



yha

winter 19

# The Journey

## Winter trips

Five hostel managers share their tips

## Buzzing Bristol

Three ways to make the most of the city

## Let's go!

Four pages of kids' fun and games inside

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The Seven Sisters



Oxford



Royal Pavillion, Brighton



YHA Liverpool Central



YHA Whitby

# Hello

...and welcome to the winter issue of The Journey. How's your year been? If it's been anything like ours, you've had ups, downs and a few laughs along the way. But while winter might be here, hibernation is the last thing on our minds - in fact, the chillier months offer some of the very best opportunities for getting outside and seeing our beautiful country in a different light. In this issue we highlight nine of our best Exclusive Hire hostels, speak with BBC 6 Music DJ Cerys Matthews about her first ascent of Snowdon, and take a closer look at one of the UK's liveliest cities, Bristol. And as usual, you'll also find competitions, new gear reviews and a pull-out children's section. Happy reading!

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## The customers' castle

When Visit England named the winners of its 2019 ROSE Awards - given to a select group of hotels, hostels, guesthouses and holiday rentals, all of which have shown outstanding customer service - YHA appeared not just once on the list, but twice. YHA Holmbury St Mary, our recently refurbished hostel in the Surrey Hills, was one of our worthy winners, while the other was a unique property in a truly spectacular building: YHA St Briavels Castle.

Occupying a Grade I-listed building dating back to the 12th century, the hostel still has every appearance of a medieval castle, with a bulky gatehouse, high walls and an atmosphere as dense as the Magna Carta. It has 60 beds across 9 bedrooms, one of which was once a prison - but as the award attests, you can expect the warmest of welcomes. Visit for an unforgettable historical stay, and great walking in the surrounding Gloucestershire countryside.

**Plan your trip at**  
**[yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-st-briavels-castle](https://yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-st-briavels-castle)**





VisitEngland

**ROSE  
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Recognition Of  
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# Your YHA discoveries

Each issue we'll be sharing some special moments you've had while staying with YHA. We'd love to hear about your most memorable experiences at [magazine@yha.org.uk](mailto:magazine@yha.org.uk)

"After losing my mum to cancer, I needed a challenge to help me move forward - what better than to climb all 214 Lake District fells? My first 'Wainwright weekend' at YHA Buttermere reminded me just how empowering it is to lose yourself in nature, and in the company of the hills I experienced great peace."

Caroline Wood, YHA supporter

Read more [livemore.yha.org.uk/destinations/hills-and-thrills-at-yha-buttermere](https://www.livemore.yha.org.uk/destinations/hills-and-thrills-at-yha-buttermere)



"We went to YHA Brighton and stayed in bunk beds. We had all our family in the same room, and it was right next to the beach. The waves were really big! We went to the pier and did some fishing, then we played mini golf. When the ball fell into the last hole, it dropped straight into the sea, but it was made of fish food so we didn't worry. At the hostel we played Jenga and drank hot chocolate."

Margaux and George, young adventurers

"In October I stayed at YHA Castleton Losehill Hall in the Peak District. It was easy to plot circular hikes from the hostel to Winnats Pass, Mam Tor and Hollins Cross. In the evening I joined the Supper Club with fellow travellers - we got on so well that we spent the evening playing board games in front of the fire. It was my first YHA stay, but I'm already planning my next trips."

Roshni Patel, blogger at [thewanderlustwithin.com](https://www.thewanderlustwithin.com)



# Adventurous stocking fillers

Looking for something special for a loved one - or even a chance to treat yourself? These ideas are guaranteed to please outdoor-lovers.



## Fantastic Female Adventurers, by Lily Dyu

This new book traces in detail the life stories of 14 inspirational women whose incredible exploits have left a positive mark on the world. They include mountaineer Gwen Moffat (a warden at YHA Rowen for a year in 1952!) and adventurer and former YHA ambassador Sarah Outen. £12.99

## BatteryGuard 250L LED Headtorch

Available though GO Outdoors, this comfortable, new-for-2019 headtorch does the basics well - and for a good price. A simple dial switches between three modes (low, high and red, the latter being good for wildlife-watchers) and you'll get 200 hours of light, on low, from one set of batteries. £23

## Leatherman Free T4

Leatherman's market-leading multi-tools come with 25-year warranties, which says plenty about their quality. This new model feels beautiful and handles like a dream, with a sturdy main blade and quick-access tools. It makes standard penknives seem seriously clunky. Built to last. £74.95

## BAM Bamboo/Merino Beanie

BAM's sustainable bamboo-based clothing is more than just an eco choice - it's also soft, well-made and super-snug. This unisex knitted beanie, made from bamboo viscose and merino wool, is a brilliant case in point. It's available in six colours, and just the thing for a brisk winter's day. £20



# The man in charge of three hostels and a lifeboat

Hostel Manager Stewart Towe looks after three of our Pembrokeshire properties, and as if that weren't enough, he's also a helmsman at the local RNLI lifeboat station. He's this issue's hostel hero.

Stewart Towe is a busy man. He manages a trio of coastal Welsh hostels - YHA Poppit Sands, YHA Newport Pembrokeshire and YHA Pwll Deri - so it would be fair to say he knows the definition of multi-tasking. Not least when you learn that he also has three kids, and has spent the past 14 years as an active member of the local lifeboat crew. That doesn't leave much time for thumb-twiddling.

Stewart grew up on the edge of the Peak District, so was imbued with a love of the outdoors from a young age. He has memories of several childhood stays at YHA Youlgreave and when he later applied for a temporary job as a general assistant at YHA Ilam Hall, was initially only meant to work with the organisation for a week. "Eighteen years later I'm still with YHA," he laughs. "It's been a long week!"





His time at YHA Ilam Hall also saw him meet his wife Gina, and when a job came up at YHA Poppit Sands and YHA Newport Pembrokeshire, a move to the Welsh coast beckoned. "At the time I was one of the youngest hostel managers in the network," he remembers. "A couple of years later I took on the challenge of running YHA Pwll Deri as well."

The region quickly worked its magic. "All three hostels are located on or very near to the Pembrokeshire Coastal Path, which has some of the best coastal walking anywhere. The beaches are pretty special too - I love them. They say if you live by the sea, you'll never move far from it, which is very true."

The coast was a lure in another way, too. "When I arrived I was keen to develop new links in the local community, so I thought I would volunteer in the local RNLI shop. I enquired about doing a couple of shifts. I'm not sure how, but I ended up signing up to start training as a crew member. Apart from ferries I had never been in a boat at sea, let alone saved lives. Fourteen years later, I'm a D Class Helmsman."

A helmsman is ultimately in charge of the boat, responsible for the crew, the boat and various other key elements of

the operation. A little, you could say, like a hostel manager - and perhaps this is why Stewart faces the challenge head on. "(Being in a lifeboat crew) has pushed me to my limits and beyond, and then some more," he says. "Trust is highly important, whether it be trust in yourself, your crew or your equipment. Being on call 24/7 is challenging, especially balancing it around work and family life. Gina and the kids are very understanding."

