



YHA Minehead - Access Statement

Introduction

Take to two wheels, relax on a beach or try a spot of badger watching at YHA Minehead; a country retreat in an attractive house high in Somerset's Exmoor hills, perfect for a weekend break or family get-together. For activity breaks, the nearby tracks are great for mountain biking and cycling holidays, while walkers can enjoy the South West Coast Path. Don't miss the medieval village of Dunster - a lovely short walk away.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this 33-bed hostel; a 2-storey building which is set just inside the national park boundary of Exmoor. Unfortunately none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meets modern standards of accessibility.

We look forward to welcoming you. If you have any queries or require any assistance please phone 01629 592700 or email customerservices@yha.org.uk.

Pre-Arrival

- The nearest rail station is Taunton which is 23.3 miles away.
- The nearest bus stop is 1 mile away. Is there a bus service from Taunton that runs here.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when booked in advance. Please see the contact information section for more details.
- The centre of the village (Alcombe) is one mile from the hostel. There is no pavement and limited street lighting along some of this route. The approach to the hostel is up a rough bridleway for 0.5 mile.
- The hostel's details can be seen on YHA's website www.yha.org.uk; please click on the Maps and Directions tab to view a map and transport options.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (please see contact information).

Car Parking and Arrival

We have onsite parking approximately 50 metres from the main entrance. This is located before the main building, alongside the drive on right hand side. There is space for a maximum of 10 cars.

The car park has a slight slope and is unpaved with stone, grass and chippings.

There are no marked bays, but there is a dropping-off point 10 metres from the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming we will do our best to provide assistance moving to and from cars.

A sloped pathway with an even surface leads from the car park to the main entrance. There are no steps on the pathway up to the hostel.

Main Entrance and Reception

There are 2 sets of 4 steps up into the covered porch. There are then two steps up through a manual single leaf door which opens inwards into the reception lobby. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards.

There is a portable induction loop available on request at reception. The payphone is also located near to this area, as is the emergency phone to connect to a member of staff (on site) at night. There is a long bench to provide seating in the reception hallway.

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 first floor is carpet.

Unfortunately there is no lift, so access to the first floor is by stairs only. The staircase to the first floor has one flight of 14 steps. Handrails are fitted on one side (right hand side when going upstairs). The steps are surfaced with carpet.

Public WCs

There is one unisex WC close to reception. It does not meet modern standards of accessibility. The floor is surfaced with non-slip lino and it is well-lit.

Lounge

Our cosy lounge is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards. There is a rug (not fixed) in the centre of the room.

The room is furnished with sofas, armchairs and coffee tables. All furniture can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

Dining Room

The dining room is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via a single leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with polished wooden floorboards. The room is well-lit.

There are long tables and long bench seating without arm or back rests. All furniture can be moved; please just ask at reception if you require assistance.

Table service is available; please ask at reception and we will be happy to help. We are also happy to cater for dietary requirements or any particular likes or dislikes. Please advise us of these before your arrival.

Self-Catering Kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access from reception via two single leaf doors. The floor is level and surfaced with vinyl. The kitchen is well-lit.

The kitchen is equipped with a catering sized electric oven with four hobs on top, a microwave, 2 cordless kettles, two fridges and a freezer. There is a range of kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units. We would be happy to move these to lower storage if required. The room is equipped with a washing machine.

Laundry and Drying Facilities

From the main entrance there are 7 steps down to the laundry room. There is a single leaf door to enter. The floor is level and the room is evenly lit.

Staff are happy to assist if required.

Bedrooms and Bathrooms

None of the rooms is en-suite, but all of them have a washbasin. Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. All bedrooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling lights. All bedding is provided.

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

First Floor

- Two 3-bedded rooms (a double with a single bunk over)
- Four 4-bedded rooms
- One 5-bedded room (double with a single bunk over and a bunk bed)
- One 6-bedded room

- Four WCs and three showers
- One shower over a bath

Grounds and Garden

We have approximately 2 acres of gardens which slope heavily away from the main building. They are mainly laid to lawn, with hedging.

Two 3-seat benches with armrests are available in the garden along with three picnic tables.

The cycle shed is 15 metres from main entrance, connected by a gravel path.

Additional Information

- We do not permit pets, but assistance dogs are very welcome.
- We do not permit smoking anywhere in the hostel.
- A member of staff is available on site during reception hours, and at night in an emergency (access via emergency phone at Reception).
- 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.
- Mobile phone reception within the hostel can vary.
- Wi-Fi is not available at this hostel.

Contact Information

- Address: YHA Minehead, Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW.
- Telephone: 0345 3719033
- Email: minehead@yha.org.uk
- Ordinance Survey Map 181; Grid reference SS973442.
- Local buses: First Bus 0117 244 4040 Webbers Bus 01278 452086
- Local taxi: Ad's Cabs 01643 804587; Alcombe Taxis - 01643 475000.

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.