



YHA Kettlewell Access Statement

Introduction

The Kettlewell Hostel is a large Victorian building in the Yorkshire Dales village of Kettlewell.

There are many varied circular walks and cycle rides from the village. The hostel is an ideal stop over place for either day 1 or day 2 of the Dales Way from Ilkley, as well as being on the Lady Anne Way.

Kettlewell is home to an annual scarecrow festival in August.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors at The Kettlewell Hostel

We have 40 beds over eleven rooms, a large dining room, first floor sitting room with wood burning stove, well equipped self-catering kitchen, free fast Wi-Fi throughout the building, second hand bookshop and private garden. We can (and are happy to) provide all meals which are high quality and homemade, we are fully licensed with a good range of local beers.

Available to individuals, groups, or as 'exclusive hire' when possible throughout the year.

Pre-Arrival

- The closest large town is Skipton (15 miles) with all facilities including train and bus stations and supermarkets.
- Grassington is 7 miles away, with a Spar shop, chemists, doctor and dentist surgeries, and numerous tea shops and gift shops.
- Kettlewell itself is well served with a local shop, garage, gift shop, three pubs, two tea shops and a post office (which is situated in the hostel itself). There is a regular bus service to Kettlewell from both Skipton and Grassington. Dales bus Number 72. The stop is less than a minutes' walk from the hostel.
- A local private taxi is also available - Frank Innoco: 01756 761646
- The hostel is situated at the heart of the village of Kettlewell; all roads are surfaced with tarmac. The village has street lighting, and the hostel is lit well at night.

Car Parking and Arrival

We have space for seven cars around the hostel, and commonly this is enough.

We are happy to reserve a parking space if an individual has access issues please let us know in advance if possible. We are more than happy to help with any unloading etc.

If there is no space available outside the hostel on arrival, dropping off and unloading is ok, but we ask that the cars be parked in the '£2 car park' which is 5 minutes' walk away in the village. We can sell you a ticket for this carpark if the garage is closed.

If you have a minibus over 16 seats then free parking is available in the Yorkshire Dales National Park car park behind the garage in the village.

Please note that parking is a sensitive issue in the village, and we ask that parking notices outside residential houses are respected.

Main Entrance and Reception

There is a wheelchair accessible ramp to the main hostel entrance with hand rails to both sides. There is also access by 4 stone steps with handrails to both sides.

Please note that the wheelchair access is necessary for the post office, and this level of accessibility does not reflect access levels for the rest of the hostel.

The main hostel door opens inwards to the tiled hallway. On the left is the village post office with carpeted floor. The post office has an induction loop which is available on request. The post office doubles up as a hostel reception area. This is where we ask everyone to check in.

There is various seating available in the post office area and hallway.

To the back of the main hallway on the right is an information board with useful local information and an 'emergency' button which will ring in the warden's house to the rear of the property. This is to be used if the warden is not around, during the night or outside of reception hours.

Public Areas

Halls, Corridors and Stairs/Lifts

There is good colour contrast to floors, walls and doors throughout the building, all public areas are well lit using a combination of ceiling and wall lights. All shared rooms and corridors on the first and second floors are carpeted throughout.

All kitchen areas, toilets, and showers have suitable linoleum flooring. On each level of the building there are no floor height variations.

There is no lift, so access to each floor is via the stairs, all stairs are carpeted and have handrails to one side.

Dining Room

The dining room is accessed from the hallway via the first door on the right. This door remains open using a sound activated fire doorstop. The dining room has a level polished wood floor. There is space to seat 36 here at 6 large wooden tables with additional seating available on request for up to 42 people. There is also a small seating area with two open sided soft chairs, and a small two seater leather sofa and a coffee table.

All furniture can be moved, please ask for assistance with this.

Three shelving units in the dining room are part of the hostel's second hand bookshop.

Lounge

The lounge is on the first floor. The door opens inwards and is held open using a sound activated fire door guard. The floor is fully carpeted. This is a shared space with wide bench seating/storage on two walls; this seating also has plug sockets built into it for phone and laptop charging. This area of seating cannot be moved.

There are board games in the built in storage.

The rest of the furniture is a long 5/6 seater sofa, and five soft chairs; one with arms, the others more 'open'. There are three coffee tables. All of the non-fixed furniture can be moved as necessary.

There is a wood burning stove in this room, with kindling and logs provided. There is also a substantial fire guard available to use. Please ask for assistance when lighting the fire if needed.

Self-catering Kitchen

This room is accessed through the post office/reception area to your left as you come into the building. The floor is level and surfaced with suitable non slip flooring. The door opens inwards.