Of the countless call-outs he's had, one in particular stands out. "I remember evacuating a casualty with suspected spinal injuries following a coasteering incident. The Sea King helicopter arrived on scene. It's a tricky manoeuvre, especially in rough seas. This particular time, the pilot happened to be HRH Prince William - Captain Wales. It's not something you want to mess up at the best of times, but having the future king involved added a little more pressure for the team!"

All of which must make his hostel work a welcome source of stability. And what does he love most about the job? "It would have to be working with volunteers," he decides. "Each year we have an army of volunteers who help out. These are the real hostel heroes."



# On your marks, get set... 2020!

A new year, a new decade, a map full of possibilities. 2020 is shaping up to be a special one for both England and Wales - and don't just take our word for it. Lonely Planet recently named England the world's second best tourist destination for the year ahead, while Wales is about to embark on a dedicated Year of the Outdoors. All the more reason to get a few trips marked on your calendar...

## England

When Lonely Planet selected England in second place on its annual Best In Travel list for 2020 (it was pipped to the post by Bhutan), its experts praised "the timeless treasures that England is famous for: the historic castles and cathedrals, the quaint villages and rolling countryside, and of course, the seaside."

They also made special mention of the England Coast Path, which continues to unveil new sections. Once finished, the walking path will spool around the entire country, measuring close to 3,000 miles. A fitting trail for a nation which packs in enough landscapes, cultures and adventures to keep travellers on their toes for years. Here are five ideas for your 2020 plans.

Thread your way onto the fells to reach the **Langdale Pikes**, one of the most spectacular day-walks in England's rampantly beautiful Lake District National Park.

Stay at: **YHA Langdale**

Celebrate 60 years of the Fab Four with a Beatles pilgrimage to **Merseyside**, sparing time for a visit to the superb modern art exhibits at Tate Liverpool.

Stay at: **YHA Liverpool Central**

Feel the weight of history among the cobbles and colleges of **Cambridge**, where tradition goes hand in hand with some top museums and a lively nightlife scene.

Stay at: **YHA Cambridge**

Spend time in **Whitby** for fish and chips, smugglers' pubs, a ruined abbey and vampirical literary connections, then enjoy the dramatic Yorkshire coastline.

Stay at: **YHA Whitby**

Visit **Tintagel Castle**, the reputed stronghold of King Arthur, among the cliffs and coves of the North Cornwall Coast, where hikers and outdoor-lovers will be in their element.

Stay at: **YHA Tintagel**





## Wales

With Snowdonia, the Brecon Beacons and the ravishing Pembrokeshire coastline among its many assets, every year in Wales is a Year of the Outdoors. But 2020 sees the title being used on an official basis, as the national tourist board looks to highlight what walkers, climbers and cyclists already know: that when it comes to the outdoors, there's nowhere quite like Wales.

Nothing beats the wind-in-your-face high of crossing a Snowdonia ridgeline, the island views from the Marloes Peninsula or the giddy downhill thrill of one of the country's many mountain bike trails. And if you're looking for further ideas for your Welsh escapes in the year ahead, you can try the following five adventures.



Take the kids on an outdoor adventure they'll remember for years at **Zip World Fforest**, where the six activities include a forest roller-coaster, treetop nets and a zip safari.

**Stay at: YHA Betws-y-Coed**

Give the crowds a swerve and **climb Snowdon along the lesser-walked Ranger Trail**, which Victorian tourists once used to reach the summit.

**Stay at: YHA Snowdon Ranger**

Dive into **Cardiff's lively cultural scene** on a visit to the Welsh capital. Coincide your visit with a rugby match at the Principality Stadium for the full atmosphere.

**Stay at: YHA Cardiff Central**

Visit the glorious **Gower Peninsula**, Britain's first ever AONB, where you'll find dozens of beaches and more than 30 miles of coastal walking.

**Stay at: YHA Port Eynon**

Follow the lead of local Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas on a **cycling break in the Brecon Beacons**, one of the UK's best-loved national parks and a first-rate outdoor playground.

**Stay at: YHA Brecon Beacons**



## Q&A: **Cerys Matthews**

Travel writer Phoebe Smith asks musician and radio presenter Cerys Matthews about her first YHA experience, the parts of Wales she loves most, and why we should celebrate the outdoors.

**Q** You recently stayed in your first youth hostel. Where did you go and was it what you imagined?

I was there to follow in George Mallory's footsteps. It was YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass at the foot of Snowdon itself. Mallory stayed at the hotel on this site back in the 1920s, because it's where he and many of his associates trained for their attempt at the summit of Everest. For me, getting to the top of Snowdon was absolutely top of the world - and Wales, of course. It was brilliant.

**Q** Was the hostel what you thought it would be, or did it change your expectations?

It totally changed my expectations. It was friendly, warm, efficient, a great bar, a great selection of food - I'm really fussy with food. They had vegan food, healthy food and really good quality alcohol. They had all the maps, and they had safety posters everywhere so that you didn't feel that you couldn't ask if you were unsure about things; it was everything that you would want on your adventure.



## **Q How did your love for the outdoors develop?**

My father Philip Matthews was a potholer, that was his biggest hobby, so he used to drive us around in his Land Rover with a load of stinky blokes and stinky clothes. And my mum and my mum's father, they love plants and gardening and wildlife and the countryside, so I've inherited that. I think anyone with any brains about them would love the outside world and the countryside, above ground or underground. We're an intelligent bunch!

## **Q Any great overlooked places in Wales that you think people should know about?**

Do you know what, there are ancient stones up in the Preseli Mountains, and nobody ever goes to the Preseli Mountains? I feel like you can hear the stories of the Mabinogion [the earliest prose stories of the literature of Britain, written in Middle Welsh] if you sit there, down on the stones.

In Ceredigion, between Cardigan and Fishguard, there's allegedly a lost land, Cantre' r Gwaelod. On the low tide, you can see the sticks, the old logs and old beams of the buildings. The story is that a guy was looking after the floodgates, but he got drunk and forgot to shut them during a storm. If you sit down on the edge of the land you can see how flat it is. It's unlike anywhere else in Wales, you can really imagine there being a lost land there... and the bells ringing in the dead of night. It's been called a Welsh Atlantis.

## **Q You're involved with The Good Life Experience festival, which celebrates the outdoors. Why is being outside so crucial for adults and children?**

I love the science that validates those of us that like being outdoors. That working in the soil, or being behind a plough, or gardening, or walking in the countryside, releases serotonin. I love the fact that it validates what we all feel. I've always been a country girl at heart, despite being in a business where it's mostly clubs and night-time stuff. We shouldn't think of being outdoors as anything other than essential - what is surprising is that we've been dragged so far away from the idea that we feel the need to question it.

