



winter 22/23

The Journey



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yha.org.uk/breaks/winter-holidays



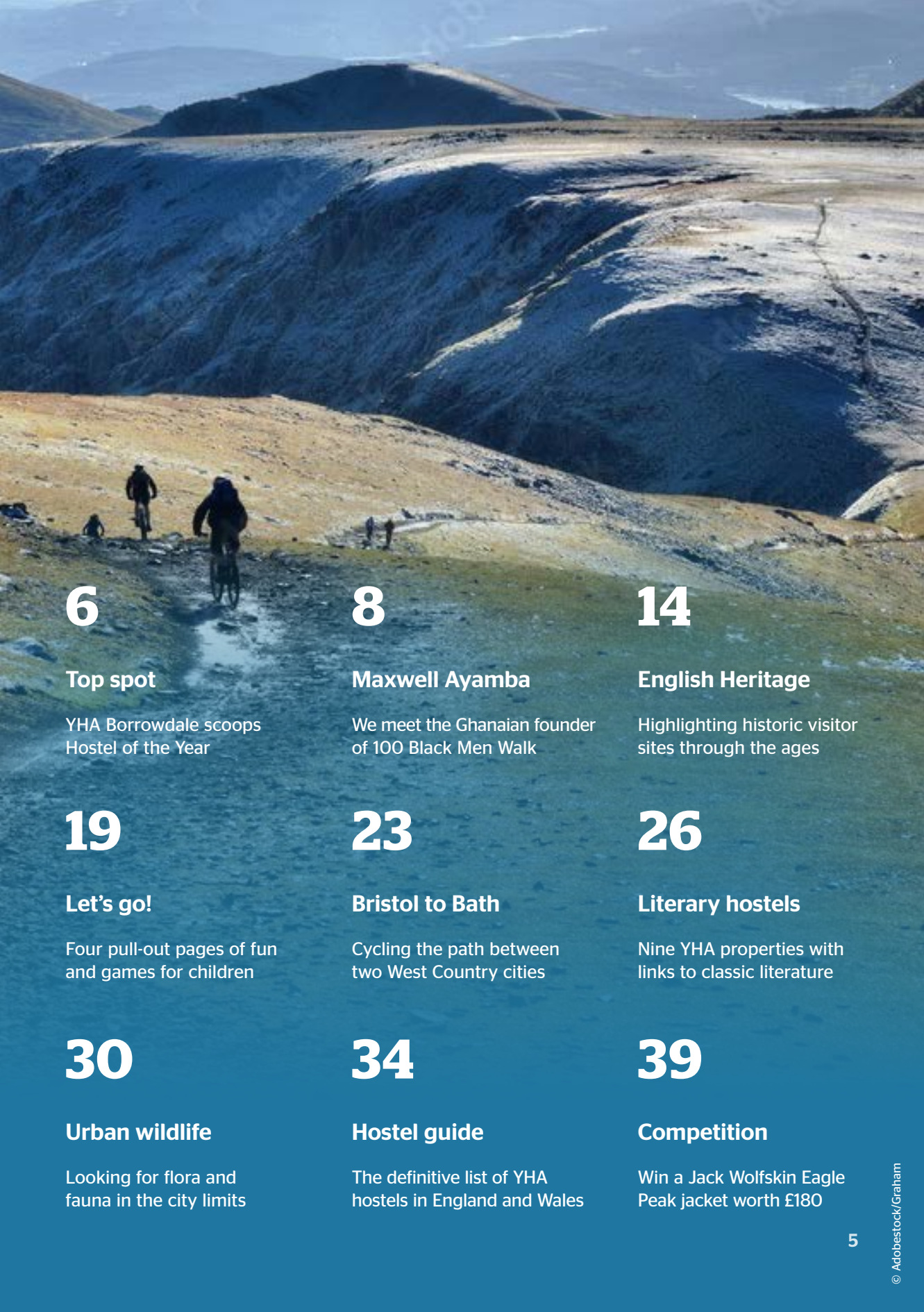
Hello

...and a very warm welcome to the winter issue of The Journey. The final few months of 2022 seemed to gallop by, and suddenly here we are, well past the December solstice and enjoying the tail-end of winter as the days start to lengthen and spring starts to unfurl its first green tendrils.

What are your plans for the year ahead? You'll find plenty of ideas and inspiration for 2023 trips in the following pages, whether you're keen on disappearing into the fells of the Lake District or losing yourself in the streets of Bristol and Bath. We also take a look at some of the many superb attractions offered by English Heritage. How many can you chalk off in the months to come?

Elsewhere we meet hiking advocate Maxwell Ayamba, look at how you can make a difference when you're out on the trail, and take a close peer at the urban wildlife that's never far away in the city. There's also space for the usual news and reviews, as well as Let's Go!, our special pull-out kids' section. Happy New Year – and here's to the adventures that lie ahead.





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Café
Open



YHA Borrowdale

It's a winner!

A huge thank you to readers of hillwalkers' bible The Great Outdoors Magazine for voting YHA Borrowdale the 'Hostel or Bunkhouse of the Year'. One reader praised it as 'homely after a wander to some Wainwrights', while another loved its family-friendly approach where 'nothing is too much trouble'.

The hostel sits in one of the Lake District's loveliest valleys, reached through the steep-sided 'Jaws of Borrowdale' and granting access to the giant fells of Glaramara, Great Gable and, beyond them, Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain.

Aaron Jones, hostel manager, told The Great Outdoors, "Our little hostel was built here in one of the Lake District's most beautiful locations 90 years ago, and today it still fulfils YHA's original mission: to help all, especially young people of limited means, to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside."

Congratulations to Hostelling Scotland's Cairngorm Lodge Youth Hostel and our YHA Helvellyn, which were both highly commended in the awards.





A space for all

Walk4Health Group at Scafell Pike in 2017

Journalist and access activist Maxwell Ayamba talks to *The Journey* about getting more minority groups into the outdoors, the challenges they face and walking in the steps of the first Black Roman emperor. By Daniel Neilson

The theatre production of *Black Men Walking* was acclaimed by *The Stage's* Charlotte Maxwell as “an important, political, poignant work... (it) dismantles stereotypes and proudly presents the complex identities of Black British people.” The play, written by rapper Testament, tells the story of a group of men walking the trails of the Peak District, looking for friendship, laughter, and a place to converse. It touches on centuries of Black history in the hills of Britain, including the Black Roman emperor who walked through what is now the Peak District. The wider narrative is about access to our land for all minorities. Really, though, it’s inspired by the

story of Maxwell Ayamba.

Maxwell was born in rural northern Ghana and moved to the UK in 1996 on a scholarship. He went on to pursue a postgraduate degree in environmental management at Sheffield Hallam University, where he was the only person of colour in his intake. During his fieldwork in the nearby Peak District National Park, he rekindled his love of the outdoors, but discovered it was an overwhelmingly white space.

“Nature in Ghana is part of our livelihood. We have a spiritual reverence to nature for our daily survival, but also for health and wellbeing,” he explains.

