



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 and an annual scarecrow festival in August. This hostel is an ideal stop-over place for day 1 or 2 of the Dales Way from Ilkley, as well as being on the Lady Anne Way.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors at the Kettlewell Hostel with 11 bedrooms, a large dining room, cosy lounge with wood-burning stove, well-equipped self-catering kitchen, free Wi-Fi throughout the building, a second-hand bookshop and a private garden. This hostel provides high-quality, homemade meals and is fully licensed with a good range of local beers.

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-kettlewell.

This access statement was last updated in March 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail station is Skipton, 15 miles away. This is the nearest large town with all facilities including a bus station and supermarkets.
- Grassington is 7 miles away with a Spar shop, chemists, doctor and dentist surgeries plus a range of tea shops and gift shops.
- The nearest bus stop is in the village (0.7 miles), offering an hourly service.
- Kettlewell itself is well served with a local shop, garage, gift shop, three pubs and two tea shops. There is a regular bus service to Kettlewell from both Skipton and Grassington (Dales bus 72).
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-kettlewell/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

We have space for 7 cars around the hostel, which is usually enough. We can reserve a parking space for guests with access issues – please let us know in advance if possible. We are also happy to help with any unloading etc.

If there is no space available outside the hostel on arrival, you can drop off and unload in the village. We can sell you a ticket for this car park if the garage is closed.

Guests can also be dropped off at the hostel entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

If you have a minibus over 16 seats, free parking is available in the Yorkshire Dales National Park car park behind the garage in the village. Parking is a sensitive issue in the village and we ask that notices outside residential houses are respected.

Main entrance and reception

There is a wheelchair accessible ramp to the main hostel entrance with handrails to both sides. There is also access by 4 stone steps with handrails to both sides. Wheelchair access is to the ground floor only 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 reception area with carpeted floor. This is where we ask everyone to check in. There is various seating available in the reception area and hallway. Reception times are from 4pm to 10pm and 8am to 10am.

To the back of the main hallway on the right is an information board and a buzzer to call the owners (Saul and Floss) if they are not around. This can be used during the night in emergencies or outside of reception hours.

Public areas

Halls, corridors and stairs

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 lino 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 a handrail 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 up to 36 people here at 6 large wooden tables with additional seating available on request for up to 42 people in total. There is also a small seating area with two open-sided soft chairs, a small two-seater leather sofa and a coffee table. All furniture can be moved – please ask for assistance with this.

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 built-in plug sockets 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, five soft chairs (one with arms) and three coffee tables. All 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

The self-catering kitchen is accessed through the 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 2 large electric ovens, 2 sets of electric rings (one has 4 rings and the other has 2), 2 commercial microwaves, 2 toasters, 2 kettles, 2 under-counter fridges (one with a small ice box). There is a storage shelf unit for dry goods and a full range of kitchen utensils, crockery and cutlery for up to 40 people. Some items may be stored above head height, though we are 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 other areas on this floor are marked as private, including the reception, hostel kitchen and dishwasher area.

Drying facilities

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 doorstop 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

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Rooms are carpeted, level and well-lit with a central ceiling light. Beds are made up with a sheet, duvet and pillow. Additional pillows and blankets are available in the lounge.

Each room has a washbasin with a mirror and vanity light plus a USB charging point above, as well as small moveable bedside tables, hooks and under-bed storage. Please let the owners know if you require secure storage during the day.

All bathrooms have time motion-activated lighting and non-slip flooring. Standard showers have a step up to enter. All shower and toilet doors open inwards.

First floor

Access to this 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.

- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Two rooms that sleep up to 6 people each. They include 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Three showers (each with a fold-down seat).
- Four WCs.

Second floor

Access to this floor is via a fairly narrow, fairly steep staircase. It has 13 carpeted steps and a handrail to the right.

All the bedrooms on this floor are partially in the eaves and beamed so have some restrictions on head height. The main corridor also acts as an access route to the second floor fire exit, which leads to an external fire escape. This corridor must not be blocked at any time.

- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a double bed.
- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes 2 single beds.
- Four rooms that sleep up to 3 people each. They include a set of bunk beds and a single bed.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes a set of bunk beds and 2 single beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 5 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and set of bunk beds.
- Two showers.
- Two WCs.

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 by 5 stone steps upwards.

Three sides of the garden have a wooden fence and the fourth has a dry stone wall. No access is allowed to the area around the oil tank. There is a notice displayed asking that customers must not climb the walls or fences as there is a steep drop on the other side. Smoking is not permitted in the garden due to proximity of the oil tank.

The garden has 2 sofas, an armchair, 2 small coffee tables, 4 deckchairs and a large dining table with long bench seating either side. This outdoor furniture can be moved around – please ask for assistance with this. External lighting can be switched on if needed on request.

Cycle store

We have a large bike store accessed down the side of the hostel. This store has hoops to secure your bicycles, a track stand and a couple of stand pumps.

Please bring your own bike locks. The shed is kept locked overnight and when not in use. We can give you the key for the bike shed when needed – just let us know.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at the Kettlewell Hostel, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.

- The owners (Saul and Floss) are usually available on site from 4pm to 10am, through there is a button in the hallway to call them in an emergency at night.
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests are evacuated in the event of fire or a similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is intermittent within the hostel and village.
- Free WiFi is available throughout the hostel (password available on arrival).

Contact information

- Address: The Kettlewell Hostel, Whernside House, Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU
- Telephone: 0345 2602759
- Email: kettlewell@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 98
- Hours of operation: Reception is open from 4pm to 10pm. Instructions are displayed on the front door if no-one is available in the hostel when you arrive. If we are expecting you, we will leave a note with your name on it.
- Local buses: Dales bus 72 from Skipton is a small rural service without low-level access and some services require you to change at Grassington – for the hostel, look for the Post Office and YHA sign
- Local taxi: Frank Innoco 01756 761646

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.