For children, the biggest brains on the planet are making games and programmes that are addictive, so it's our responsibility to shoehorn them out to where the real miracles of life are, which is in nature. My boys, after coming back down from Everest Base Camp or after coming down from Snowdonia or after being outside, they're different kids. Conversely, when you pull them off the gadgets, they're horrible - they're monsters!

## **Q And would you stay in a YHA again for your next adventures?**

Hell yes! I just want to know if you can give me somewhere to go next! Give me the challenge.

# Bristol: on tour

The South West's biggest city is a gem, but knowing where to start your explorations can be tricky - we take three separate city tours to give you some guidance.



# Tour 1: Bristol street art tour

John Nation points up at the wall and explains that the artwork splashed across it - a naked man dangling comically from a windowsill - has boosted the building's worth by a life-changing sum of money. Over the course of the next two hours, and with the visual aid of a prismatic parade of different spray-can creations, he'll explain how street art has come to shape Bristol in all manner of unlikely ways. If you thought murals were mindless, think again.

John would be hard to top as a guide. As a local youth worker of some 20 years' standing, he was one of the people behind a city scheme which saw young people encouraged to express themselves



through art. He knows exactly who Banksy is (though he's predictably coy with the details) and has a lifetime's worth of inside info on Bristol's urban art scene. "Yes, I might have dabbled myself when I was younger," he says, smiling. "But the street artists working today range in age from about 16 to 55."

The two hours take us from the city centre up to Stokes Croft - arguably the sharpest of Bristol's cutting-edge districts - and give a primer in the basics of street art, from the anti-graffiti paint used by the council to the sometimes subtle differences between legal and illegal artworks. The real joy of the tour, from an outsider's perspective, lies in the diversity. We see works that are eight storeys high and works that barely reach above ankle-height. We see works that have been in place for decades and works that have been there "since last Tuesday." We see works that have been commissioned by restaurants, pubs and even churches.

Street art is nothing new in Bristol. According to John, it first found its way to the city thanks to the US hip-hop influences that started permeating the local culture in the early 1980s. But the scene has since grown into something huge, receiving more focus in Bristol than anywhere else in the country. And while Banksy figures in the tour - how could he not? - the man of mystery is just one of many figures you'll learn about. Highly recommended.

How much? **From £6 - £10.50**  
More info: [wherethewall.com](http://wherethewall.com)



## Tour 2: Maritime Bristol

The harbourside is a gift for daydreamers. Let your mind wander as you stroll past the old taverns and you can almost hear pirates bawling out shanties as they unfurl their tropical sea charts. Not many cities have a maritime history as layered as Bristol's. Its sheltered inland location meant that for many years it was the second largest port in the country, behind only London in terms of the sheer volume of ships, sailors and cargo. The docks were alive with rum and ivory, glassware and beads, press gangs and privateers.

Various tours exist for those wanting to find out more. We opt for the self-guided Treasure Island Trail (there's a downloadable app with commentary - bring headphones), then follow it up with visits to two of Bristol's biggest waterside attractions, city museum M Shed and game-changing ocean liner SS Great Britain.

First the trail, which leads listeners to eight different spots around the harbour, giving an introduction to the city's maritime past and highlighting local links with Robert

Louis Stevenson's classic Treasure Island (in the book, Long John Silver, Jim Hawkins and the crew set sail from Bristol). It leads down cobbled streets, along historic quays and past centuries-old inns, one of which was frequented by Blackbeard himself.

No account of Bristol's history would be complete without acknowledging its involvement in the slave trade, and M Shed accordingly pulls no punches. Heart-breaking displays from the era take their place in a trio of extensive galleries looking at different aspects of life in the city, from its early beginnings as a Saxon settlement to its current status as a heavyweight of alternative culture.

M Shed takes its name from the harbour building it occupies - a former dockside transit shed - and a five-minute walk along the quay leads to another big-name maritime attraction. When it was launched in 1843, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's SS Great Britain became the largest ship on the world's oceans, and the first to use an iron hull. It sailed more than a million miles in its lifetime - mainly on transatlantic voyages and carrying migrants to Australia - and now sits back in the dock where it was constructed.

More than 175 years after it was built, it remains a thrill to walk its decks, stroll through its first-class saloons and gawp at the narrow bunks that were used by its lowest-paying passengers. Bristol's history is a chequered thing, but the SS Great Britain, at least, calls for nothing but admiration.

How much?

**Treasure Island Trail app £1.99**

**M Shed free**

**SS Great Britain from £10 - £17**

More info:

[longjohnsilvertrust.co.uk](http://longjohnsilvertrust.co.uk)

[bristolmuseums.org.uk](http://bristolmuseums.org.uk)

[ssgreatbritain.org](http://ssgreatbritain.org)





## Tour 3: Bristol craft beer tour

There are more than 20 breweries in and around Bristol, which tells you all you need to know about its penchant for a pint. The craft beer wave hasn't so much reached the city as been swollen by a flotilla of zeitgeist-surfing brewers. It also has quality pubs by the barrel-load, ranging from traditional taprooms to hip-as-you-like hophouses. All of which makes the prospect of a beer-themed tour of the city a mighty appealing one.

The award-winning Bristol Hoppers offers two different self-guided beer tours, both of which take in four different pubs. So what is a self-guided beer tour? The concept is actually a simple one - after booking, you're given a starting pub, where an envelope is waiting for you behind the bar. It contains instructions for where you're headed next, as well as tokens for seven drinks (generally half-pints and third-pints). Best of all, it puts your choice of pubs in the hands of the people who know the city's beer scene best.



We choose the 'Cross-Harbour Tour', which begins at the on-trend Three Tuns and also includes guided diversions to nearby street art and a spin across the harbour in a tiny ferry. It would be giving the game away to name the second, third and fourth stops, but expect a CAMRA-lauded neighbourhood local, a modern bar-cum-brewery where you'll have a tasting paddle, and a brilliantly mazy little pub full of typewriters, trumpets and taxidermied badgers. In short, exactly what you'd hope for.

How much? **£18 - £19**

More info: [bristolhoppers.co.uk](http://bristolhoppers.co.uk)



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# Let's go!

## Make a winter picnic for birds

Winter can be a difficult time for birds. They need to eat lots of food, for energy and warmth, but the days are colder and darker. We can help by leaving out things for them to feed on.

If you have a bird-feeder, remember to keep it nice and full with nuts and seeds. You can also get creative by making your own bird snacks. Try these ideas:

- ✓ Thread a piece of garden wire through some apple slices, then hang them from a tree in your garden or park. Birds like apples, even when the fruit's turning brown!

- ✓ Make your own snack mix with oats, unsalted peanuts, lard, grated mild cheese and sunflower seeds. Squash it into an empty orange half, a pine cone or a small net, then hang it from a tree.
- ✓ Cook some unsalted, unbuttered popcorn, then ask an adult to help string them together using a needle and thread. You'll be left with a nibble chain for birds! Remember not to leave salty snacks, as salt isn't very good for birds.
- ✓ Don't forget that birds need water too, especially in winter when it might be frosty. You can help them by leaving out fresh water in a bowl or dish.