“When I came here, people like me were completely disconnected from the natural world. Here you are urbanised, and the ‘countryside’, as you call it here, is distant.”

He found that there were almost no Black or minoritised people in the whole environmental sector. The outdoors, he said, seemed like a “privileged realm”. So why was this?

“The trajectory of migration and settlement has become so urbanised,” he continues. “At the same time, the environmental organisations lack the cultural knowledge to reach out to these groups in a more proactive way.

“The key barrier is that working-class people don’t see the outdoor space as theirs because they’re not involved in the discourse.”

Maxwell talks about the Mass Trespass in 1932 on Kinder Scout in the Peak District, which ultimately opened up the countryside to everyone and led to the foundation of the National Parks. It was working-class people who led the charge, but today he argues it’s largely white and middle-class people in the hills.

After Maxwell finished his master’s degree, he knew he had to dedicate himself to getting minoritised people into the outdoors. In 2004, along with two Afro-Caribbean friends, he set up 100 Black Men Walk for Health, to encourage middle-aged Black men to walk and talk in the countryside. The group is now known as Walk4Health, welcomes women and younger people and still meets monthly.

Maxwell and the group were featured on TV shows, and he subsequently became the first Black person to serve on the board of Ramblers Association UK. In 2016 he set up the Sheffield Environmental Movement (semcharity.org.uk), to make the most of his connections with environmental organisations on one hand, and minoritised community groups on the other.

This is where he still sees his role: to broker those links, working with organisations and outdoor companies to fill the deficit of minority groups. There are great challenges of course; even finding the right outdoor gear to take groups into the hills is a constant problem. Transport is also an issue. “It’s one thing to say that people don’t want to walk, but you have to address the barriers that prevent people from walking,” he says.



Black Men Walk for Health Group up Ben Nevis in 2015

“How do we show that these outdoor spaces are welcoming? There is racism, both covert and overt, and some people don’t have the confidence to go into the outdoors in case they face racism. Environmental organisations need to diversify.”

And where does Maxwell himself enjoy walking? “The Peak District is so close to me in Sheffield. I enjoy walking the Old Roman Road which was said to have been walked by the first Black Roman emperor Septimius Severus. He walked this road with his army and died in York. It’s an unwritten and hidden part of history. To retrace the steps of our ancestors who walked that road before us to me is fundamental in terms of how Black people have been erased from the discourse in the countryside. Walking there is spiritually uplifting.”

Renewed focus on Wales



From left to right: Emma Robinson, YHA's business development manager – Wales, Huw Irranca Davies MS and James Blake, YHA's chief executive

For the first time, YHA has developed a strategy specifically for Wales. The report, *YHA in Wales*, refocuses the organisation's mission of serving local communities and positions it as a partner in the broader wellbeing of young people throughout Wales. In addition, of course, to offering affordable accommodation among breathtaking Welsh landscapes.

James Blake, chief executive of YHA, said: "Our new strategy for Wales is not a voice in an echo chamber; we have listened to the individuals and organisations that have taken the time to contribute, and these voices have helped shape the priorities for YHA in Wales, which will be delivered over the next three years.

"We believe that by working with partners who share our ambitions, we can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people across Wales."

More than 300 individuals and organisations have been involved in the six-month consultation, including Deaf Hub Wales, Ramblers Cymru, All Wales Forum and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

YHA's first hostel in Wales, Pennant Hall, opened in 1929, a year before YHA was formally established. There are now 21 youth hostels in Wales, comprising 15% of the network.

The top priorities that emerged from the consultation were to work more closely with educators to deliver residentials, as well as to develop apprenticeships, volunteering, training and employment opportunities for young people in Wales. These priorities are included in the strategy's pledges (below).

Nisbah Hussain from the Muslim youth empowerment charity Equalinks said: "YHA in Wales is a fantastic opportunity. I think Wales is sometimes overlooked when we are planning adventures, but it offers so much to everybody; there's something that hits everybody's needs and requirements."

YHA in Wales: five key pledges

1. To strengthen the role that YHA and its hostels play in celebrating Wales' natural and cultural heritage.
2. To improve the use of the Welsh language across the organisation.
3. To support more young people and families living in Wales to experience adventure.
4. To ensure YHA has the right mix of hostels in the right places in Wales, all offering quality stays.
5. To make sure YHA's programmes and operations across the organisation consider the specific context of Wales.

How to be a responsible walker

The British countryside is our playground, but it's also the lifeblood of our environment. Here we've gathered a few tips to make us more responsible walkers.

Bring it in, take it out

As humans we can help on a macro scale – aiming to lower emissions, for example – but also on a micro scale. An apple core discarded on a mountain will not only take a long time to decompose, but it can also be harmful to wildlife. And no one wants to see a rotting banana skin in a beauty spot. The mantra is simple: if you bring it in, take it out.

Stick to the path

Erosion scars on and around pathways can blight the landscape and cause significant damage. The advice is to walk single file, sticking to the middle of the track even when it's muddy (that's what waterproof walking boots are for). Better still, take a lesser-known path.

Consider others

Where we walk and cycle are nearly always places where people live and work. It's important to avoid damaging walls, fences and crops, even if that navigational blip means a bit of an unwanted detour. Don't feed wildlife, and be sensitive to nesting birds, particularly those on the ground. Leave gates as you find them (open or closed).



Solar panels and wind turbines at YHA Langdon Beck

Travel sustainably with YHA

YHA has committed to net zero by no later than 2050. Full details can be found at: yha.org.uk/environment-policy. Here are some of our recent initiatives.

- Water refill stations installed at all hostels, removing 500,000 plastic bottles per year.
- Introduced homemade yoghurt, removing 220,000 plastic pots per year.
- Initiated and supported local sustainability projects, from tree planting and beach cleaning, to reusing and recycling unused food and furniture.
- On-site recycling increased to 65% by 2019, with 94% diverted from landfill.
- Installed renewable energy solutions (solar panels, biomass boilers etc) at 18 sites and YHA's National Office.
- Incorporated the latest sustainable technology into new hostel developments and refurbishments.



Rob Dingle,
National Trail Officer

Taking care of the Trails

England and Wales have 16 National Trails, long-distance walks through some of the finest scenery in the UK. Each one has a dedicated Trail Officer – but what does the job entail? We spoke with Rob Dingle, who oversees the spectacular Offa's Dyke Path, to find out more.

Q How did you land the job?

I've always worked in some form of countryside management throughout my whole working life, from farming and forestry to nature conservation. When I moved from Oxfordshire to mid-Wales, the officer job came up and I thought it was too good an opportunity to miss. I applied and was lucky enough to get what was a dream job. It's been my best job ever, and I'm still enjoying it after 16 years in the post.

Q What does it entail?

It's such a varied job. I'm responsible for the strategic management of the whole 177-mile National Trail, working in two countries with

seven different Managing Authorities, three of them English and four of them Welsh. My base is actually in Powys, so my job entails carrying out practical works on the route within Powys, managing budgets, bidding for grant funding, and working closely with the other Managing Authorities, who deliver work on the Trail within their areas.

