



autumn 21

The Journey

Book breaks

Literary city trips for book-lovers

Wild times

Nine great hostels for wildlife-viewing

Let's go!

Four pages of kids' fun and games inside

Exclusively yours this autumn

Now's the time to book a relaxing break to reconnect with friends, family and the great outdoors.

Some of our most beloved properties are available for YHA Exclusive Hire this season, including YHA St Davids (pictured).

Have the whole place to yourselves from just £199 per night.

exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk



Hello

...and welcome to the autumn 2021 issue of The Journey. Autumn is a season that specialises in making a slow-burn arrival, seemingly appearing by stealth as the leaves gradually begin to redden and the days start to shorten. But it's also a time of looking forward, of forging new plans, and of making the most of the bracing outdoor activities and lively cultural calendar that belong to the later months of the year.

In this spirit, this issue is packed with inspiration for the season ahead. We interview author and professional adventurer Belinda Kirk about her new book, celebrate the inimitable influence of Ordnance Survey, and highlight nine hostels ideally placed for wildlife-watching.

Elsewhere we delve into the literary connections of many of our biggest cities, and hear from our executive director Anita Kerwin-Nye about our new, and hugely important, Outside Voices initiative. You'll also find the usual news and reviews, as well as Let's Go!, our special pull-out kids' section. We hope you enjoy the read.

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Autumn colours

Boots at the ready. The later months of the year see the nation's woodlands come alive in a crunchy-underfoot kaleidoscope of colour, and the best way to explore them is at walking speed: discovering canopies packed with golds, ochres, and russets; collecting fallen conkers; jumping in leaf-piles.

A quick crammer. As the weather cools in autumn, leaves start to receive less sunlight. Less sunlight means less green chlorophyll - something deciduous trees won't replenish until next year - and the unveiling of new, colourful pigments underneath, creating those beautiful autumn hues. In some species, and in certain special years, you'll see another stage of colour as the leaves turn a vibrant red. These reds are produced in years when lots of sunlight and dry weather have increased the concentration of sugar in the tree sap.

To help you enjoy the sights, smells and sounds of autumn as they flood the forest, Forestry England has created a guide to the very best walks near you.

forestryengland.uk/autumn/ultimate-guide-autumn-walks-near-you





Outside Voices

Anita Kerwin-Nye (right), YHA's executive director of strategy & engagement, introduces our new research project, Outside Voices, and reflects on our top strategic priority - to get more people involved in YHA.

We, and our outdoor sector colleagues, need to share a wider range of voices in our work. That's the central message behind Outside Voices, a new YHA research project part-funded by The National Lottery Emerging Futures Fund. It challenges assumptions and stereotypes around access to the outdoors and delves into the impact of the pandemic. It asks why exclusion persists, and provides a creative outlet for voices so often unheard.

It's clear that racism, ableism and class bias have an impact on the way people benefit from the outdoors, and our research has shown that we need to look beyond statistics. The inequity in access to green and blue spaces is well documented, and we have to put different voices at the centre of the debate.

What we do in the outdoors and how we use it, matters. We need to challenge the stereotypes that all people from cities litter the countryside; that young people make too much noise; that the only way to enjoy a hill is to march up it in expensive kit. Too many people do not feel welcome in outdoor spaces.

YHA has always been the quiet (and sometimes not so quiet) radical. Our roots lie in providing access for more people and different people – but we haven't always got that right. Over the years our images,