Watch out for squirrels!!



# How to make ...

## Ice art

Have you ever made your own ice sculpture? First, take a small plastic bowl and fill the base with grass, pebbles, moss and bits of twig. Then carefully add enough water to cover them all, and loop a short piece of string so that the two ends are in the water.

Leave it outside overnight (or in the freezer, if the weather's not cold enough). The next day, carefully push it out of the bowl. You have your very own ice art!



turn this



into this

## A snow lantern

Has it been snowing? Brilliant! To make a snow lantern, you'll need flat ground and lots of snow. Make lots of snowballs - try to keep them the same size, and pat them down well to keep them solid.

Then build a snowball pyramid. You can do this by laying some of your snowballs out in a ring. Keep building higher, making each ring slightly smaller than the one below.

Before you reach the top, put your light on the ground inside the pyramid. You can use an electric tealight, or, if you've got a grown-up to help you, a real tealight with a flame. Then finish building. Hey presto! A snow lantern!

# Winter wonders

## What is hibernation?

Some mammals, like hedgehogs and dormice, hibernate in winter. This means that they spend the coldest months of the year resting somewhere safe and warm. Their heartbeat and their breathing both slow down. Hibernation is a bit like a really long sleep, where the animals only wake up occasionally, to go to the toilet or find food.

The clever part is that while they're hibernating, they don't need much food. Hedgehogs, for example, eat as much as they can in autumn, filling their tummies with worms and beetles. This gives them the energy they need to survive through the winter.

Animals hibernate in places where they won't be disturbed, like compost heaps or log piles. Then, when spring arrives with its warmer weather, the animals appear again - and they're usually ready for a nice big meal!



## Wordsearch

Can you find these wintery words in the grid?

- Snowman
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Carols
- Frosty
- Reindeer
- Mince pies
- Bobble hat

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | K | O | T | G | E | S | A | J | M |
| N | C | T | F | R | O | S | T | Y | I |
| O | R | A | W | H | E | A | T | E | N |
| W | E | H | R | I | N | G | S | S | C |
| M | E | E | S | F | M | T | E | C | E |
| A | D | L | D | I | I | V | R | A | P |
| N | N | B | O | V | O | K | O | R | I |
| O | I | B | A | L | F | G | R | O | E |
| P | E | O | G | P | U | N | G | L | S |
| C | R | B | O | R | B | B | L | S | C |

# Winter scavenger hunt

**It might be the chilliest time of year, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun outside. Try our winter scavenger hunt - how many of these things can you do where you are?**

Look for a spider's web.  
Can you see a spider too?

Look for a pine cone.  
Can you see which tree it fell from?

Spot a bird flying in the sky.  
Is it big, or small?  
Do you know what kind of bird it is?

Find a holly bush. Feel how smooth the leaves are - and how spiky the prickles are!

Search for footprints in the ground.  
Are they human prints, or animal prints?

Listen for the sound of the wind.  
What kind of noise does it make?

Spot an animal tunnel. Rabbits, badgers and foxes all live in holes.  
Do you know what they're called?

Deciduous trees lose their leaves or needles in winter. Evergreen trees don't.  
Can you find one of each?

Is it a snowy day? Try making a snow angel!  
You can even do it in the frost!

Get muddy! Try making a mud face on a tree.



# Winter is coming

A winter trip to the UK countryside can showcase the landscape at its most beautiful. We speak to five hostel managers to find out what they love about the colder months.

## LAKE DISTRICT, YHA Keswick

### Rachael Kirkby, hostel manager

“Winter is one of the best times to visit us here at Keswick,” says Rachael. “With the crowds and congestion of the high season forgotten, the town slips into a more relaxed pace. Almost all local businesses and attractions remain open year-round so you’re not likely to miss out - just remember to check opening times.”

The Lake District can get a lot of snow, and the type of visitor to the hostel changes. “Winter tends to attract the more seasoned visitor to the area - hiking in winter conditions requires a bit more experience and preparation, and that’s reflected in our guests at this time of year. There are always great stories to be shared at the end of a long day!”

It’s a season that Rachael particularly enjoys. “I love walking in winter. If you’re here on a clear day, the Newlands fells are beautiful. There are so many great walks you can do from the door. The Newlands and Coledale Horseshoe walks are two of my favourites.”

“One of the best things about living here is watching the fells change colour throughout the year. In winter, my favourite days are the really frosty or snowy ones where the landscape looks completely monochrome. And there’s nothing quite like getting back from a long day on snowy fells into one of Keswick’s many great pubs and their log fires.”



## **NORTH YORK MOORS, YHA Whitby**

**Alice Lowe, deputy manager**

“Compared to the fast pace of summer, winter has a much calmer, sleepier feel,” says Alice. “There’s nothing better than wrapping up warm and wandering the quaint little shops in the older part of town. I enjoy the quietness of winter: the streets are deserted and still, and they can feel quite eerie at night, which is quite fitting for Whitby and our ties to Bram Stoker’s Dracula.”

And wintertime only enhances the views. “During winter the sea mist spreads over Whitby most mornings, making the cobbled streets feel almost mystical. If snow settles, the view from the hostel is amazing, looking down over the town, the rooftops a blanket of white.”

**“  
The sea becomes more  
tempestuous as well. It’s a  
photographer’s dream!**

**”**

There’s fine walking to be had, too. Alice says: “One of my favourites would be from Whitby to Sandsend, either along the beach if the tide’s out, or along the clifftop. Another walk would be from Whitby to Robin Hood’s Bay, or even to YHA Boggle Hole where you can enjoy a lovely cuppa and some cake in front of the fire, before walking back to Robin Hood’s Bay and catching the bus back to Whitby.”

## **SNOWDONIA, YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass**

**Jonathan Al-Qazzaz, hostel manager**

“After autumn, the temperature inevitably drops and snow descends on the hills,” explains Jonathan. “Thick puffer jackets and moon boots start to appear and excited-looking locals come out ready for a bit of good old-fashioned British winter adventure in the mountains. At the hostel, we batten down the hatches for the odd storm, stock up the salt reserves and prepare the fireplace.”

And it’s not just the weather that changes; the clientele transforms too. “While we retain a certain level of traditional visitors, the majority leans towards the more experienced and prepared individuals looking to take on some of Wales’ world-class winter climbing and mountaineering routes. Y Lliwedd on Snowdon is a 989m summit whose north face was used as a training ground by the likes of Longland, Jones, Eckenstein, Young, Thomson, and Mallory, preparing them for their future endeavours on Everest!”

“Even the easiest of trails have to be given some serious respect in winter. That being said, for an avid walker with a bit of education on winter skills and equipment, much of the landscape is open to exploration.”

And it doesn’t all have to be gnarly walking with ice axe and crampons. “When the mountains are in winter conditions, there are plenty of lower-level winter walks around Betws-y-Coed and Beddgelert.”