I also deal with enquiries from the public and handle website and social media content, as well as assisting with PR and media and working closely with Natural England and Natural Resources Wales, who are the core funders for the National Trail. I also give talks, liaise with stakeholders, lead guided walks, and work with Cadw and Historic England where the Trail coincides with the Offa's Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Best of all, I actually get to walk the whole Trail every year while carrying out my annual survey. A great part of being out

on the Trail is actually meeting the walkers who use it, and getting feedback on what they think of, and enjoy about, the route.

Q What makes the Offa's Dyke Path so special, in your view?

It's the sheer variety of landscapes you travel through on the 177-mile journey: river valleys, upland moorlands, woodlands, a rich mosaic of different farmlands, canal-side walking and various protected landscapes, including three AONBs and a National Park. You are also walking through and alongside history: Offa's Dyke, the longest Scheduled Ancient Monument in Britain, is your companion for about 40 miles, and you also walk past Chepstow Castle, White Castle and Hay Castle, as well as hill forts such as Beacon Ring, Dinas Bran, Foel Fenlli and Penycloddiau. It's also the only National Trail in England and Wales to go through two countries.



Q Why are our National Trails so important?

They offer walking for everyone's needs, whether that's multi-day challenge hikes or short family circular walks. They're very well waymarked, so people can follow them easily, and there's a dedicated website where you can find out all you need to plan your walk – most Trails also have a range of shorter walks linked to the National Trails themselves. And of course, they're also very



important in supporting the rural economy in the areas through which they travel, with the accommodation and other services that rely on the many walkers that use the routes.

Q Do you work closely with other National Trail Officers?

Yes, I do. We all meet up face to face twice a year to share ideas, and one of the meetings each year is always hosted by one of the Trails, normally with a walk on their route included. Throughout the rest of the year, we are constantly in touch, keeping up to date with what's happening and sharing ideas. At the moment we're all very much involved in the development of National Trails UK, the new National Trails charity.

Q If you had the chance to walk another of the National Trails in England or Wales, which one would you choose and why?

I would probably pick the Cleveland Way. It has a great mix of spectacular-looking coastal scenery and inland walking around the North York Moors. It's an area that I don't really know at all, having only ever visited Whitby on one of our National Trail Officer get-togethers.

[nationaltrail.co.uk/
offas-dyke-path](http://nationaltrail.co.uk/offas-dyke-path)

Time travel through 2023

English Heritage is the custodian of more than 400 historical monuments and buildings across the country, from Roman forts and medieval castles to ancient abbeys and even a Cold War bunker. With this mind, we're using English Heritage locations to weave our way through 12 centuries of history in 12 locations. Let 2023 be your year of time travel...

9th century

Sandbach Crosses

We start our historical journey in the Market Square of the Cheshire town of Sandbach. Standing tall in the centre of the town are two intricately carved crosses that date back to the ninth century, when Saxons still ruled the land. Craftspeople likely made the carvings in a monastery or minster, and they were perhaps used for religious services featuring scenes of the Nativity and Crucifixion.

Nearest hostel: YHA Chester Trafford Hall

10th century

Muchelney Abbey

Muchelney Abbey on the Somerset Levels tells the story of monastic life in Britain over 900 years, from the Anglo-Saxon era, through the Middle Ages, and into the Tudor period. Within its ample ruins and surviving cloisters and chambers, visitors can learn about its foundation in the seventh century, its abandonment in the ninth century, and its golden age in the 10th century when it was refounded by King Athlestan. The monastery's second lease of life lasted for some 600 years, until Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries.

Nearest hostel: YHA Street



Sandbach Crosses
©English Heritage



Muchelney Abbey
©Historic England Photo Archive

11th century Battle Abbey

There was no real competition for this 11th-century location. Battle Abbey was built on the site of one of the critical turning points in British history: the Battle of Hastings in 1066. William the Conqueror built the abbey on the spot where Harold Godwinson died, marking the beginning of the Norman conquest. Today, the abbey makes for a great family day out, with an absorbing exhibition centre, a tour of the battlefield and artefacts to see in the abbey buildings. There's also an adventure playground, and regular events.

Nearest hostel: YHA Eastbourne

12th century Framlingham Castle

Framlingham Castle was built in the 12th century by Roger Bigod, the Earl of Norfolk. The earls and dukes of Norfolk were part of a hugely influential Norman family ruling after the success of William the Conqueror. The castle is also where Mary Tudor was proclaimed England's first ruling queen. Today, this well-preserved castle offers a captivating day out, with plenty to keep children and adults amused.

Nearest hostel: YHA Blaxhall

13th century Aydon Castle

King John's rule in the 13th century was chaotic and ruinous for the country (watch any Robin Hood film). Barons were upset enough to make him sign the Magna Carta in 1215 which, in theory, limited the king's powers. Among this chaos, one of England's finest manor houses was built: Aydon Castle, set deep in the wooded Northumberland countryside. All the more remarkable is that the building is almost entirely intact, despite finding itself in the middle of another significant conflict a century later between England and Scotland.

Nearest hostel: YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall

14th century Spofforth Castle

England in the late Middle Ages couldn't have been a fun place to live. The first wave of the Black Death arrived during the 1340s, and the ruling elite was often distracted by the Hundred Years' War with France. The pleasingly named Spofforth Castle was the seat of the influential Percy family, and what you can see today, is mainly 14th century. It was later the location for a crucial moment in the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487): the Percy family supported the House of Lancaster against the House of York, and after a decisive victory at the Battle of Towton, Yorkist forces ransacked the castle leaving it in ruins.

Nearest hostel: YHA York



Battle Abbey
©English Heritage



Framlingham Castle
©Adobestock/harlequin9

15th century

Gainsborough Old Hall

Gainsborough Old Hall in Lincolnshire sums up life in the 15th century pretty neatly... well, at least for the wealthy. Thomas Burgh II built one of the largest medieval manor houses in the 1460s while the Wars of the Roses still raged on. Thomas, a loyal administrator for four kings, had just received a knighthood and become a wealthy man. His legacy is this beautifully preserved building, with a vast kitchen and Great Hall that would have been a hub of local high society in the 15th century.

Nearest hostel: YHA Sherwood Forest

16th century

Carlisle Castle

We're now into the reigns of Henry VIII (1509-47) and Queen Elizabeth (1558-1603), the age of Shakespeare, and a relatively calm period in war. That said, there were still threats, particularly on the border with Scotland. As part of his efforts to regain control of the border region, Henry VIII ordered the defences of Carlisle Castle to be hugely strengthened. Even today, the fortifications from the 16th century are an imposing sight. Explore the medieval rooms and discover exhibitions of its turbulent history.

Nearest hostel: YHA Keswick

17th century

Bolsover Castle

The 17th century was dominated by the English Civil Wars fought between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians. The conflict led to the execution of Charles I and, ultimately, the restoration of Charles II. Bolsover Castle, near Chesterfield, hosted Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria in 1634, 15 years before Charles' execution. The owner, William Cavendish, fought for the Royalists and went into exile. On his return in the 1660s, he continued to decorate, introducing rare 17th-century wall paintings. Bolsover is a remarkable place to visit.

