



YHA Idwal Cottage – Access Statement

Introduction

YHA Idwal Cottage is situated in the impressive Ogwen valley between the Glyder and Carneddau mountains. Being the oldest YHA property, this hostel has retained its character and charm while providing excellent, modern accommodation and facilities with an emphasis on being eco-friendly, warm and welcoming.

We aim to cater for the needs of all visitors in this cosy two-storey building set in the heart of Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park. Guests have 24-hour access to rooms and facilities. This hostel is self-catering only, providing a spacious and well-equipped kitchen. We also have two ground floor bedrooms.

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-idwal-cottage.

This access statement was last updated in May 2024.

Pre-arrival

- The nearest rail stations are Betws-y-Coed (10.7 miles away) and Bangor (11.2 miles away).
- Bus services to this hostel are very limited. There is no bus from Bethesda (Bangor) and one bus a day from Betws-y-Coed. Please check timetable.
- A local taxi company can provide accessible taxis when pre-booked.
- The hostel is located just off the A5. The road approaching the hostel gate is level with no pavement.
- The hostel's location can be viewed on YHA's website at www.yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-idwal-cottage/directions.
- You can contact the hostel by phone or e-mail (see contact information).

Car parking and arrival

Paid parking is available opposite the hostel, within 100m of the main entrance. The car park is level and evenly surfaced with slate chippings. There are 5 tarmac spaces available. The car park is unlit at night. YHA guests can park for free from 5pm to 10am each day (daily charges apply outside these times).

From the car park there is an even tarmac surface across the street, followed by a wooden gate leading into the hostel grounds. From the gate there is a paved path, bordered by slate chippings, which slopes gently up to the hostel entrance.

With prior arrangement, guests can also be dropped off in front of the main entrance. If you let us know what time you are coming, we will do our best to assist with moving to and from cars.

Main entrance and reception

From the paved path there is a step up through a manual single leaf door which opens inwards. We have a portable ramp (gradient 1:12) available for wheelchair users which can be put in place on arrival.

The entrance hall is level and just to the right there is an open doorway leading through to reception. The flooring in the entrance hall and reception is wooden floorboards, and the area is well-lit with ceiling lights.

There is a portable induction loop available on request at reception. There are also tables and straight-backed chairs in this area. A payphone is located in the entrance.

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. Corridor flooring is carpet or wooden floorboards on the ground floor and carpet on the first floor.

There is level access to all facilities on the ground floor, except the drying room. We do not have a lift, so access to the first floor is only by a set of 13 steps. The stairs are carpeted and have a handrail to one side.

WCs

There is one gender-neutral WC on the ground floor with level access from the entrance hall. It has non-slip flooring and is well-lit with fluorescent lighting, though does not meet modern standards of accessibility.

Common room

Our large common room is located on the ground floor and has level access via a single leaf door. The common room comprises our lounge and our dining room. The floor is level, with non-slip vinyl flooring in the dining area and carpet in the lounge.

There are sofas, comfy armchairs and coffee tables in the lounge. Long tables and straight-backed chairs without armrests are available in the dining area. All furniture can be moved – please ask at reception if you require assistance.

Self-catering kitchen

Our spacious self-catering kitchen is located on the ground floor and has level access via a single leaf door. The floor is level and surfaced with non-slip vinyl. The room is well-lit with ceiling lights.

The kitchen is equipped with 4 fridges, freezer, 2 ovens (all installed under the work top), toasters, cordless kettles, microwaves, sinks and 6 gas hobs. Crockery and some kitchen equipment are kept in high shelving units – we are happy to move these to lower storage if required.

There is no low-level work top, but staff can help with equipment on request.

Laundry and drying facilities

The laundry room is located on the ground floor. From the entrance hall there is a single leaf door, a step down and then a step up through another single leaf door. The flooring is non-slip vinyl and there is even lighting.

There are low and high-level rails for guests to use. Coat hangers are also available. If you would like assistance, please ask at reception.

Bedrooms

Unless otherwise stated, all bedrooms have bunk beds. Rooms are carpeted and well-lit with ceiling and individual bunk lights. All rooms without en-suite have a washbasin. Bedding is provided.

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

Ground floor

- One accessible en-suite room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and a single bed. The en-suite bathroom is fitted with grabrails to the sides of the toilet and shower, a low-level basin fitted with lever taps, a shower stool and a toilet raiser. There is also an emergency cord. Transfer onto the toilet is right-handed.
- One room that sleeps up to 4 people. It includes 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One shower.
- One WC.

First floor

- One room that sleeps 1 person. It includes a single bed.
- One room that sleeps up to 2 people. It includes a set of bunk beds.
- Two en-suite rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- Three rooms that sleep up to 4 people each. They include 2 sets of bunk beds.
- One room that sleeps up to 6 people. It includes 3 sets of bunk beds.
- Three showers.
- Three WCs.

Grounds and garden

We have a concrete, level patio in front of the hostel with a picnic bench for guests.

Camping & Cabins accommodation

Anglesey Hut

Our Anglesey hut sleeps up to 7 people. It includes a single high-sleeper bunk with a double bed underneath and 2 sets of bunk beds.

To reach the hut, there is a paved path from the car park followed by a gravel, slightly sloping path through the wood. There is a level concrete section at the doorway and a level threshold into the hut.

The floor inside is polished wood. There are ceiling lights, along with individual lights on each bunk. There is a small heater and a kettle for guests to use. Toilet and shower facilities are nearby, and guests can also use the hostel facilities.

Pitch-up camping

YHA Idwal Cottage's campsite is located in a beautiful pine wooded area next to the hostel. This campsite is only suitable for small 2 or 3 person tents. Access to the campsite is via paths from the car park which can be uneven and sloping. The campsite itself is on even ground.

During their stay, campers have 24-hour access to hostel facilities. There is a BBQ area in front of the hostel. Cars cannot park on the campsite but there is a paid public car park next to the site. Campfires or open fires are not permitted.

Additional information

- Pets are not permitted at YHA Idwal Cottage, though assistance dogs are welcome throughout – please notify us at the time of booking.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the hostel.
- A member of staff is always available on site, including at night (access via emergency phone at reception).
- Emergency lighting and fire alarms are fitted. We ensure that all guests evacuate in the event of fire or similar emergency. Arrangements for guests needing assistance to evacuate should be discussed beforehand.
- Evacuation procedures are displayed in each bedroom.
- Mobile phone reception is poor within the hostel and immediate vicinity.
- Wi-Fi is not available at this hostel.

Contact information

- Address: YHA Idwal Cottage, Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda, Gwynedd, LL57 3LZ
- Telephone: 0345 3719744
- Email: idwal@yha.org.uk
- Ordnance Survey map: 115
- Local taxis: Yell-a-Cab (Bangor) 01248 353637, Ceir Pesda Cabs (Bethesda) 01248 605030

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.