## **NORTHUMBERLAND, YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall**

### **Richard Dykes, hostel manager**

Richard has been at YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall since the day it opened in 2017. "The building is something unique," he says. "It's designed to blend into the landscape. When you drive up to it and park outside, it's quite a big building, but if you climb up onto Hadrian's Wall, the whole thing disappears into the landscape."

As a hostel high in the hills, it can be exposed to the weather. "Last year we didn't get much snow, but the year before we were snowed in for a week. The landscape changes, and it becomes a very quiet place, a place of solitude. The key attraction here is Hadrian's Wall, which is beautifully quiet, and it can be spectacular in winter."

Richard himself is also a keen mountain biker, enjoying the trails of Kielder Forest, the North Pennines and 7stanes just over the Scottish border.

"Most people who visit The Sill are here to find out about the Romans and do a bit of a history tour, but there are some good places to walk. You can walk straight onto the wall from the hostel, but the most popular walk is to Sycamore Gap and around Crag Lough."

"You can also get onto the Pennine Way from here," he continues. "A nice place that most people miss is Allen Banks and Staward Gorge - a National Trust estate in a riverside valley. It's steep-sided, with pristine clear water that you can find freshwater shrimps in."



## **PEAK DISTRICT, YHA Eyam**

### **Cat Barker, hostel manager**

YHA Eyam is among the quirkiest hostels in the network, set in a turreted Victorian folly above the village of Eyam, in the Peak District National Park. The village itself is well-known for isolating itself in the mid-1600s, to prevent the bubonic plague from spreading.

In winter, Derbyshire's hills and valleys take on a completely new vibe. It's a time of year that Cat Barker particularly enjoys.

**“  
I love winter, you've often got  
a lot of the place to yourself.  
All of a sudden it provides  
you with a new point of view.”**

"I was at YHA Castleton Losehill Hall last winter, and the snow certainly didn't put people off coming up and doing some of the Peak District walks. Typically, the Mam Tor ridgeline is popular even through the winter. People still flock to Stanage Edge in the winter."

Closer to the hostel, Cat points to Eyam Moor as being a great place to walk all year. "The terrain isn't too bad there, and even with snow down it shouldn't get any more difficult than it already is. The village itself has a history trail that goes from Eyam, down towards Stoney Middleton and then back. It's got all the important historical sites associated with the plague."

# 9 hostels for Exclusive Hire

Oh, the joys of a hostel to yourself! More than 100 of our properties are available for Exclusive Hire over the winter months - from historical cottages to mountain lodges - giving you, and your friends and families, free rein over accommodation in some of the most spectacular parts of the UK. Here are nine to know about.

## **YHA Black Sail**

### **Legendary Lakeland hideaway**

Concealed at the head of the Ennerdale Valley, some 2½ miles on foot from the nearest road, this former shepherd's bothy is a property like no other. Don't expect electric sockets or mobile coverage - instead you'll find 16 beds, a wood-burning stove and, on your doorstep, the myriad outdoor joys of the Lake District.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/  
properties/yha-black-sail](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-black-sail)





## YHA Dalby Forest

### Give me moor-moor-moor

It might occupy a former school, but you can set your own timetable at YHA Dalby Forest. The eco-friendly, 21-bed hostel is located on the southern fringes of the sweeping North York Moors National Park, making it ideal for an active winter break. What's more, the Yorkshire coast is under 45 minutes away.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-dalby-forest](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-dalby-forest)

## YHA Portland

### Mansion on the Jurassic Coast

This red-brick getaway sits on the Isle of Portland (connected to the mainland by a long spit of land) and overlooks some of Dorset's finest seaside scenery: Chesil Beach, Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and all. The hostel itself is a property with 33 beds and, for rainy days, a TV lounge with settees.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-portland](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-portland)



## YHA Manorbier

### Close to the Welsh coast

The Pembrokeshire coastline is a stirring place to be at any time of year, and this modern property sits little more than a windswept stroll from the cliffs. It's a sizeable hostel, which means there are two Exclusive Hire options: the 58-bed main building and the 14-bed annexe. Both give ready access to the world-famous coastal path.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-manorbier](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-manorbier)

## YHA Tanners Hatch

### Storybook cottage in the Surrey Hills

Fancy having the run of a remote countryside cottage? 15-bed YHA Tanners Hatch is a gem of a rural hostel, full of character and ringed by National Trust woodland. Go for brisk winter walks through the surrounding Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, then warm up back at the cottage around a log fire.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-tanners-hatch-surrey-hills](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-tanners-hatch-surrey-hills)





## YHA Boswinger

### Off-grid on the Cornish coast

Subtract the summer crowds from South Cornwall and you're left with somewhere primed for an adventurous winter break. This one-time farmhouse - sitting 10 miles south of St Austell on a beautifully remote stretch of coast - has sea views and 38 beds. The nearby Lost Gardens of Heligan are open year-round.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-boswinger](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-boswinger)



## YHA Clun Mill

### Walking base near the Welsh border

Set in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, characterful YHA Clun Mill serves up exactly what you'd hope for from a break in the colder months: namely a cosy living area, plenty of board games and quiet, eminently walkable valleys. It accommodates 23, and the adjoining village has shops and pubs.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-clun-mill](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-clun-mill)



## YHA Llanddeusant

### Hard to spell, easy to love

A gift to groups who really want to get away from it all, YHA Llanddeusant is a 20-bed hostel in the Black Mountain range, the westernmost of the four hill-sets that make up the Brecon Beacons National Park. Energy to burn? Local activity company ARC Adventures offer weather-dependent outdoor pursuits year-round.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-llanddeusant-activity-centre](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-llanddeusant-activity-centre)

## YHA Perranporth

### Cliff-top stunner in Cornwall

The very definition of a spectacularly located hostel, YHA Perranporth perches at the top of a colossal Cornish sea cliff, granting deep views over the Atlantic and miles of golden beaches. Once an admiralty building, it's now a 24-bed property readymade for adventure. It sits around 20 minutes' drive from Newquay.

[exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-perranporth/](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk/properties/yha-perranporth/)



# Pick a plum property for party season

Hire a whole hostel this Christmas or New Year and enjoy a great value get together on a grander scale.

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[yha.org.uk/exclusive-hire](http://yha.org.uk/exclusive-hire)



YHA Wasdale Hall



YHA Wilderhope Manor



YHA Milton Keynes



# How to: stargaze

Clear winter evenings are perfect for stargazing. Dr Sheila Kanani of the Royal Astronomical Society guides us through Britain's night sky.

Astronomy can be hugely rewarding, whether you have a substantial telescope and accessories such as a CCD camera, or you're a beginner observing with the naked eye. It's one of the few sciences where amateurs make genuine contributions to research, although many people simply do it for the excitement of seeing with their own eyes the planets, star clusters and nebulae that are familiar from books.

For anyone completely new to astronomy, the first step is to become familiar with the night sky, and how it changes hour by hour and season by season. A planisphere (or 'star wheel'), monthly sky guide, or computer software will help with this. There are also plenty of great smartphone apps.