Nearest hostels: YHA Sherwood Forest, YHA Youlgreave

18th century

Berwick-Upon-Tweed Barracks and Main Guard & Castle and Ramparts

Few fortifications define a town quite as much as Berwick-upon-Tweed's castle and ramparts, which sit within walking distance of YHA Berwick. The vast ramparts surround sizable parts of the centre, and it's understandable why: the town sits on the border of England and Scotland and changed hands between the two over some 400 years of conflict. Today, the ramparts are impressive to explore, while the 18th-century Barracks and Main Guard shows life as an infantryman throughout the centuries. It also houses two art galleries.

Nearest hostel: YHA Berwick

19th century

Apsley House

'Number 1, London'. That's how Apsley House on Piccadilly was known, so renowned was its grandeur. It was built in the late 18th century, but its interior is frozen in time since the departure of its most famous resident: a certain Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. He bought the house after his victory at the Battle of Waterloo, adding a state dining room (he must have been confident he'd later become prime minister).

Nearest hostel: stay at one of our London hostels

20th century

York Cold War Bunker

The most modern of the English Heritage sites is a blast-proof bunker in York that was used as a tactical nerve centre safe from nuclear attack. It was used between the 1960s and 1990s and offers a chilling look at the very real threat of the Cold War; there's even a decontamination room. Tours leave on the hour and pre-booking is required. Combine the trip with a very different experience at York's Clifford's Tower, built by William the Conqueror. A new roof deck gives unparalleled views over the city.

Nearest hostel: YHA York



Aydon Castle
©English Heritage



Bolsover Castle
©English Heritage



Spofforth Castle
©English Heritage



Berwick-Upon-Tweed Barracks
©English Heritage



Gainsborough Old Hall
©English Heritage



Apsley House
©English Heritage



Carlisle Castle
©English Heritage



York Cold War Bunker
©English Heritage

Outdoor education is at risk, with millions already missing out on childhood adventures.



You can help us make sure no child is left behind.

Please support our urgent appeal and give the gift of adventure today.

Visit yha.org.uk/child to donate and find out how you can make a big difference to a young life.





Let's go!

What is... the Jurassic Coast?

You've probably heard of the Jurassic Park films, which are all about dinosaurs... but have you ever heard of the Jurassic Coast?

It's the name we give to a 95-mile stretch of coastline in southern England. It runs along the bottom of the counties of Dorset and Devon.

The word 'Jurassic' refers to a time period in the dim and distant past, between 250 million years ago and 145 million years ago. This was during the age of the dinosaurs, which is where the films get their name – and it's also how old some of the rocks are on this stretch of coast!

At different points in history, this whole area has been desert, marshland, and even

covered in tropical seawater. This means the geology, or rock formations, are fascinating, and there are also lots of fossils to be found. It's a beautiful part of the country to spend time rock-pooling, fossil-hunting, and finding out about smugglers and pirates.

If you'd like to explore the Jurassic Coast this year, the good news is that there are three YHA hostels located right on it! YHA Beer, YHA Lulworth Cove and YHA Swanage are all great bases for your adventures.




5 things you didn't know about LONDON

London is the capital city of the United Kingdom. It's a place full of history, culture and exciting activities... and it also has some amazing secrets!



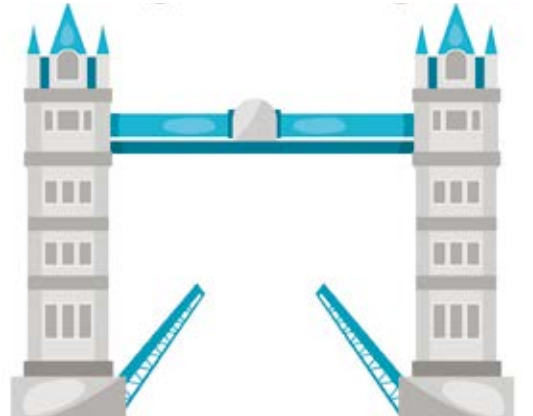
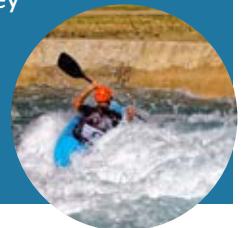
More than **eight million people live in the city**, and between them they speak over 300 languages. These include Mandarin, Punjabi, French, Polish, Arabic, Turkish, and many more.

The **London Eye** is now a famous part of the city skyline. It was opened at the end of 1999, and more than three million people ride it each year. But it wasn't the first big wheel in London. The Great Wheel stood in South London from 1895 to 1907. It was about two-thirds as tall as the London Eye.



The **London Underground**, also known as the Tube, is a very important part of the city's transport network. But when it was first being planned, one idea was to fill the tunnels with water and float people on boats from station to station!

You'll find various YHA hostels around the city centre. There's even one just outside of the city, called YHA London Lee Valley. It's close to the Lee Valley White Water Centre, where you can try rafting, paddling and more.



Tower Bridge is the most famous bridge on the River Thames. It has a special design which lets it open when big ships need to pass along the river. But one day in 1952 something very odd happened – the bridge opened when a bus was driving over it. Amazingly, the driver managed to accelerate and jump over the gap!

The patron saints

A saint is someone very kind, patient, and holy. Most of them lived a long time ago, but we still remember the things they did.

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland all have a special saint which is important to their country. We call them patron saints, and on one day of each year, we celebrate them.

The patron saint of England is Saint George. He lived in the third century.

Pictures of Saint George usually show him slaying a dragon. Some people think the dragon represents the devil. Saint George himself was a soldier born in Turkey – funnily enough, he never even came to England!



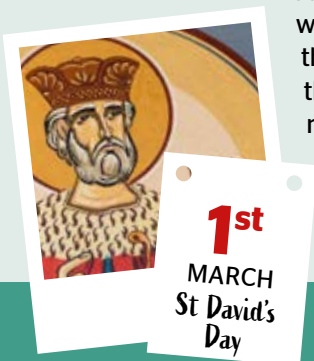
The patron saint of Scotland is Saint Andrew. He lived in the first century.

People think Saint Andrew was originally a fisherman in Galilee, then later became one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. He never travelled to Scotland, and he's also the patron saint of Greece and Russia!



The patron saint of Wales is Saint David. He lived in the sixth century.

According to legend, he was born in a small chapel overlooking Cardigan Bay in Wales. One story tells us that he advised Welsh soldiers to wear leeks in their hats, so they could recognise each other in a battle!



The patron saint of Ireland is Saint Patrick. He lived in the fifth century.

Saint Patrick was probably born in England or Wales, but we know he spent much of his life in Ireland. He was a very religious man. One famous tale also tells us that he chased all the snakes out of Ireland!



FACT FILE Sherwood Forest

There has been a forest in Sherwood, near Nottingham, for many thousands of years. It used to be bigger than it is today, but even now it has more than 1,000 ancient oak trees.