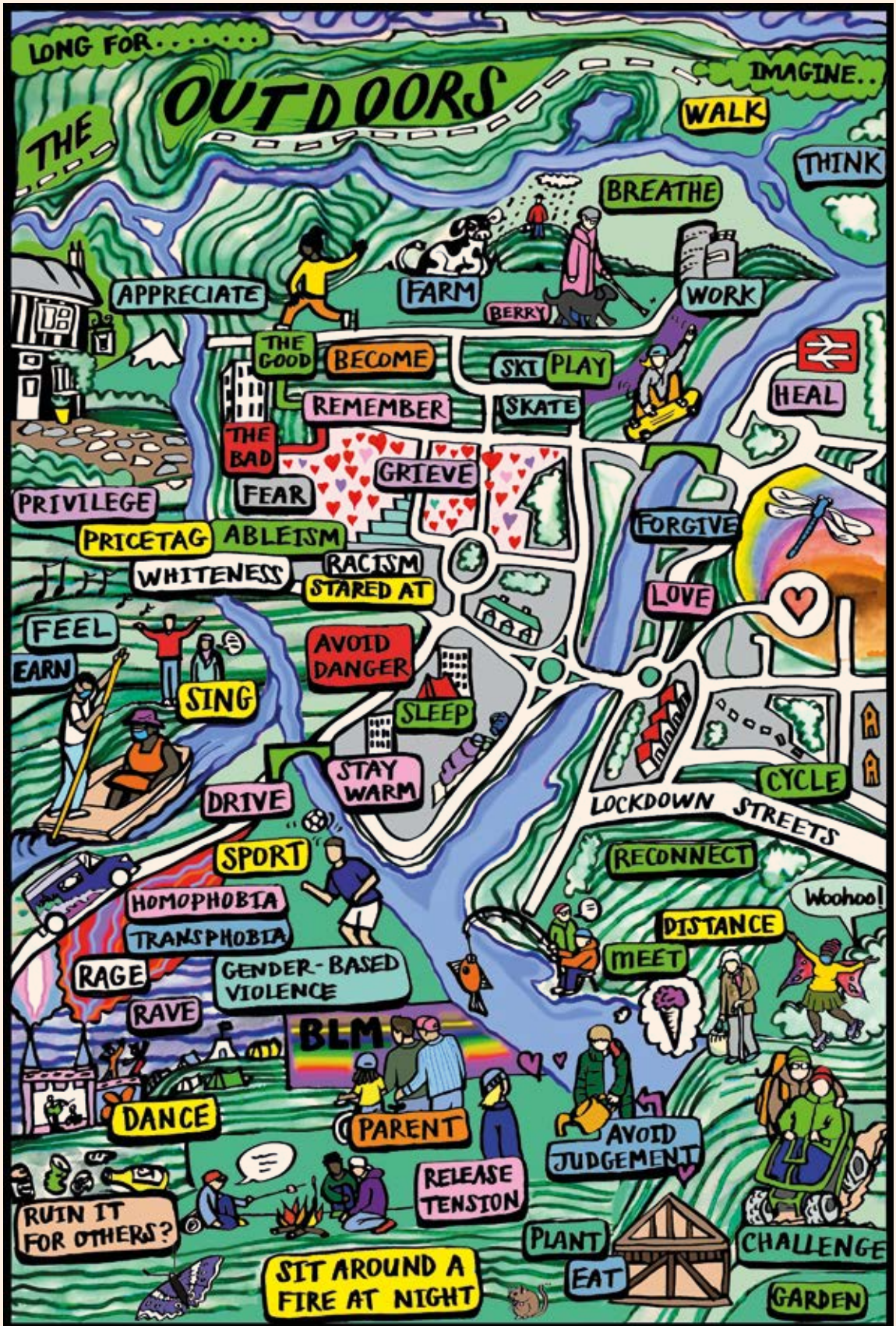
our stories and our practices haven't fully represented the communities we serve. We are a charity that holds our resources in trust for all of the public, so ensuring that all means all has to be our core priority.

Too often larger organisations fail to share smaller voices, or to learn from the work of community groups. We want Outside Voices to be a catalyst for action across the outdoor sector, to ensure that the future works for everyone – not just the most visible. The overwhelming response from members and users has been in support of increasing the diversity of our reach.

Long-term change, however, is not achieved by one single gesture. Instead it's a continued series of small acts by everyone. In meetings across 11 National Parks over the summer I talked to colleagues about our shared challenges of ensuring a diversity of access. How do we capture the increased interest in these spaces and make sure people return regularly? We will be working on projects to get more people into their nearest National Park – with a particular focus on communities with the least resources.

“An outdoorsy person wears certain clothes. They wear outdoorsy clothes. And they wear outdoorsy shoes. I think a person who's outdoorsy likes to... they're fit. So they like to be fit. They enjoy fresh air. And they must like animals and bugs and all that stuff. Because there is no way of not eating a bug when you're running through a park. I would assume that their mental health would be a little bit better.”

Outside Voices contributor





There will always be a question of whether too many people in these green spaces is a risk to the environment, and indeed this is why we do work on promoting the Countryside Code and helping new people develop environmental skills through education, volunteering and partnerships like Access Unlimited. But we need to stop lazy assumptions that city-dwellers, young people or those that have never climbed a mountain are the issue.

And we are not alone. I'm delighted that we're working with colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland to promote the hostelling cause through *Hostelling Together*. Affordable accommodation with shared social space is so key to diversity and inclusion, and hostelling is central to social tourism. These connections and access are a core part of the levelling-up agenda.

Our 10-year strategy is about connecting people and places, improving physical health and mental wellbeing, and helping people develop skills, but to do this we have to promote social inclusion. We were riding high at the beginning of 2020, but our planned anniversary celebrations came to an abrupt halt when the pandemic hit. Lockdown forced the complete closure of our network.