Constellation-hopping about the night sky is a fun and simple thing to do. There's no need for anything except your eyes and a clear sky, although YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall, YHA South Downs, YHA Whitby and YHA Hartington Hall all now have stargazing kits for hire. Here's how to find some key constellations.

## Ursa Major

If you're a beginner to the night sky, the Plough is often a good place to start. It's easily recognisable as it looks like a saucepan with a handle. It should sit quite high up in the northern hemisphere sky near the North Pole and it's visible all year round. The Plough makes up the main seven stars in the constellation Ursa Major, which is next to Ursa Minor in the sky as you look at them, and they're supposed to

resemble great and little bears. They're important to us because if you draw a line upwards through the two stars at the blade end of the Plough (furthest to the right in the illustration), the line points directly to Polaris, the North Star. This star can be used to find north if you're ever lost on a clear night in the northern hemisphere and need to find your way home.

## Cassiopeia

If you continue your imaginary line from the Plough, through Polaris, you'll find a distinctive W shape in the sky. This is the constellation Cassiopeia. Each night Cassiopeia circles the celestial pole, sometimes upright, sometimes upside down. If you look at Cassiopeia as a W, the right-most line of the letter points up to the constellation Cephus. The constellation Cephus looks like a stick drawing of a house, with four sides making a square then a triangular roof. The tip of the roof always points northwards. Cassiopeia is visible all year round from the UK.

## Orion

One of the most recognisable constellations is Orion, the great hunter, which is best seen January to March. And the constellation shape actually looks like its namesake; a mighty hunter with a bow, a raised arm, and a sword hanging from his belt. Orion rises in the east and sets in the west and is the only constellation to possess a line of three bright stars.

The easiest way to find Orion is to look in the southwest sky. You're looking for three bright stars close together in an almost straight line. These three stars represent Orion's belt. The two bright stars to the north are his shoulders and the two to the south are his feet.

Hanging off Orion's belt are three fainter stars, known as the 'Sword of Orion'. If you look carefully at the middle star in the sword you will see it is slightly fuzzy. That's because this star is not actually a star at all. In fact, it's a nebula, a misty patch of gas where new stars are forming.

## Taurus

If you follow a line from Orion's right shoulder through the top of his bow this will take you to Aldebaran, a red giant star in the constellation of Taurus, which is visible in winter and spring. Keep following this line and you'll find the Pleiades, a beautiful star cluster, also in Taurus.



Ursa Major



Cassiopeia



Orion



Taurus

Ursa Major © soloviyvka, Cassiopeia © foxyllam, orion © kgkarolina, Taurus © ad\_hominem - all AdobeStock



# Tried and tested

Four outdoor items put through their paces by The Journey team

## Ortlieb Atrack ST 34L Waterproof Backpack [Ortlieb.com](https://www.ortlieb.com)

The Ortlieb Atrack looks unlike any other backpack or waterproof bag - and works unlike any other. Ortlieb, pioneers in waterproof packs, have created a pack that opens like a Gladstone bag, but can be carried as effectively and comfortably as any true backpack. There are adjustable shoulder straps either side of the main waterproof zip. The bag opens wide to reveal a cavernous space, with four pockets inside. It comes in 25-litre, 45-litre and women's specific versions too.

*Cat Scully*

- + Very comfortable to carry
- + Fully waterproof
- + Women's model available
- Quite pricey

### Did you know?

All YHA members receive discounts at gear stores including Cotswold Outdoor, GO Outdoors, Snow+Rock, Runners Need and Cycle Surgery

[yha.org.uk/membership/member-benefits](https://yha.org.uk/membership/member-benefits)







## Sherpa Makalu Jacket

[sherpaadventuregear.co.uk](http://sherpaadventuregear.co.uk)

Ethical brand Sherpa Adventure Gear - which helps fund education for Nepalese children - is about more than just philanthropy, a point emphasised by this new, highly technical three-layer shell. The jacket is very much the real deal, being seam-sealed, breathable, waterproof (it shrugged off a heavy November downpour in the hills) and extremely comfortable, thanks to Sherpa's Himaltec Laminate fabric. It's a stylish wear, too, and a helmet-compatible hood adds to its adventure appeal. Available in men's and women's styles, both in five different colours.

*Ben Lervill*

- + Looks and feels high quality
- + Technical design
- + Multiple zips, inc. under arms
- Hard to fault



## Ayacucho Men's Mount Everest Jacket

[cotswoldoutdoor.com](http://cotswoldoutdoor.com)

Here's an insulation jacket with a difference: more than 35% of its materials are made from renewable, plant-based fibre. You wouldn't guess this pleasing quirk from wearing it, though - it feels comfortable, substantial and, most importantly, warm. The jacket makes no use of down, but retains enough body-heat to serve as an outer layer on a dry day, and would make a good mid-layer in cold, wet conditions. It packs down well, looks good, and the brand itself supports a number of sustainable projects, so thumbs-up all round.

*Joseph Kane*

- + Well priced
- + Warm and light
- + Ethical brand
- One colour choice



## Jack Wolfskin Cascade Hike Texapore Low

[jack-wolfskin.co.uk](http://jack-wolfskin.co.uk)

What's the perfect multifunctional shoe for an outdoor nut? Essentially you want something rugged enough for the trail, relaxed enough for the pub and well-made enough to endure long, active days. Step forward Jack Wolfskin's new Cascade Hike Texapore Low, which feels cushioned but reassuringly robust once it's laced up. The sole's grippy, the heel's wide and the shoe incorporates the brand's own Texapore material, which is waterproof and breathable. It comes in three colours, the others more sober than the red/white shown here.

*Tom Rhys*

- + Multifunctional
- + Sturdy and waterproof
- + Can be worn around town
- Brighter models not to all tastes

# Hostel guide



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YHA Betws y Coed  
**YHA Beverley Friary**  
YHA Black Sail  
**YHA Blaxhall**  
YHA Boggle Hole  
**YHA Borrowdale**  
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**YHA Boscastle Harbour**  
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YHA Clun Mill  
**YHA Coniston Coppermines**  
YHA Coniston Holly How  
**YHA Conwy**  
YHA Cotswolds  
**YHA Coverack**  
YHA Dalby Forest  
**YHA Dartmoor**  
YHA Dufton  
**YHA Eastbourne**  
YHA Edale  
**YHA Eden Project**  
YHA Edmundbyers  
**YHA Elmscott**  
YHA Ennerdale  
**YHA Eskdale**  
YHA Exford  
**YHA Eyam**  
YHA Gower

