



YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass – Access Statement

Introduction

Welcome to YHA. We are committed to making our network of hostels across England and Wales accessible and welcoming to all.

This access guide aims to give you as much information as possible to decide whether YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass and its facilities are accessible to you.

The hostel sits at the top of the Llanberis Pass, opposite some of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)'s most popular routes, the Miners and PYG tracks. This makes the hostel a great base for adventures in the Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park.

Accommodation at YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass is split over two buildings – the main building and The Barn, which includes an accessible en-suite room that sleeps up to 5 people. You can book this room online by requesting our accessible room in the comments section. Alternatively, you can book over the phone.

If you have any queries or need any assistance, please phone customer services on 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk. For full hostel details, including photos, visit www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-snowdon-pen-y-pass.

This access statement was last updated in March 2025.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Betws-y-Coed, 11 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is within 30m of the hostel. A seasonal service runs from this stop – see www.sherparwyddfa.wales.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The Llanberis Pass (A4086) is an unlit national limit road with little to no pavement access. If you are arriving by foot, after dark, please have a torch and visible clothing to hand.
- The entrance and exterior of the hostel building are well lit.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-snowdon-pen-y-pass/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

On-site parking is not available at this hostel. There are a very limited number of parking spaces available over the winter months in a layby adjacent to the hostel. These cannot be reserved and are not available from March to November.

If you require a Blue Badge space, please contact the hostel in advance. The layby is 30m from the main entrance without a walkway to and from the building.

Pen-y-Pass Car Park

The Pen-y-Pass Car Park is situated across the road from the hostel. It is owned and operated by Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park – see eryri.gov.wales.

- Spaces must be pre-booked online in summer (March to November), at least an hour in advance and can cost up to £40 per day or £20 for 8 hours. See eryri.gov.wales/visit/eryri-parking-app.
- The website states that there is a maximum stay of 24 hours, but you can book as many consecutive 24-hour stays as you wish.
- In winter, this car park operates pay and display parking, with no pre-booking required and a charge of £10 per day.
- A single space is available for Blue Badge holders – it is free to park in this space but it cannot be pre-booked.
- The car park is even and covered in tarmac. There is a dropped curb for wheelchair users to access the hostel (please notify us in advance). The path to the entrance is paved but uneven, please take care if using mobility aids.

Nant Peris Park & Ride

Alternative pay and display parking is available 3 miles away at Nant Peris Park & Ride. This service is operated by Sherpa'r Wyddfa – see www.sherparwyddfa.wales.

- The charge is £5 per day, plus the bus fare (£3 single).
- Pre-booking is not required.
- If you are parking for multiple days, the ticket machine will not let you select future days. Instead, please buy multiple tickets for the day of purchase and display them in your car.
- You can travel to the hostel via the Park & Ride bus until approximately 6.30pm (times vary seasonally) or by local taxi.

Main entrance and reception

The main entrance has double doors that open outwards with a 5cm high weather threshold. Our lobby is spacious with benches and notice boards. The floor is hard paved with level access to reception and a gradual ramp thereafter to the bar.

The reception desk has a lower service point and the area is well-lit. A vibrating pillow alarm is available on request. Assistance dogs are welcome – please notify us at the time of booking.

If you believe you will need assistance to evacuate in the event of a fire or similar emergency, please notify us at check-in. Our office is adjacent to the reception desk if you would prefer to speak privately.

Public areas

Halls and corridors

There is a good colour contrast to the walls, floors, and doorways throughout the building. Corridors are well-lit with automatic overhead lighting. Flooring on the ground floor is hard paving, carpet or laminate. All bedrooms are carpeted with carpet tiles.

Indoor access from the main building to the barn involves three staircases. Outdoor access from the main building to barn requires the use of a steep ramp. We are happy to provide help and support if needed.

Public showers and WCs

We have three toilets and two showers available for all visitors to use in the lobby. Two of the toilets are available within opening hours from 07:30 to 22:00 (23:00 on Friday and Saturday). Showers can be used for a fee of £2.50.

Our accessible toilet is kept locked but can be unlocked on request at reception. We use the national radar key system. The door into the toilet is 95cm wide and opens outwards with a locking mechanism that must be lifted up and to the left.

There are grabrails around the toilet and sink. The sink is situated at a lower level (75cm from the floor) with an accompanying mirror. There is a red emergency cord adjacent to the toilet and a baby changing table.

Lounge

The lounge is carpeted with little space between tables. There is a single step down into the room.

Dining areas

Bar front

There is a small, paved area in front of the bar, while the rest of the flooring is carpet. There are three tables, two of which have benches. There is space on the end of each table to accommodate a wheelchair user. The third table has four chairs.

There is a fireplace staff are happy to light on request (weather dependant).