1

If you come here, you can expect to find lots of wildlife, too. Woodpeckers, hedgehogs, deer and even glow-worms can be seen here at different times of year.

2

It's best known for its links with Robin Hood, the famous outlaw who stole from the rich and gave to the poor. We don't know for sure whether Robin was a real person, but one special tree in the forest is said to be where he slept and sheltered. We call this tree the Major Oak.

3

Go!

Whether you want to spot animals or follow in the footsteps of Robin Hood, YHA Sherwood Forest is well placed for you to have your own adventure.



Wordsearch

Can you find the names of these vegetables in the grid?

- Carrot
- Onion
- Parsnip
- Peas
- Mushroom
- Pepper
- Broccoli
- Leek
- Radish
- Potato

e	m	l	n	o	p	n	o	a	p	a	p
b	p	a	r	a	d	i	s	h	r	e	i
r	o	r	e	n	b	n	s	a	e	p	n
o	t	b	o	p	m	i	e	p	n	a	s
c	a	c	a	r	r	o	t	u	a	i	r
c	t	u	r	b	x	n	e	s	o	t	a
o	o	n	r	k	p	i	p	u	e	m	p
l	e	e	k	o	a	o	p	m	s	a	i
i	u	p	e	m	s	n	e	e	i	d	r
r	a	e	o	m	o	o	r	h	s	u	m



A (two-wheeled) tale of two cities

Bristol and Bath can be easily combined by bike, as Ben Lerwill discovers

If you go by their reputations alone, Bristol and Bath are poles apart. One's synonymous with street art, docklands and the underground music scene; the other conjures up images of afternoon tea, Roman history and Georgian townhouses. It's Banksy versus Emperor Claudius, Long John Silver versus Jane Austen, the industrial heft of harbourside cranes versus the elegant sweep of the Royal Crescent.

Beyond the cliches, of course, these two West Country cities are as multi-layered as any other large UK destinations. And given how close together they are on the map, it's also a doddle to combine the

pair into one trip. Both have YHA hostels, both have top-tier cultural attractions and – perhaps best of all – there's a 13-mile off-road cycle path leading from one city centre to the other.

So it was that I found myself on a Brompton hire bike on a winter's morning, pulling on my gloves and preparing to cycle from Bristol to Bath. A fold-up bike might not seem the most obvious choice for a city-to-city ride, but here it's a savvy one. Bristol has a Brompton hire scheme in place (as do Manchester, London, Canterbury and various other cities), meaning you can take ownership of a bike for £5 a day.





Once you've downloaded an app, registered your details and located the bike lockers (if you're doing the Bath trip, the most convenient ones are just outside Bristol Temple Meads Station), you're good to go. The path is – with the exception of a couple of steady, shallow climbs – almost entirely flat, so even the Brompton's 16-inch wheels can scoot along at speed. And once you're ready to return from Bath, it's a matter of folding up the bike (or, if you're like me, contorting it into bizarre shapes before finally resorting to looking at the instructions) and catching the train back to Bristol. Or indeed just cycle back.

But let's rewind. Following the signage from Temple Meads Station, it takes me about five minutes to pedal to the official start of the cycle path. The day is cold, with frost caking the city and the surface of Bristol Harbour frozen solid, but the skies overhead are crisp and clear. The first section of the path itself leads past play parks and craft breweries and is already busy with other users: toddlers on scooters, locals with dogs, commuters whizzing by on bikes.

A quick bit of history. The Bristol & Bath Railway Path was built by the charity Sustrans between 1979 and 1986, on the bed of what was formerly a stretch of the Midland Railway network. In the line's earliest days, back in the 1830s, the rail tracks were used to bring horse-drawn wagons of coal into Bristol Harbour. Its fortunes had diminished badly by the 1960s, however, when it was abandoned as part of the notorious Beeching cuts.

Arguably, its best days were to come. It's fair to say that the tree-lined, traffic-free cycle path brought with it a vigorous new lease of life. By 2007, some 2.4 million trips were being made along it each year by bikers, walkers, joggers and other users. That's not to say it feels crowded. By the time I'm 15 minutes along the path and moving out of Bristol proper, with views of the city opening out behind me, I've largely got the route to myself. The winter sun is gleaming through the branches, graffitied bridges file past in splashes of primary colours, and the path is spooling into the distance.

Every mile or so I pass a trackside sculpture. More than a dozen artworks are studded along the path, ranging from a diving fish made from house bricks to a colossal giant doubling as a water fountain. The platforms for the original train line are still in situ, and there's a particularly happy discovery when I reach what was once Warmley Station, where there's now a café, complete with good coffee and homemade cakes (warmleywaitingroom.co.uk)

Well refuelled, I hop back in the saddle and continue, pedalling on as the countryside unfurls to reveal an icy spread of distant steeples and waterside meadows. Canal boats are moored on wild riverbanks, squirrels scuttle around in the canopy and blackbirds arrow across the path. It's one of those weekday moments when you feel smug that you're out and about.

When Bath arrives, about two-and-a-half hours after I set off, I'm actually a little miffed that the journey's over. There's a small road section to negotiate before I'm able to follow a path along the banks of the River Avon into the centre. It's not often that you come across such an enjoyable way of getting from one city to another, particularly one that proves that the distance between cider-swilling Bristol and tea-sipping Bath really isn't so great after all.

More information

Bike hire info

bromptonhire.com/locations/bristol/
Multi-day hire is available, so if you pack light you can easily work the path into a twin-centre hostel stay.

Tourist board

visitbristol.co.uk or visitbath.co.uk

Hostels

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-bristol
yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-bath

Three things to do in Bath

Roman Baths

Delve into the distant past at this spectacular ancient bath complex, complete with a vast open-air pool and a museum of fascinating archaeological finds.

Pump Room

"Every creature in Bath [...] was to be seen in the room at different periods of the fashionable hours", wrote Jane Austen, and it's still a fine place for a grand afternoon tea.

Thermae Bath Spa

Take to the waters yourself with a visit to this modern rooftop spa complex, which combines steaming warm waters with a skyline view of the city.

Three things to do in Bristol

M Shed

Learn about Bristol's long past at this free harbourside museum, which doesn't shy away from the city's dark links to the slave trade.

Street Art Tour

There's more to Bristol's hugely impressive street art scene than Banksy, as you'll learn by joining an expert-guided tour of the city's highlights.

Thekla

Combine Bristol's maritime past with its musical legacy by going to a gig at Thekla, a 1950s cargo ship now permanently docked here as a concert venue.

9 hostels with literary links

Bookworms, take note. Many of our hostels sit in destinations with strong links to some of the country's most legendary writers. We're highlighting nine of them here – all of which are available this winter.