**Meadow Green, Batch Valley, All Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JW**  
34 to 38 Green Batt, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1TU  
**The Firs, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3RW**  
Gypsy Lane, Alstonefield, nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FZ  
**Waterhead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OEU**  
Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6JZ  
**Bovey Combe, Beer, Seaton, Devon, EX12 3LL**  
Demesne Farm, Bellingham, Hexham, Northum, NE48 2BS  
**Dewars Lane, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1HJ**  
Swallow Falls Hotel, nr Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 ODW  
**Friar's Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 ODF**  
Black Sail Hut, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX  
**The Old School House, Blaxhall, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EA**  
Mill Beck, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4UQ  
**Longthwaite, Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria, Lakes, CA12 5XE**  
Morlais, Borth, Ceredigion, SY24 5JS  
**Palace Stables, Boscastle, Cornwall, PL35 OHD**  
Boswinger, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LL  
**Libanus, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8NH**  
National Park Study Centre, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, LD3 7YS  
**Ratlinghope, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 OSP**  
Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH  
**14 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA**  
Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3JH  
**Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XA**  
97 Tenison Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 2DN  
**54 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DT**  
East Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BB  
**Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 8WB**  
Hillfield, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3HN  
**Beacon House, Amesbury Road, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 OEW**  
The Mill, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NY  
**Coppermines House, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8HP**  
Holly How, Far End, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DD  
**Larkhill, Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy, LL32 8AJ**  
New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1JH  
**Parc Behan, School Hill, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6SA**  
Old School, Lockton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7PY  
**Bellever, Postbridge, Devon, PL20 6TU**  
Dufton, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6DB  
**1 East Dean Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8ES**  
Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 7ZH  
**Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG**  
Low House, Edmundbyers, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9NL  
**Elmscott, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, EX39 6ES**  
Cat Crag, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, Lakes, CA23 3AX  
**Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria, CA19 1TH**  
Exe Mead, Exford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7PU  
**Hawkhill Road, Eyam, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QP**  
Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe</b>  | <b>Easedale Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9QG</b>                     |
| YHA Grinton Lodge                   | Grinton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6HS                          |
| <b>YHA Hartington Hall</b>          | <b>Hall Bank, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 OAT</b>            |
| YHA Hathersage                      | Castleton Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 1EH          |
| <b>YHA Hawes</b>                    | <b>Lancaster Terrace, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3LQ</b>             |
| YHA Hawkshead                       | Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QD                               |
| <b>YHA Haworth</b>                  | <b>Longlands Drive, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8RT</b>   |
| YHA Hawse End                       | Hawse End Cottage, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UE            |
| <b>YHA Helmsley</b>                 | <b>Carlton Lane, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5HB</b>              |
| YHA Helvellyn                       | Greenside, Glenridding, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0QR                    |
| <b>YHA Holmbury</b>                 | <b>Radnor Lane, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW</b>                          |
| YHA Honister Hause                  | Seatoller, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5XN                                 |
| <b>YHA Hunstanton</b>               | <b>15 Avenue Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5BW</b>                  |
| YHA Idwal Cottage                   | Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 3LZ                    |
| <b>YHA Ilam Hall</b>                | <b>Ilam Hall, Ilam, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ</b>                |
| YHA Ingleton                        | Greta Tower, Sammy Lane, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EG           |
| <b>YHA Ironbridge Coalbrookdale</b> | <b>1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7NR</b>        |
| YHA Ironbridge Coalport             | John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Shropshire, TF8 7HT        |
| <b>Isle of Wight Brighstone</b>     | <b>North Street, Brighstone, Newport, PO30 4AX</b>                    |
| YHA Jordans                         | Welders Lane, Jordans, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2SN         |
| <b>YHA Keswick</b>                  | <b>Station Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5LH</b>                       |
| YHA Kettlewell                      | Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU                        |
| <b>YHA Kings</b>                    | <b>Kings, Penmaenpool, Dolgellau Gwynedd, Wales, LL40 1TB</b>         |
| YHA Kington                         | Victoria Road, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BX                        |
| <b>YHA Lands End</b>                | <b>Letcha Veau, St Just-in-Penwith, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7NT</b>  |
| YHA Langdale                        | High Close, Loughrigg, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9HJ                   |
| <b>YHA Langdon Beck</b>             | <b>Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0XN</b>        |
| YHA Leominster                      | The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EQ                    |
| <b>YHA Littlehampton</b>            | <b>63 Surrey Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5AW</b>         |
| YHA Litton Cheney                   | Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9AT                            |
| <b>YHA Liverpool Albert Dock</b>    | <b>25 Tabley Street, off Wapping, Liverpool, Mersyside, L1 8EE</b>    |
| YHA Liverpool Central               | Kansas Building, Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE                      |
| <b>YHA Lizard</b>                   | <b>The Polbreen, Lizard Point, Cornwall, TR12 7NT</b>                 |
| YHA Llanddeusant                    | The Old Red Lion, Llanddeusant, Camarthenshire, SA19 9UL              |
| <b>YHA Llangattock</b>              | <b>Wern Watkin, Hillside, Llangattock, Crickhowell, NP8 1LG</b>       |
| YHA London Central                  | 104 Bolsover Street, London, W1W 5NU                                  |
| <b>YHA London Earls Court</b>       | <b>38 Bolton Gardens, Earl's Court, London, SW5 0AQ</b>               |
| YHA London Lee Valley               | Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9AJ                       |
| <b>YHA London Oxford Street</b>     | <b>14 Noel Street, London, W1F 8GJ</b>                                |
| YHA London St Pancras               | 79-81 Euston Road, London, NW1 2QE                                    |
| <b>YHA London St Pauls</b>          | <b>36 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AB</b>                               |
| YHA London Thameside                | 20 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 5PR                         |
| <b>YHA Lulworth Cove</b>            | <b>School Lane, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5SA</b>          |
| YHA Malham                          | Malham, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 4DB                            |
| <b>YHA Manchester</b>               | <b>Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB</b>                  |
| YHA Mankinholes                     | Mankinholes, Todmorden, Lancashire, OL14 6HR                          |
| <b>YHA Manorbier</b>                | <b>Manorbier, nr Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7TT</b>                   |
| YHA Medway                          | 351 Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JE                          |
| <b>YHA Milton Keynes</b>            | <b>Vicarage Road, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AG</b>       |
| YHA Minehead                        | Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW                           |
| <b>YHA National Forest</b>          | <b>48 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BD</b>         |
| YHA New Forest                      | Cott Lane, Burley Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 4BB                       |
| <b>YHA Newcastle Central</b>        | <b>17 Carliol Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland NE1 6UQ</b> |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| YHA Newport Pembrokeshire         | Lower St Mary Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 OTS               |
| <b>YHA Ninebanks</b>              | <b>Orchard House, Mohope, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DQ</b>            |
| YHA Okehampton                    | Klondyke Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1EW                           |
| <b>YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor</b> | <b>Bracken Tor, Saxongate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1QW</b>           |
| YHA Osmotherley                   | Cote Ghyll, Osmotherley, Notherallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AH    |
| <b>YHA Oxford</b>                 | <b>2a Botley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 OAB</b>                  |
| YHA Patterdale                    | Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 ONW                               |
| <b>YHA Penzance</b>               | <b>Castle Horneck, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8TF</b>                  |
| YHA Perranporth                   | Droskyn Point, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 OGS                        |
| <b>YHA Poppit Sands</b>           | <b>Sea View, Poppit, Cardigan, Pembroke, SA43 3LP</b>                |
| YHA Port Eynon                    | Old Lifeboat House, Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN                     |
| <b>YHA Portland</b>               | <b>Hardy House, Castle Road, Castle Town, Portland, DT5 1AU</b>      |
| YHA Portreath                     | Nance Farm, Illogen, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 4QX                     |
| <b>YHA Pwll Deri</b>              | <b>Castell Mawr, Trefasser, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, SA64 OLR</b>    |
| YHA Ravenstor                     | Millers Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8SS                           |
| <b>YHA Rhossili</b>               | <b>Rhossili Middleton, Rhossili, Swansea, SA3 1PJ</b>                |
| YHA Rowen                         | Rhiw Farm, Rowen, Conwy, LL32 8YW                                    |
| <b>YHA Scarborough</b>            | <b>Burniston Rd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 ODA</b>          |
| YHA Sheen Bunkhouse               | Peakstones, Sheen, Derbyshire, SK17 OES                              |
| <b>YHA Sheringham</b>             | <b>1 Cremer's Drift, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HX</b>               |
| YHA Sherwood Forest               | Forest Corner, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9RN                 |
| <b>YHA Skiddaw House</b>          | <b>Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4QX</b>                     |
| YHA Slaidburn                     | King's House, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 3ER              |
| <b>YHA Snowdon Bryn Gwynant</b>   | <b>Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NP</b>                    |
| YHA Snowdon Llanberis             | Llwyn Celyn, Llanberis, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4SR                |
| <b>YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass</b>     | <b>Pen-y-Pass, Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NY</b>        |
| YHA Snowdon Ranger                | Rhyd Ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7YS                              |
| <b>YHA South Downs</b>            | <b>Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS</b>          |
| YHA St Briavels Castle            | St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG                       |
| <b>YHA St Davids</b>              | <b>Llaethdy, Whitesands, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6PR</b>     |
| YHA Stratford                     | Hemmingford House, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7RG           |
| <b>YHA Streatley</b>              | <b>Reading Road, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9JJ</b>                   |
| YHA Street                        | The Chalet, Ivythorn Hill, Street, Somerset, BA16 0TZ                |
| <b>YHA Swanage</b>                | <b>Cluny, Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS</b>              |
| YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall    | Military Road, Bardonia Mill, Northumberland, NE47 7AN               |
| <b>YHA Tanners Hatch</b>          | <b>Off Ranmore Common Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6BE</b>             |
| YHA Thurlby                       | 16 High Street, Thurlby, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 OEE              |
| <b>YHA Tintagel</b>               | <b>Dunderhole Point, Tintagel, Cornwall, PL34 ODW</b>                |
| YHA Totland Bay                   | Hurst Hill, Totland Bay, Isle Of Wight, PO39 OHD                     |
| <b>YHA Treyarnon Bay</b>          | <b>Tregonnan, Treyarnon, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8JR</b>             |
| YHA Truleigh Hill                 | Tottington Barn, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5FB              |
| <b>YHA Wasdale Hall</b>           | <b>Wasdale Hall, Wasdale, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1ET</b>            |
| YHA Wells Next The Sea            | Church Plain, Wells, Norfolk, NR23 1EQ                               |
| <b>YHA Whitby</b>                 | <b>Abbey House, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4JT</b>    |
| YHA Wilderhope Manor              | Manor, Longville in the Dale, Shropshire, TF13 6EG                   |
| <b>YHA Windermere</b>             | <b>Bridge Lane, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LA</b>         |
| YHA Wooler                        | 30 Cheviot Street, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6LW                  |
| <b>YHA Wye Valley</b>             | <b>Near Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6JJ</b>            |
| YHA York                          | Water End, Clifton, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 6LP                  |
| <b>YHA Youlgrave</b>              | <b>Fountain Square, Youlgrave, nr Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1UR</b> |