Despite the economic threat, we recognised we had a role to play both during the pandemic and in helping to

rebuild society. We used our assets to support the national effort, providing respite and refuge to those who most needed it, and this has laid the foundations for a future we can look to with hope and ambition.

I made visits to 17 different hostels this summer, and even with physical distancing restrictions, I saw first-hand the value of human connections as guests shared tips, experiences and just chatted. After a year of the virtual, it was a reminder of the importance of the real. Many of the people I talked to also spoke about how affordable we are, and this is hugely important. We need a range of price points that balance our income and our impact.

I saw many old friends of YHA but also many people new to the charity. They may have joined us in adversity, but many were saying how they now see YHA short breaks as part of their holiday pattern and this is an exciting development. Because this broadly ends where we started - about access and increasing reach. Because YHA is for all - even those who don't know yet that we are for them.

For fresh perspectives on belonging and outdoor space, explore livemore.yha.org.uk/outside-voices

Belinda Kirk

Belinda Kirk is an explorer and campaigner dedicated to promoting the benefits of adventure on our wellbeing. Over the past quarter-century, she's led expeditions and research missions in destinations as varied as Nicaragua, Alaska and the Sinai – as well as notching up a Guinness World Record for rowing unsupported around Britain. Her new book, *Adventure Revolution*, has been described by Bear Grylls as “a powerful reminder that adventure truly is a state of mind”.

How did you start on the path to becoming an adventurer?

When I was very young, I had a really wild upbringing on Alderney. The word 'feral' was used a lot! I was running around this island, building dens, climbing trees, and I think a seed was sown. But I then moved to a city, and had a much more challenging older childhood, with a lot of difficulties. My first real call to adventure was at school when I signed up to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. I was part of an expedition in the Brecon Beacons and it was just a huge revelation. I thought 'I need to do this - there's something I get from this that I don't get from the rest of my life'. It was the freedom, the excitement, the feeling of confidence. It's so worth it when you achieve more than you ever thought you could. I think that's one of the key reasons why adventure is so good for us and our wellbeing.

Are we all adventurers at heart?

One hundred per cent. Children are naturally adventurous and curious - they want to be explorers. It's funny, for most of my career

people have jokingly said 'oh, can I stow away in your backpack?' - people are always interested but they somehow feel it's not for them, that it's only for certain people. There's a kind of barrier, I think, but inside everyone there's an explorer. We're all adventurers, it's in our DNA, that's how we've evolved. We're supposed to be hunter-gatherers, but our world has sped up faster than our evolution ever could. So we're all drawn to it, even if we're armchair adventurers.

So how can people start to unlock their inner explorer?

I spent my early career going on huge international expeditions, but actually over the last decade I've been doing predominantly smaller adventures. That's partly for environmental reasons, and partly because I've had a little boy, so I've had to find other ways of living adventurously. But there are so many options, so long as you put in the effort and time. It might be as simple as varying your regular jogging or walking route to explore your local area, or geocaching, or even inner-city parkour. You can do it on your way to school or



work even just popping down to the shops. Parkour is about freedom, and adventure is all about freedom. With a little bit more investment, of course, you can jump on a train, get out of town and go to a new wild area, where you can camp, or hike, try wild swimming, or even learn something new like climbing or kayaking.

How do you decide on your next adventure?

It depends where I am in my life at the time. When I rowed around Britain, that was all about me finding out what I could do. When you push yourself out of your comfort zone, that's when you learn who you are and what you can do. It's where the magic happens, really. You can't do it all the time, of course - you have to be in your comfort zone sometimes - but the single reason I wanted to row around Britain was because I heard dozens of boats had tried but only one had actually gone round. I took it on because I thought there was a high chance of failing, which I know sounds paradoxical but I actually wanted to see if I could do it. You feel alive when you're pushing yourself to find out what you can do.

Adventure was my therapy when I was younger. The book is full of transformation stories, where adventure has allowed people to change their lives, learn how to face fear, become braver, and build new relationships. There's so many benefits to getting out there, and the key is that you bring back these lessons to the rest of your life, so you come back more confident and self-aware.

Adventure Revolution: The life-changing power of choosing challenge is out now, published by Piatkus Books





Ordnance Survey mapping through the centuries

From the founding of Ordnance Survey 230 years ago to the digital era of maps today, how has OS mapping changed over time? Ordnance Survey's Jessica Baker and Joss Harris talk us through the history.

Ordnance Survey has been mapping Britain since 1791. Today, governments, businesses, the military and, of course, walkers and outdoor enthusiasts rely on the maps and data that the organisation provides.