Dining room

There are seven tables in the dining room, some use benches and others use chairs. Space between tables is limited. We can rearrange the dining room on request.

Self-catering kitchen

Our self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor of The Barn. There is level access from the front door. The flooring is laminate, and the room is evenly lit.

The self-catering kitchen is equipped with 4 hobs, 4 sinks with lever taps, 4 microwaves, 2 fridges and some dining furniture. Counters are 90cm high and the ovens have drop-down doors. Microwaves are at a lower level (53cm from the floor).

There is a dining area with four tables and space for wheelchair users to manoeuvre. Two highchairs are also available for guests to use. Utensils and cooking apparatus are all largely accessible on our lower shelves. Plates, bowls, mugs and glasses are on higher shelves (138cm high) but can be moved if needed.

Games room or classroom

The games room is located on the ground floor of the main building. There is level access from the entry hall and then through a single-leaf door that is 90cm wide.

The room itself is carpeted and has a number of soft furnishings and a pool table. Staff can rearrange furniture on request.

Laundry and drying facilities

The laundry is located on the ground floor of the main hostel building, behind the entrance hall. This room is equipped with a washing machine.

The drying room is located next to the laundry and has a large amount of drying hanging space.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

There are a range of bedrooms spread across the main hostel building and The Barn building. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Our bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. Those without an en-suite bathroom contain a washbasin with a lever tap. All bedding is provided.

All bathrooms have fluorescent lighting, non-slip flooring and a washbasin with a lever tap. Showers and WCs have a step up to enter.

Main building

Ground floor

- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.

Plus, the following rooms up a flight of 5 steps with a handrail on one side.

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single bunk with a double bed underneath.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Three communal showers.
- Three communal WCs.

First floor

The first floor is separated into two areas. Each has a staircase with a handrail and 16 steps providing access from the ground floor.

West Wing

- Three en-suite rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.

- Two rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Two en-suite rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Three rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Two showers.
- Three WCs.

East Wing

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a set of bunk beds and a single bed.
- Two en-suite rooms that sleeps up to 5 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds and a single bed. The en-suite WC and shower are located on one level with the beds on another split level with 5 stairs down.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 7 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds and a single bed. The en-suite WC and shower are located on one level with the beds on another split level with 5 stairs down.
- One shower.
- One WC.

The Barn

The Barn building is accessed externally from the main hostel, along a paved pathway and up a steep ramp.

Guests using a manual wheelchair may struggle to get up unassisted, while guests using a power-assisted wheelchair may feel uncomfortable due to the ramp's height. We are happy to provide help and support if needed.

The Barn building entrance door is 90cm wide, followed by an access door that is also 90cm wide. There is an internal door to access to the corridor that is 80cm wide.

Ground floor

- One accessible 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.
 - The door into the room is 90cm wide and, as you enter, the en-suite is to the right and a storage unit is to the left.
 - The narrowest point of the room is 80cm wide and there is space to manoeuvre a wheelchair.
 - There is 30cm from the floor to the lowest point of both lower bunk frames with space to accommodate most mobile hoists (not provided).
 - Each lower bunk is 40cm high from floor to mattress top with 70cm between the top of the mattress and the underside of the top bunk bed.
 - The door into the en-suite bathroom is 90cm wide.
 - The room itself is a wet room on one level with a shower area, fold-down shower chair, grab rails and emergency alarm cord.
 - Flooring is laminate and the shower area is separated by a curtain.

- The shower is not adjustable. The height from the floor to the controls is 100cm and the height from the floor to the shower head is 204cm.
- The sink is situated at a lower level, 75cm from the floor.
- There is left-handed transfer to the WC.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.

First floor

The first floor is accessed via a staircase with 14 steps and handrail.

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One shower.
- One WC.

Shared accommodation

We have a single-gender shared dormitory on the ground floor. This is a male dorm and unable to accommodate female guests.

Wheelchair users who are able to self-transfer are welcome to stay in our dorm, though the shared bathrooms are situated at a higher level up three steps. There is an accessible toilet in the lobby, but the showers are not accessible.

Grounds and garden

YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass has limited outdoor space. There is a level, paved area to the front of the hostel with picnic-style benches.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Some staff live on site. There is a payphone in the foyer of the main building linked to an overnight emergency phone system.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of a fire or similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is very poor in the hostel and immediate vicinity.
- Wi-Fi is available in shared social spaces.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass, Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 3AD
- Telephone: 0345 3719534

- Email: penypass@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: OL17
Local buses: Snowdon Sherpa line S2 runs from Betws-y-Coed (most buses have low-level access) and Express Motors line 87 runs from Llanberis and Caernarfon – for the hostel, get off at Gwastadnant, Pen-y-Pass
www.gwynedd.gov.uk
- Local taxis: Mark's Cabs 01248 800000

**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.**