars 015394 46777, Windermere Taxis 015394 44144

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.