



YHA Alston – Access Statement

Introduction

Alston Youth Hostel is a 2 storey building that was purpose built in 1975 by The YHA to serve the Pennine Way. It is located on the edge of the very small rural town of Alston in The North Pennines approximately 21 miles north east from Penrith and the M6, 28 miles south east from Carlisle and about 40 miles west of Newcastle.

The following statement is a summary of our provision. If you have any specific questions about access, please call us and we will endeavour to help.

Pre-Arrival

- The nearest railway stations to Alston are Penrith 21 miles away, Haltwhistle 15 miles away or Langwathby 14 miles away. There is no rail link to Alston.
- Local Taxi – Hendersons Taxis 01434 381204
- Bus services to Alston are very limited with only three regular buses operating daily. Please check on-line information for bus services within Cumbria for up to date information on which services are running and times.
- The bus stop is about 400 metres from the hostel on the main road into Alston outside Alston House and by the Spar Supermarket/Texaco garage.

Car Parking and Arrival

- There is a large gravelled car park to the front of the hostel which is mostly level but a sloped down at the car park entrance.
- Vehicles can pull up to level flag stones in front of the main hostel entrance.
- The car park and lane leading to the hostel from the main road is lit at night time.
- Cars & Mini buses have no access problems but people arriving with larger vehicles should contact the hostel in advance. No access for coaches.
- Check in is from 17:00 – 22:00. Access before or after these times needs to be discussed in advance with hostel staff.
- Hostel front door is locked at 22:00 and access after that time is by a digital door key code (provided at checking in)

Main Entrance & Reception

- 1 step up to main entrance
- Reception area is fairly small (can fit approx. 4 people)

- There is a door bell on the outside of the main door and a call bell button at the reception.
- Access to the drying room and down stairs cloak room is from the reception areas. No steps.

Public Areas

- Good lighting
- Wide wooden stairs with landing half way to reach the first floor.
- Landing areas on the first floor are obstruction free.

Floors coverings are

- Reception, self-catering kitchen and bathrooms – Tiles or linoleum
- Hallway & Dining area – Parquet wood
- Lounge and bedrooms and upstairs corridors – carpets
- Drying room - concrete

Public WCs

- 1 cloakroom with toilet and wash hand basin located on ground floor via the drying room (no steps)
- Ladies and gents shared toilet and washrooms located on the first floor
- None of the toilets meets modern standards of accessibility.

Dining Room

- The dining room is accessed from the main hallway through an automatic fire door. No steps.
- The dining room seats up to 30 people but if full capacity there is little room for free movement.
- All tables and chairs are moveable.
- Chairs are stable but do not have arm rests.

Lounge

- The lounge is accessed from the dining area, with no door in between, but there are 2 steps down.
- Patio doors open up onto an external flagged patio area.
- Comfortable stable seating with good lighting and reading lights available.
- Light switches for the lounge and dining room are located at the entrance to the dining room.

Self-catering Kitchen

- The kitchen is accessed from the dining room (no steps) and is well lit by 2 fluorescent lights.
- It contains a table and 4 chairs that can be removed to create more room.
- 2 domestic gas cookers and other domestic style kitchen fittings such as 2 fridge freezers, microwave and also an auto-fill hot water boiler.
- A double sink area and low level shelving for crockery and cooking utensils.
- Automatic fire door

Laundry/Drying Room

- The drying room and cycle storage shed is accessed from the reception area (no steps to drying room but one step down to the cycle shed through a door).
- Contains racks for boots and clothing, radiators and domestic washing machine for guest use and a sink washing area.
- Level concrete floor

Bike Storage

- The shed can store up to 23 bikes.
- The cycle store is locked internally and the doors to the car park can only be opened from the inside.
- Access to the cycle shed via the main doors to the outside is level with no steps onto a concrete flooring.

Bedrooms

- The hostel has 7 bedrooms all located on the first floor accessed by a single staircase from the hallway up wide wooden stairs with a landing area half way up.
- There is no ground floor sleeping accommodation.
- 2 x 2 bedded rooms, 2 x 4 bedded rooms and 3 x 6 bedded rooms.
- Rooms 5, 6 and 7 are the most spacious.
- Some of the bunks within the rooms are very low level.
- No steps on the first floor to access bedrooms
- All beds in the rooms are sturdy, wooden bunk beds.
- All bedrooms are carpeted as is the landing area. There are no rugs within the bedrooms
- Good lighting is provided by ceiling lights with fluorescent bulbs
- Currently no individual bed lights.
- None of the rooms are en-suite.

Washrooms and Showers

- There are 2 single sex shared wash rooms on the first floor which contain 3 wash hand basins and 2 toilet cubicles and a shower cubicle.
- There are no steps into the washrooms from the main corridor but the shower cubicles have 1 step up to get in.
- There are a further 2 shower rooms either side of the male washroom. One requires a step up into the shower the other is level access with a walk in shower and glass screen with sliding door.
- Flooring in the washrooms is red tiles and none slip linoleum in the separate shower rooms.
- Light sensors provide instant lighting as you enter the 2 washrooms.

Grounds and Garden

- The hostel has a small lawned area to the side of the car park with a picnic bench.
- There is a flag stone patio area with chairs and a wooden bench accessed either by the patio doors in the lounge area or via 2 steps up from the car park.

Additional information

- No pets or dogs (but assistance dogs are welcome).
- No smoking in any part of the hostel. Designated smoking area outside.
- A member of staff is usually available on site, including at night (contactable by bell at reception or phone).
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms fitted.
- We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or any emergency requiring evacuation. Any particular requirements for evacuation required should be made known at check in.
- Evacuation procedures shown in each bedroom
- Mobile phone reception is good throughout the majority of the hostel and grounds.
- Free Wifi available.

Contact Information

- Address: Alston Youth Hostel, The Firs, Alston, Cumbria CA9 3RW.
- Telephone: 01434 381509
- Email: alston@yha.org.uk
- Reception Open: 8:00am to 10:00 and then from 17:00 to 22:00.
- Check out is by 10:00am on the day of departure.
- Hostel Operates: All year round.
- Ordnance Survey map: OL31
- Grid Reference: NY717461

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.