



YHA Honister House – Access Statement

Introduction

A must for dedicated walkers! This former quarry workers' house, at the summit of Honister Pass, is in true mountain country with easy access to England's highest peaks. Steep valleys stretch down from the mountains to Derwentwater and Buttermere to create a beautiful and distinctive landscape. There's a 400-year-old working slate mine next door.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this single storey building located adjacent to a mountain pass (at 1,000ft above sea level) in a relatively remote and exposed location. All our rooms are on the ground floor, however, none of our bedrooms or bathrooms meet modern standards of accessibility.

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-honister-house.

This access statement was last updated in February 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Whitehaven, 25 miles away. Penrith station is 28 miles away but offers better access to the hostel via public transport.
- The nearest bus stop is from the car park, within 20m. A service runs from Easter to October half-term (nearest year-round stop is at Seatoller).
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The nearest village is 1.5 miles from the hostel. The roads from here are steep and winding. There are no pavements or streetlights.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-honister-house/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have parking for approximately 7 cars, 20m from the main entrance. This car park is level, half surfaced with grass and the other half with gravel. There are no marked bays but we are happy to reserve a space if needed.

From this car park, there are two level stone steps down to a narrow gravel path with a short steep section leading to the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to help with moving to and from cars.

There is also parking in the National Trust car park 50m from the hostel. This is level and surfaced with gravel. It is free to park overnight for hostel guests (pay and

display from 10am). From here there is a set of 17 steps without a handrail up to the hostel. The step edges have been marked with white paint to increase visibility.

Main entrance and reception

There is a step up to the main entrance. The main entrance is a manual single-leaf door which opens inwards into the entrance hall. From here there is a single-leaf door through to the common room. The reception desk is located here.

A portable induction loop is available at reception. This room is level with wood-effect laminate flooring and brightly lit by natural light or ceiling lights.

Public areas

Halls and corridors

There is good colour contrast to floor, walls and doorways throughout the building. All public areas and halls are well-lit using ceiling and wall lights. The hostel is on one floor and carpeted throughout. Access into all rooms and public areas is level.

WCs

There is a female washroom next to reception with two WCs. The male washroom and WCs are at the far end of the accommodation area. Both washrooms are well-lit and have non-slip lino flooring.

Common room

Our modern common room is located just off the entrance hall. The flooring and lighting are as described above. The room is furnished with coffee tables, sofas, stools and armchairs. There are also dining tables and straight-backed chairs without armrests. All furniture can be moved – please ask on arrival if you need assistance.

Self-catering kitchen

The self-catering kitchen is off the same corridor as the female washroom. There is a single-leaf door to enter. The room is well-lit and has non-slip lino flooring.

The kitchen is equipped with 2 domestic-sized gas cookers, small under-counter fridge, tall 400l fridge, tall 400l freezer, 3 stove-top kettles, microwave and toaster. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units. We are happy to move these to lower storage if required.

Drying facilities

The drying room is located just off the corridor to the main accommodation, through a single-leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with lino.

Bedrooms and bathrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Each room is carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bed lights plus a washbasin. All bedding is provided and towels can be provided if requested in advance (fee applies).

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

Ground floor

- Three rooms that sleep up to 2 people each. They include a set of bunk beds.
- Five rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Four communal showers.
- Five communal WCs.

Grounds and garden

Outside the entrance is a small flat area with 2 picnic benches (no fires permitted).

Cycle store

There are cycle stands fixed to the front of the hostel near the main entrance.

Additional information

- Dogs are permitted at YHA Honister House when hiring the whole hostel through YHA Exclusive Hire. Pet dogs will have access to the public areas within the hostel but are not permitted in hostel bedrooms or kitchens and must not be left unattended. Assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- Staff don't live on-site but can be contacted 24 hours a day via the emergency details on reception. There is also a central out-of-hours line 0300 666 0186.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are 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 should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- There is no mobile phone reception within the hostel or immediate vicinity. There is a payphone in the porch and an emergency landline at reception.
- Wi-Fi is not available at this hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Honister House, Seatoller, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 5XN
- Telephone: 0345 3719522
- Email: honister@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 89

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.