YHA Bath

Evoked the world of you-know-who

Bath is synonymous with Jane Austen, who not only lived here in the early 1800s but used the city as a setting for two of her novels: *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. Today the destination still oozes Georgian charm, and there's a dedicated museum, the Jane Austen Centre, to visit. Regency gowns optional.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-bath





YHA Brighton

Step back into 1930s gangland

Graham Greene wasn't a Brighton local – he lived mainly in London – but one of his best known works is umbilically linked with the city. *Brighton Rock* is a murder thriller full of unforgettable characters, including teenage antihero Pinkie. YHA Brighton is right on the seafront, in the heart of the book's action.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-brighton

YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe

Wander lonely as a cloud

The Lake District is William Wordsworth territory, and no part of the region is more closely associated with the great Romantic poet than Grasmere. Wordsworth and his wife Dorothy lived in the village for 14 years, and he described it as "the loveliest spot that man hath ever found."

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-grasmere-butharlyp-howe



YHA Cambridge

Revisit the university days of old

If the University of Oxford has *Brideshead Revisited*, the University of Cambridge has *Jacob's Room* by Virginia Woolf. Her third novel, it follows the protagonist's life through the ages, including his studies here at Trinity College. YHA Cambridge sits a 20-minute wander from the city centre.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-cambridge

YHA Ambleside

Potter around in the Lakes

It wasn't just Wordsworth who found endless inspiration in the Lakes. Beatrix Potter spent much of her life up here and was a passionate advocate for conservation. Her characters, among them Peter Rabbit and Jemima Puddle-Duck, remain children's favourites. YHA Ambleside is a few miles from the World of Beatrix Potter attraction.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-ambleside





YHA Whitby

Stay next to a Gothic ruin

Bram Stoker's *Dracula* has long turned the coastal Yorkshire town of Whitby into a magnet for fans of horror and Gothic literature. The hugely atmospheric ruins of Whitby Abbey still stand high above town, looking out at the waves – and YHA Whitby is located almost next door.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-whitby

YHA Bristol

Set sail for the past

Bristol's maritime links are inescapable – particularly in the Llandoger Trow pub near the harbourside. Here since the 1660s, it's said to be the basis for the Admiral Benbow pub in Robert Louis Stevenson's classic *Treasure Island*, and was also where Daniel Defoe met real-life castaway Alexander Selkirk, which inspired *Robinson Crusoe*.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-bristol



YHA Stratford-upon-Avon

In the realm of the Bard

William Shakespeare is everywhere you turn in Stratford-upon-Avon, whether you're heading to a play at the Swan Theatre or delving into the Bard's life by visiting his birthplace. But hostel, hostel, wherefore art thou, hostel? It's a mere couple of miles out of town, on the banks of the River Avon.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-stratford-upon-avon

YHA Manchester

Learn about the city's past

Victorian writer Elizabeth Gaskell was known for her detailed depictions of the everyday, and her debut novel *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* remains one of her most popular works. Manchester's 19th-century heritage is still a big part of its identity, although YHA Manchester provides the perfect 21st-century base to explore the city.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-manchester



Exclusively yours this winter

Now's the time to book a relaxing break to spend quality time with friends and family in the great outdoors.

Some of our most beloved properties are available on YHA Exclusive Hire this season, including YHA Coniston Coppermines (pictured).

Hire a whole hostel.

yha.org.uk/exclusive-hire



Urban wildlife in England and Wales

According to the 2021 census, there are now around 33 million people in England and Wales living in cities. This figure is seemingly getting larger all the time – as are the cities themselves. But as our urban areas continue to creep outwards and encroach on the countryside, what happens to the wildlife? Some of it has simply adapted to life in the city, as these examples show.



Foxes

Urban foxes were first spotted in the UK in the 1930s, and they've since become adept at city living. As with various other urban animals, it's easier for them to find food in built-up areas than it is to hunt down a meal in the countryside. They're not especially fussy eaters, so food scraps and chucked-out chicken bones keep them more than happy. Many foxes seem also to have learned that it's safer to cross roads at night than during the day.



Peregrine falcons

The fastest bird in the world evolved to swoop down from clifftops and mountain ledges, but in UK cities it can be spotted perching at the top of tall buildings, from where it can plummet towards the ground to catch gulls, starlings and – a particularly cherished peregrine delicacy – urban pigeons. In London, they've been seen everywhere from the Houses of Parliament to the Tate Modern.



Parakeets

Their paintbox colours betray their original home in the tropics, but today there are thousands of wild parakeets in London. Theories abound as to how and why they first arrived here – one (almost certainly apocryphal) story claims that iconic American guitarist Jimi Hendrix imported the first one – but regardless of the facts, they've adapted well to the British chill.

Red deer

Population growth, expanding city limits and the ready availability of food have all contributed to increased sightings of deer in urban areas. Places like London's Richmond Park are famed for their resident herds, but they've also been spotted in inner-city boroughs in places like Sheffield and Glasgow.



Mice

London's maze of underground tunnels is home to rats, rare mosquitoes – and around half a million mice. Known as 'Tube mice', these tough rodents forage for crumbs on the tracks and platforms and have to cope with trains thundering over their heads every few minutes. It's likely that they never see daylight.



Swifts

These fast-flying birds are a common summer sight above the rooftops of various UK cities, scything through the air with their trademark high-pitched screech. They migrate each year from Africa, returning to our shores when the weather becomes warmer to nest in roof spaces and other suitable nooks and crannies. They have a habit of returning to the same nesting spot each year, sometimes for multiple generations.



Bats

When the sun goes down, urban animals often stir to life. This is especially true of bats, which mostly roost in trees and – thanks to the prevalence of public parks and gardens – find plenty of options in the confines of a city. The most common bat in the UK is the common pipistrelle, which can weigh as little as three grams but can eat thousands of insects in a single night.



Owls

Parks, railway thickets, churchyards and even back gardens can all play home to these feathered denizens of the night. Tawny owls are traditionally found in rural woodland, but many now live in our cities. Their shy nature and stealthy flight patterns means they're not easy to see – but you're in for a treat if you get lucky.



Did you know?

All YHA members receive discounts at gear stores including Cotswold Outdoor, GO Outdoors, Snow+Rock, Runners Need and Cycle Surgery

yha.org.uk/membership/member-benefits



Tried and tested

Outdoor items put through their paces by The Journey team

Osprey Duro 1.5

ospreyeurope.com

A running vest is essential if you're hitting half-marathon distances or further, especially off road. It should fit like a garment of clothing rather than a backpack, with no bounce when running, and the Duro 1.5 is a great example. There is a small pocket at the back for a waterproof and packet of Jelly Babies, plus two pockets at the front for soft water bottles (included). It is available in a range of sizes from super lightweight to 15 litres. There's also a women's specific version, the Dyna.

Daniel Neilson

- + bluesign® approved fabrics
- + Snap-in adjustable chest straps
- + Lots of pockets and storage
- Choose a size smaller than usual





Suunto 9 Peak Pro

suunto.com

For more than 80 years, Finnish brand Suunto has been developing outdoor tech, the latest iteration of which is this superb new multi-sport watch. It's been made using renewable energy and has been 100% 'carbon-compensated', but the real headlines are in its usability – the battery life lasts for weeks (with 40 hours in GPS mode), there are 90-plus sports modes, and it weighs only around 65g. We were impressed with its accuracy on walks and trail runs, and found the touchscreen feature a practical way of recording activities (there are also buttons). A great companion for serious outdoor lovers.

