



## YHA Beer - Access Statement

### Introduction

Set in its own tranquil grounds on the edge of a fishing village is YHA Beer; a light and airy hostel which boasts sea views and easy access to the beach and the South West Coastal path. The Hostel is located on the stunningly beautiful Jurassic coast, now listed as a world heritage site. As such it's great for geology, rock pools, fossil hunting, walking and photography.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 39-bed hostel; a 2-storey country house located on the edge of the village of Beer, just a 10-15 minute walk to the sheltered pebble beach. We have two ground floor bedrooms, but unfortunately none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meets modern standards of accessibility.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01629 592700 or [email Customer Services](mailto:customer.services@yha.org.uk). You can also take a virtual tour of our hostel at [www.yha.org.uk/hostel/beer](http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/beer).

### Pre-Arrival

- The nearest rail station is Axminster which is 9 miles away.
- The nearest bus stops are within half a mile of the hostel. There is a limited bus service which runs to this stop.
- The hostel is approximately half a mile from the village centre. From here there is a moderately steep hill up, with evenly surfaced pavements and some street lighting.
- From the road there is a driveway of approximately 130 metres up to the hostel. It is steep and evenly surfaced with tarmac. There is no pavement and currently no lighting at night. About half way up there is a sharp hairpin turn (which must be kept clear for emergency access).

- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website [www.yha.org.uk](http://www.yha.org.uk); please scroll down to the Maps and Directions section to view a map and transport options.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (please see contact information).

### **Car Parking and Arrival**

There is parking onsite for 10-15 cars. There are no marked bays. The side access must be kept clear as it is reserved for the emergency services so there is no parking there.

The car park is sloped and evenly surfaced with tarmac. It is lit at night. From here to the main entrance there is a steep tarmac path. If you let us know what time you are coming we will do our best to provide assistance moving to and from cars.

### **Main Entrance and Reception**

The main entrance is up a steep slope to the left of the building. We use a code system so once you have checked in you will have 24 hour access to the facilities and your room. There is one stone step up and through a manual single leaf door which opens inwards. There is then a double door into the entry hall, followed by another single leaf door into the reception lobby.

From the entrance access to all the facilities on the ground floor is level. The only exception is the shower, which has a step up to avoid flooding. The reception has polished parquet flooring and is well-lit with ceiling lights. There is a bench in the entrance hall for guests to use.

### **Public Areas**

#### **Halls, Corridors**

We are in a beautiful location and many of the features are original in the building. 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 ground floor is polished parquet. On the first floor it is carpeted.

Unfortunately we do not have a lift, so access to the first floor is by stairs only. The stairs are carpeted and each step is 300mm long and 200mm high. There are 16 steps with non-slip contrasting nosing and there are also two turns to take while ascending / descending the stairs. There is a bannister fitted to one side.

### Public WCs

There is a unisex WC in the entrance hall, although unfortunately it is not accessible to modern standards. The shower has non-slip flooring and is well-lit with ceiling lights. Whilst covid restrictions are in place this bathroom is only for guests using the for the ground floor bedrooms. Other toilets/showers are available on the first floor.

### Lounge

The lounge is located on the ground floor. There is a single leaf door to enter and there is parquet flooring. Under the coffee table there is a rug. This is a light and airy room, well-lit by natural light during the day and by ceiling lights and a lamp at night.

The room is furnished with coffee tables, sofas and armchairs. All furniture can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance. There are currently two dining tables, each seating 4 persons. Soft furnishings have been temporarily removed due to covid restrictions.

### Dining Room

The dining room is located on the ground floor. There is a single leaf door to enter and there is parquet flooring. This is also a light room, well-lit by natural light during the day and by ceiling lights at night.

There are dining tables and straight backed chairs available here. All furniture can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance. Our bar, which stocks ales and wines, is also located here.

Table service is available; please ask at reception and we will be happy to help. We are usually able to cater for dietary requirements. Please advise us of these before your arrival if possible.

### Self-Catering Kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor just off the dining room. The flooring is non-slip lino and the room is well-lit. The kitchen is small so space can be limited. (currently closed as at May 2021 but will reopen as covid requirements permit)

### Laundry and Drying Facilities

The hostel does not have a laundry but does have a small drying room. A washing line is also available to customers for wetsuits and such. The drying room is on the ground floor and has level access through a single leaf door from the entrance hall. The flooring is tile and non-slip. (currently closed as at May 2021 but will reopen as covid requirements permit)

## **Bedrooms and Bathrooms**

All of the bedrooms have a washbasin. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds and are not en-suite. All bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling lights. All bedding is provided.

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

### **Ground Floor**

- One 4-bedded room
- One 5-bedded room
- One WC and one shower

### **First Floor**

- Two 4-bedded rooms
- Two 5-bedded rooms (one of these contains a double bed)
- Two 6-bedded rooms (one of these is en-suite)
- Two WCs and four showers

There are four further steps down to:

- Two WCs

## **Grounds and Garden**

We are in our own private grounds which are generally very safe for children to roam freely and enjoy a game of football on the lawn, or just let off some steam. The top and bottom lawns are mostly level, and there is a steeply sloped bank between the two. The bottom lawn is also used as the camping ground.

There are wooden benches on the top and bottom lawns for guests to relax and admire the garden.

The cycle shed is adjacent to the hostel building. There are steps up to the cycle store. (currently closed as at May 2021 but will reopen as covid requirements permit)

### **Camping Facilities (currently closed due to covid requirements)**

Set in the grounds overlooking the village is our campsite. This small site is just metres from the main hostel building. The camping area is on the bottom lawn and it is mostly level. From here to the hostel there is a tarmac driveway which slopes up to the main entrance.

Campers have 24 hour access to all of the hostel facilities and there are barbecue facilities on site. There is no lighting on the bottom lawn or on our driveway, so guests are advised to bring torches.

### **Additional Information**

- If you're planning on arriving in a mini bus, we recommend walking the drive first if you are unfamiliar with it. The sharp turn causes quite a few problems with larger vehicles, especially in wet weather. The drive is unsuitable for anything larger than a minibus.
- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome with prior arrangement.
- We do not permit smoking anywhere in the hostel.
- Access to staff via emergency phone in the lobby 24hrs.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted.
- Be aware that our teams won't fetch you in the event of an emergency, so if the alarms go off please don't wait for a member of staff to evacuate; get yourself out of the building by the nearest exit.
- Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate in case of fire should be discussed beforehand.
- From 10pm to 5pm and after 9pm, or when on Exclusive Hire there may not be a member of staff on site.
- If there is an overnight emergency, staff can be contacted by the phone in reception.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel is generally good.
- Wi-Fi is available at this hostel.

### **Contact Information**

- Address: YHA Beer, Bovey Combe, Townsend, Beer, EX12 3LL.
- Telephone: 0345 3719502
- Email: beer@yha.org.uk

- Ordnance Survey Map 192; Grid reference SY223896.
  - Local buses: Bus stop located by the village store, approximately a 10 minute walk from the hostel. Buses run from Seaton, where buses to Exeter etc can be caught. For more information see <https://avmtbustimes.wixsite.com/mysite/timetables> and [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info).
  - Local taxi: <https://karencarsbranscombe.com/>

**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.**