



YHA Swanage – Access Statement

Introduction

If you're looking for a weekend break or an educational trip to Dorset's World Heritage Jurassic Coast, then YHA Swanage is the ideal place. Our elegant Victorian villa boasts fine views across Swanage Bay and is also minutes away from a safe, sandy Blue Flag beach. We are located on a steep hill just outside the small seaside town of Swanage.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this three-storey building. We have an accessible room with en-suite bathroom on the ground floor.

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

This access statement was last updated in September 2025.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Warham, 11.4 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is Swanage bus station, 500m away. A frequent service runs to this stop, usually served by accessible buses.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The centre of town is 500 yards from the hostel down Cluny Crescent, which is quite a steep road. There is a good pavement with streetlighting.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-swanage/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have plenty of parking on-site, located behind the main house on St Vast's Road. There are no marked bays, but we are happy to reserve a space close to the hostel if needed. There is a drop-off point from the main road approximately 20m from the entrance. Parking is also available along the road in front of the hostel.

The car park is level and surfaced with gravel. There is minimal lighting from the hostel building. From the car park to the hostel guests must cross the gravel and step up onto an even concrete path. From here to the entrance there are 19 steps up with a handrail.

From the street there is an evenly paved path which gently slopes up towards the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

Main entrance and reception

To enter the hostel there are two shallow steps up and through manual double doors which open outwards. There is then a single leaf door which leads into the reception lobby. The flooring here is level throughout and surfaced with the original mosaic tiles. The area is well-lit with ceiling lights.

The reception desk does not have a low-level section, though an induction loop is available on request. Seating is provided by some chairs to the side of the desk.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

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 mosaic tiles and on the upper floors it is carpet.

We do not have a lift, so all access to upper floors is only via a set of carpeted steps with non-slip contrasting nosing. There is a bannister that runs up one side. Due to the age of the building, there are additional steps in the upstairs corridors.

Toilets

There is a unisex accessible toilet next to reception. It is well-lit with fluorescent lighting and has tile flooring. Transfer onto the toilet is left-handed.

Lounge

Our elegant, oak-panelled lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from the reception lobby via a single leaf door. The floor is level throughout and covered with carpet. The room is brightly lit by large bay windows during the day and by ceiling lights at night.

The room is furnished with coffee tables, sofas and soft chairs with armrests. The furniture is well spaced, but all furniture can also be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Dining room

Our large dining area is located on the ground floor and has level access from the reception lobby via a single leaf door. There are two spacious seating areas linked by the servery. The floor is level throughout and has vinyl flooring.

Tables of different sizes are available, as are chairs with and without armrests. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Table service is available – please ask at reception. We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or any likes or dislikes (please let us know before arrival).

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access from the ground floor via a double leaf doors that open inwards. The floor is level and there is vinyl flooring. The room is well-lit with ceiling lights.

There are clear signs (in large font) on equipment use. The kitchen is equipped with 3 ovens with hobs, microwaves, 3 fridges, toasters, utensils, crockery and cutlery. Sinks are fitted with lever taps. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units – we are happy to move these to lower storage if required.

Laundry and drying facilities

The laundry room is located on the ground floor and has level access via a single leaf door. A coin-operated washing machine and tumble dryer are available here. The tile floor is level and staff are on hand to assist with the equipment if required.

Classrooms

We have two classrooms which are located in our single storey annexe. The annexe is approximately 50m from the main building. There is level access from the car park, or from the main building there is a concrete path with steps. There are then three steps up into the building.

The annexe is level throughout and the floor is surfaced with carpet. There are four toilets in this building. We can provide tables and chairs in a variety of seating arrangements. A portable induction loop is also available on request. For more information about the classrooms, please contact the hostel directly.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Our rooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights plus electric sockets and a USB port. All bedding is provided.

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

Ground floor

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath. This is our most accessible bedroom – it has step-free access and an en-suite wet room.

First floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 19 steps. There are two further sets of 3 or 4 steps along the corridor.

- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- Two en-suite rooms that sleep up to 3 people each. They include a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.

- One room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath.
- Four en-suite rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- 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 en-suite room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds and a single bed.
- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four showers.
- Four toilets.

Second floor

Access to this floor is via a set of 23 steps. There is a further set of 9 steps along the corridor.

- One en-suite room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 3 people. It includes 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 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.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Four showers.
- Four toilets.

Grounds and garden

The front garden is small and flat. It is suitable for seating. We have two picnic tables and benches available for guests to use. The back garden is very steep and is dedicated to planted shrubs and plants.

Cycle store

The cycle store is approximately 50 metres from the main entrance, connected by a tarmac drive on a slope.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Swanage, 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 can always be contacted, including at night, via the contact details at reception.

- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of 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 good within the hostel.
- Wi-Fi is available.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Swanage, 20 Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS
- Telephone: 0345 3719346
- Email: swanage@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 195
- Local trains: Waterloo to Weymouth line stop at Bournemouth or Wareham, with connecting buses to Swanage
- Local buses: Line 40 runs from Poole and Wareham or Line 50 runs from Bournemouth via Studland – for details, see www.morebus.co.uk
- Local taxis: Purbeck Taxi Centre & Private Hire 01929 501205

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.