Ben Lerwill

- + Extra-long battery life
- + Powerful and accurate
- + Water resistant to 100m
- Takes a little while to get familiar with

Artilect Supermoon Bio Hoodie

artilect.studio

Small outdoor company Artilect is the first brand to be granted use of PrimaLoft® Bio™ fleece, the world's first biodegradable insulation and fibre made from recycled materials. It makes this hoodie a special one – not only is the weight-to-warmth ratio impressive, with little bulk when it's packed down, but it's also environmentally friendly.

No less importantly from an outdoor perspective, it's lightweight, super-soft and highly comfortable, with a cosy hood, three zipped pockets and elasticated cuffs. It proved invaluable on walks during the recent cold snap. All told, it's a brilliant option for a winter layer – and it looks the part, too.

Tom Rhys

- + Innovative fleece material
- + Lightweight
- + Hood fits under helmet
- On the pricy side



Traveltopia Duffel 65L Bag

jack-wolfskin.co.uk

When you're buying a bag, you want one that's going to last. This 65-litre duffel from Jack Wolfskin won a prestigious ISPO Award in 2022 for its combination of practicality, longevity and sustainability. It's made from 100% recycled polyester and feels sturdy and resilient, with a waxy, weather-resistant outer and well-made straps. The interior packs in plenty, and the whole bag weighs less than a kilo. As a grab-and-go option for a city break or a hostelling weekend, it's pretty much perfect – and there's a pleasing lack of flashy colours in the design.

Helen Williams

- + Long-lasting by design
- + Recycled materials
- + Comes with a pack sack
- Not made for trail-hiking



Hostel guide



Book now

Visit yha.org.uk

YHA All Stretton	Meadow Green, Batch Valley, All Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JW
YHA Alnwick	34 to 38 Green Batt, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1TU
YHA Alston	The Firs, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3RW
YHA Alstonefield	Gypsy Lane, Alstonefield, nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FZ
YHA Ambleside	Waterhead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OEU
YHA Bath	Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6JZ
YHA Beer	Bovey Combe, Beer, Seaton, Devon, EX12 3LL
YHA Berwick	Dewars Lane, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1HJ
YHA Beverley Friary	Friar's Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 ODF
YHA Black Sail	Black Sail Hut, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX
YHA Blaxhall	The Old School House, Blaxhall, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EA
YHA Boggle Hole	Mill Beck, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4UQ
YHA Borrowdale	Longthwaite, Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria, Lakes, CA12 5XE
YHA Borth	Morlais, Borth, Ceredigion, SY24 5JS
YHA Boscastle	Palace Stables, Boscastle, Cornwall, PL35 OHD
YHA Boswinger	Boswinger, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LL
YHA Brecon Beacons	Libanus, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8NH
YHA Brecon Beacons Danywenallt	National Park Study Centre, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, LD3 7YS
YHA Bridges	Ratlinghope, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 OSP
YHA Brighton	Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH
YHA Bristol	14 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA
YHA Broad Haven	Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3JH
YHA Buttermere	Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XA
YHA Cambridge	97 Tenison Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 2DN
YHA Canterbury	54 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DT
YHA Castleton Losehill Hall	Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 8WB
YHA Cheddar	Hillfield, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3HN
YHA Chester Trafford Hall	Ince Lane, Wimbolds Trafford, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4JP
YHA Cholderton Stonehenge	Beacon House, Amesbury Road, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 OEW
YHA Clun Mill	The Mill, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NY
YHA Coniston Coppermines	Coppermines House, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8HP
YHA Coniston Holly How	Holly How, Far End, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DD
YHA Conwy	Larkhill, Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy, LL32 8AJ
YHA Cotswolds	New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1JH
YHA Coverack	Parc Behan, School Hill, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6SA
YHA Dalby Forest	Old School, Lockton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7PY
YHA Dartmoor	Bellever, Postbridge, Devon, PL20 6TU
YHA Dufton	Dufton, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6DB
YHA Eastbourne	1 East Dean Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8ES
YHA Edale	Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 7ZH
YHA Eden Project	Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG
YHA Edmundbyers	Low House, Edmundbyers, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9NL
YHA Elmscott	Elmscott, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, EX39 6ES
YHA Ennerdale	Cat Crag, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, Lakes, CA23 3AX
YHA Eskdale	Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria, CA19 1TH
YHA Exford	Exe Mead, Exford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7PU
YHA Eyam	Hawkhill Road, Eyam, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QP
YHA Gower	Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN
YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe	Easedale Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9QG

YHA Grinton Lodge	Grinton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6HS
YHA Hartington Hall	Hall Bank, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 OAT
YHA Hathersage	Castleton Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 1EH
YHA Hawes	Lancaster Terrace, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3LQ
YHA Hawkshead	Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QD
YHA Haworth	Longlands Drive, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8RT
YHA Hawse End	Hawse End Cottage, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UE
YHA Helmsley	Carlton Lane, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5HB
YHA Helvellyn	Greenside, Glenridding, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0QR
YHA Holmbury	Radnor Lane, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW
YHA Honister Hause	Seatoller, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5XN
YHA Hunstanton	15 Avenue Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5BW
YHA Idwal Cottage	Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 3LZ
YHA Ilam Hall	Ilam Hall, Ilam, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ
YHA Ingleton	Greta Tower, Sammy Lane, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EG
YHA Ironbridge Coalbrookdale	1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7NR
YHA Ironbridge Coalport	John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Shropshire, TF8 7HT
YHA Jordans	Welders Lane, Jordans, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2SN
YHA Keswick	Station Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5LH
YHA Kettlewell	Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU
YHA Kings	Kings, Penmaenpool, Dolgellau Gwynedd, Wales, LL40 1TB
YHA Kington	Victoria Road, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BX
YHA Lands End	Letcha Vean, St Just-in-Penwith, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7NT
YHA Langdale	High Close, Loughrigg, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9HJ
YHA Langdon Beck	Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0XN
YHA Leominster	The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EQ
YHA Littlehampton	63 Surrey Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5AW
YHA Litton Cheney	Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9AT
YHA Liverpool Albert Dock	25 Tabley Street, off Wapping, Liverpool, Mersyside, L1 8EE
YHA Liverpool Central	Kansas Building, Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE
YHA Lizard	The Polbreen, Lizard Point, Cornwall, TR12 7NT
YHA Llanddeusant	The Old Red Lion, Llanddeusant, Camarthenshire, SA19 9UL
YHA Llangattock	Wern Watkin, Hillside, Llangattock, Crickhowell, NP8 1LG
YHA London Central	104 Bolsover Street, London, W1W 5NU
YHA London Earls Court	38 Bolton Gardens, Earl's Court, London, SW5 0AQ
YHA London Lee Valley	Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9AJ
YHA London Oxford Street	14 Noel Street, London, W1F 8GJ
YHA London St Pancras	79-81 Euston Road, London, NW1 2QE
YHA London St Pauls	36 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AB
YHA London Thameside	20 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 5PR
YHA Lulworth Cove	School Lane, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5SA
YHA Malham	Malham, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 4DB
YHA Manchester	Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB
YHA Mankinholes	Mankinholes, Todmorden, Lancashire, OL14 6HR
YHA Manorbier	Manorbier, nr Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7TT
YHA Medway	351 Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JE
YHA Minehead	Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW
YHA National Forest	48 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BD
YHA New Forest	Cott Lane, Burley Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 4BB
YHA Newcastle Central	17 Carloli Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland NE1 6UQ
YHA Newport Pembrokeshire	Lower St Mary Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 OTS