# Drying room

Our reader's picture this issue comes from Emma Johns.

"I thought I would send this picture of our daughter Ella at 10 weeks on her first YHA trip, to YHA Hartington Hall in the Peak District."

What a cutie! Do you have a great picture you'd like to see here? Share your adventures by emailing [magazine@yha.org.uk](mailto:magazine@yha.org.uk) or tweeting using #LiveMoreYHA



## WIN! A copy of Fantastic Female Adventurers

We have two copies of Lily Dyu's Fantastic Female Adventurers to give away. Published by Shrine Bell and new for 2019, the children's book tells the in-depth tales of 14 inspiring characters, from former YHA ambassador Sarah Outen to champion runner Mira Rai.

To enter, just answer the following question:

**In which national park is YHA Black Sail? (see our Exclusive Hire feature on p26 for a helping hand)**



Answers to [magazine@yha.org.uk](mailto:magazine@yha.org.uk) by 28th January 2020.

### @InghamPrimary

"The best two days of my life!" Oak class describe their #AlexRider themed spy mission to @YHAOfficial Castleton earlier this term.

### @emmashappyworld

Booked my @YHAOfficial for a long weekend in the Lakes!! Bring on the fresh air!!

### @david3012

Stunning location at @YHAOfficial Euston Rd for today's @ACEVO board meeting. Best view of @StPancrasInt I've ever had!

### @Natasha060100

Absolutely amazing 3 day residential with @EducationLBU! Such a great way to get to know my peers! Enjoyed every minute of it! Thanks to the staff and instructors from @YHAConistonHH @CGO\_outdoors

### @LakesSingleMum

Can certainly recommend @YHAOfficial #leominster for a base in Herefordshire. Been perfect for our @singlewithkids group break.

#LivemoreYHA



# Name the Welsh hostels

**WIN!** a Berghaus rucksack worth £110

Visit Wales has designated 2020 as its Year of the Outdoors - making now the perfect time to plan your next Welsh jaunt. We have more than 20 hostels in Wales, and we've jumbled up the names of five of them here. Worked out what they are? (The map on p34 might help.)

1. **YHA DOWNSON GARNER**
2. **YHA CORNEB COBSANE**
3. **YHA OMENBARRI**
4. **YHA THROB**
5. **YHA OWNER**

To enter simply send us an email with your five answers to [magazine@yha.org.uk](mailto:magazine@yha.org.uk) by 28th January 2020. Feel free to share your thoughts on this magazine at the same time.



## About the prize

Berghaus is giving away one of its overhauled Trailhead rucksacks to one lucky winner. The men's and women's Trailhead incorporates an adjustable Berghaus BIOFIT™ back system, delivering great load-carrying, comfort and versatility. The pack includes loads of features and adjustment options, and a handy rain cover. Available now from [berghaus.com](http://berghaus.com) and selected specialist outdoor retailers.

**Last issue:** congratulations to Andrew Rodwell, who won a Camelbak Ultra Pro Vest, and to Andrea Wilbourne, who won a Lifesaver Liberty Starter Pack.





We are YHA.

We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

**Because where you go changes who you become.**

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