The kitchen is equipped with two large electric ovens, two sets of electric rings (one with 4 rings, the second with 2), two commercial microwaves, two toasters, two kettles, two under counter fridges, one with a small ice box. There is a storage shelf unit for dry goods. There is a full range of kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery enough for 40 people. Some items may be stored above head height; however, we would be happy to move items to a lower level if required. There is also a fully stocked first aid box in the kitchen.

If any additional equipment is needed, we are happy to provide this if we have it in the hostel kitchen, please ask for assistance.

All others areas on this floor are marked as private, these include the post office, the hostel kitchen, and the dishwasher area.

Drying room

The drying room is straight ahead through the main hallway to the rear of the building accessed through the second hallway door which remains open with a sound activated fire door stop guard. The drying room has a heavy fire door which remains closed when not in use. The floor here is a level painted concrete surface.

Bedrooms and Bathrooms

All bedrooms are carpeted and on one level. All rooms have a hand wash basin with a mirror and vanity light above. Each of these lights also has a USB charging point incorporated.

None of the bedrooms are en-suite. All rooms are well lit - each has a central ceiling light.

Beds are all made up ready with mattress protector, sheet, duvet and one pillow.

All bed rooms have a number of small moveable bedside tables, hooks, and some have either a locker or under bed storage. You should provide your own padlock if you wish to use these as secure storage.

Toilets and showers are well lit with timed motion activated lighting, all have non slip flooring. All the shower and toilet doors open inwards.

Bathrooms are well lit with timed motion activated lighting, all have non slip flooring. The showers all have a step up to enter. All the shower and toilet doors open inwards.

First floor:

Access to the first floor is via the main staircase from the hallway. This is a large wide staircase with 16 carpeted steps and a handrail to the right.

There are three bedrooms on this floor:

- Bedroom 1 - 6 beds (three bunks)
- Bedroom 2 - 4 beds (two bunks)
- Bedroom 3 - 6 beds (A double bed with single bunk over and two bunk beds)

Each of the showers on this floor has a fold down seat. There are four toilets and three showers on the first floor.

Second floor:

The second floor is accessed by a fairly narrow fairly steep staircase with 13 carpeted stairs, and a hand rail to the right.

All the bedrooms on the top floor are partially in the eaves and are beamed and therefore have some restrictions on head height.

There are eight bedrooms on this floor:

- Bedroom 4 - 2 beds (single beds - not bunks)
- Bedroom 5 - double bed
- Bedroom 6 - 4 beds (1 bunk, two singles)
- Bedroom 7 - 3 beds (1 bunk, one single)
- Bedroom 8 - 3 beds (1 bunk, one single)
- Bedroom 9 - 5 beds (2 bunks, one double)
- Bedroom 10 - 3 beds (1 bunk, one single)
- Bedroom 11 - 3 beds (1 bunk, one single)

There are two toilets and two showers on the second floor.

The main corridor on the top floor also acts as an access route to the top floor fire exit which leads to an external fire escape. This corridor must not be blocked at any time.

Grounds and Garden

To the rear of the dining room is access to our small private garden. The door opens outwards. This is one of the final fire exits so must not be blocked. The garden is accessed via a narrow external 'corridor' and up 6 narrow stone steps. The garden is enclosed on three sides with a wooden fence and on the fourth with a dry stone wall. No access is allowed to the area around the oil tank.

The garden has three bench tables and a bench. This outdoor furniture can be moved around if needed, please ask for assistance with this. External lighting can be switched on if needed on request.

Cycle Shed

We have a large bike store at the hostel accessed down the side. The bike store has concreted in hoops to secure your bicycles, a track stand and a couple of stand pumps. Please do bring your own bike locks. The shed is kept locked overnight and when not in use. Please let us know and we can give you the key for the bike shed when needed.

Additional Information

- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome.
- We do not permit smoking anywhere in the hostel.

- The owners -Saul and Floss are almost always available on site from 4pm to 10 am in the morning, through the night there is a button in the hallway to call them in an emergency.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or any emergency requiring evacuation. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate in case of fire should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom on the back of the door.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel and village is variable and should not be relied upon.
- Wi-Fi is available for free throughout the hostel password available on arrival.

Contact Information

- Address: The Kettlewell Hostel, Whernside House, Kettlewell, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU
- Telephone: 01756 760232
- Email: kettlewell@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey Map 98; Grid reference SD970724.
- Hours of operation: Reception is open from 4pm to 10.30pm. There are instructions clearly displayed on the front door if no-one is available in the hostel when you arrive. If we are expecting you we will always leave you a note with your name on it.
- Local buses: Bus no 72 from Skipton, some services require you to change at Grassington. It is a small rural service, without low level access. Get off the bus at the Village shop in Kettlewell, the hostel is a minutes' walk from here, we have the Post Office sign as well as the YHA sign on the front of the building.

Please do contact us directly if you would like to talk over your visit, or have any questions about your stay.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Saul and Floss Ward