YHA Ninebanks
YHA Okehampton

YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor
YHA Osmotherley

YHA Patterdale
YHA Penzance

YHA Perranporth
YHA Poppit Sands

YHA Port Eynon
YHA Portreath

YHA Pwll Deri
YHA Ravenstor

YHA Rowen
YHA Scarborough

YHA Sheen Bunkhouse
YHA Sheringham

YHA Sherwood Forest
YHA Skiddaw House

YHA Slaidburn
YHA Snowdon Bryn Gwynant

YHA Snowdon Llanberis
YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass

YHA Snowdon Ranger
YHA South Downs

YHA St Briavels Castle
YHA St Davids

YHA Stratford
YHA Streatley

YHA Street
YHA Swanage

YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall
YHA Tanners Hatch

YHA Thurlby
YHA Tintagel

YHA Totland Bay
YHA Treyarnon Bay

YHA Truleigh Hill
YHA Wasdale Hall

YHA Wells Next The Sea
YHA Whitby

YHA Wilderhope Manor
YHA Windermere

YHA Wooler
YHA Wye Valley

YHA York
YHA Youlgreave

Orchard House, Mohope, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DQ
Klondyke Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1EW

Bracken Tor, Saxongate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1QW
Cote Ghyll, Osmotherley, Notherallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AH

Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 ONW
Castle Horneck, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8TF

Droskyn Point, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 OGS
Sea View, Poppit, Cardigan, Pembroke, SA43 3LP

Old Lifeboat House, Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN
Nance Farm, Illogan, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 4QX

Castell Mawr, Trefasser, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, SA64 0LR
Millers Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8SS

Rhiw Farm, Rowen, Conwy, LL32 8YW
Burniston Rd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 ODA

Peakstones, Sheen, Derbyshire, SK17 OES
1 Cremer's Drift, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HX

Forest Corner, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9RN
Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4QX

King's House, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 3ER
Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NP

Llwyn Celyn, Llanberis, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4SR
Pen-y-Pass, Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NY

Rhyd Ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7YS
Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS

St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG
Llaethdy, Whitesands, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6PR

Hemmingford House, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7RG
Reading Road, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9JJ

The Chalet, Ivythorn Hill, Street, Somerset, BA16 0TZ
Cluny, Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS

Military Road, Bardon Mill, Northumberland, NE47 7AN
Off Ranmore Common Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6BE

16 High Street, Thurlby, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0EE
Dunderhole Point, Tintagel, Cornwall, PL34 ODW

Hurst Hill, Totland Bay, Isle Of Wight, PO39 OHD
Tregonnan, Treyarnon, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8JR

Tottington Barn, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5FB
Wasdale Hall, Wasdale, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1ET

Church Plain, Wells, Norfolk, NR23 1EQ
Abbey House, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4JT

Manor, Longville in the Dale, Shropshire, TF13 6EG
Bridge Lane, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LA

30 Cheviot Street, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6LW
Near Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6JJ

Water End, Clifton, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 6LP
Fountain Square, Youlgreave, nr Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1UR

Reader's pics

This issue's photo comes from reader Glyn Morton, who captioned his picture: "Sunday lunch above Keswick."



@DebNevin

Both my daughter and I are now home after holidaying in the Lake District, staying in Youth Hostels. Fabulous places and good to know my Mum used YHA when she was my daughter's current age @YHAOfficial. Hopefully they will be around for another 60+ years.

@globalmouse1

St Briavels Castle is a pretty special place. 800 years old and packed full of history, it's a truly inspiring and atmospheric stay @YHASTBriavels @YHAOfficial

@Paulrhodes16

This is what staying in a modern day youth hostel is all about. Families getting to know each other and having fun in beautiful surroundings. @YHALangdonBeck @YHAOfficial #somuchbetterthanahotel!

@stjdinnington

Thank you @YHAOfficial for making this week's residential possible. The bursary allowed for our Y5 children to learn, explore and make memories in beautiful York. Added bonus it all linked to their @ArkCurriculum History unit on Vikings. @YHAYork @JorvikViking

@tavarefanclub

An excellent, if slightly unplanned, stay at YHA Okehampton. Good walking, met plenty of locals and ticked off a Kingmaker castle as a bonus. We'll be back. @YHAOfficial @EnglishHeritage @nationaltrust

@AsquithPrimary

Another good night in Whitby and another glorious breakfast provided by @YHAOfficial. One last activity – a trip to the Abbey for a scavenger hunt before we make our way back to Morley! #AsquithSpirit

@wirlygallacher

We & #BunnyTheDog had a lovely stay with @YHAOfficial whilst 'shrooming around @EdenProject. What a lovely bunch of folk work in these places...

@PeredurPlaidAS

Enjoyed hearing about @YHAOfficial pledges to go further with their links to Wales cultural heritage, support more young people & families and extend their use of Welsh across their organisation. Great also to meet @JamesBlakeYHA during the event at the Pierhead building.

  Don't forget the hashtags #YHANatureChallenge #LiveMoreYHA

WIN! a Jack Wolfskin Eagle Peak jacket worth £180

Can you locate these mountains?

Europe has some of the most incredible mountain scenery in the world. But how well do you know the peaks? To enter, simply tell us the countries that these famous mountains are based in.

1. **Grossglockner**
2. **Tryfan**
3. **Weisshorn**
4. **Braeriach**
5. **Blencathra**

To enter simply send us an email with your five answers to magazine@yha.org.uk by 17th March 2023, specifying whether you'd prefer the male or female version of the jacket. Feel free to share your thoughts on this magazine at the same time.



About the prize

We have one Eagle Peak 2L Jacket (either male or female) to give away to one lucky reader. The Eagle Peak hardshell jacket is a reliable companion for all-weather hiking trips. The 2-layer TEXAPORE PRO DOBBY shell fabric is very waterproof, windproof and breathable. The contemporary jacket is cut to deliver full freedom of movement.

The hem and hood can be adjusted as required. With four pockets, the jacket offers plenty of storage space for those small essentials. The hand pockets are set high for easy access when you're carrying a pack. Main features:

- sporty shell jacket
- very waterproof, windproof
- very breathable
- lightweight
- tested by the mountain guides at the Alpine School Innsbruck
- bluesign® certified

Last issue: congratulations to J. Slade, who won a Lowe Alpine backpack.





We are YHA.

We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

Because where you go changes who you become.

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