Ordnance Survey's origins lie in military strategy, with the Scottish Highlands first being mapped after a rebellion in 1745. Later, as the French Revolution rumbled across the channel, the government decided it should also survey England's exposed southern coasts. For this task, the Board of Ordnance was founded on 21st June 1791. It took a further decade, however, for the first map to appear.

The 1801 map

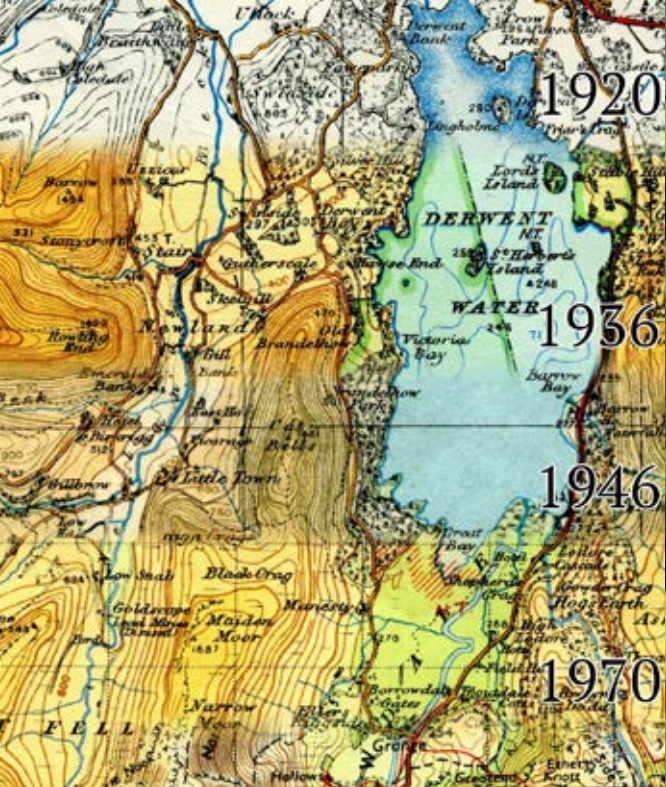
Identified as having the most vulnerability in its coastline and therefore the highest susceptibility to attack, the first map OS created was that of Kent, England's most south-easterly county. Because of its specific purpose, the map focused on communication routes and included hill shading to ensure understanding of the landscape for the military.

Mid to late 1800s

In 1841, the Surveyors Act gave OS surveyors a legal right to enter into and upon any land for the purposes of making and carrying out a survey. Zincography (using zinc sheets) began to replace lithography (using stone) as a method of printing, with copperplate engravings still used for the one-inch maps. In 1855 photography was introduced to the mapmaking process and there became an increased demand for accurate maps at a variety of scales. 1887 saw colour printing begin.

1900-40s

The First World War caused OS staff to be posted overseas but, despite this, it went



on to print 33,000,000 maps during the conflict (and an astonishing 342,000,000 during the Second World War!).

Following the First World War the nation wanted to get outside and explore, bringing more cyclists and motorists onto the roads, and sending ramblers out into the countryside. This led to relevant features such as roads and footpaths being emphasised on OS maps. Leisure mapping was born.

On 18 April 1936, the trig pillar was first used in the retriangulation of Great Britain. On this day, a group of surveyors gathered around a white concrete pillar in a field in Cold Ashby and began the monumental task of mapping Great Britain. The retriangulation of Britain was completed in 1962, and OS maps all began to use a reference system called British National Grid to identify the position of any feature. Aerial surveying was also used alongside field surveyors to speed up the processes.

1970-80s

These decades saw the advent of digital mapping. Computers were first used in 1971, but it wasn't until 1995 that 230,000 maps were digitised. Britain was the first country in

the world to complete a programme of large-scale electronic mapping.

2000s

In 2001 OS MasterMap was launched. From topography to green spaces, OS MasterMap today includes 500 million real-world objects including roads, buildings, parks and waterways. It is relied on by thousands of customers across government and the public and private sector.

2015, meanwhile, saw the introduction of the OS Maps app, which offers instant access to every OS Explorer and OS Landranger map to view, print or download.

Today

The modern equivalent to trig pillars is the OS Net network of more than 110 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) receivers. Surveyors use OS Net and GNSS technology every day to instantly position new map detail to within a few centimetres. What took many hours at Cold Ashby in 1936 can now be done in seconds, and to a far greater degree of accuracy.

ordnancesurvey.co.uk

A tale of seven cities

As theatres, museums, libraries and arts venues open up again, we're using good books to guide our autumn city breaks. Here's our guide to seven cities with YHA hostels, looking at literary locations, linger-worthy libraries and brilliant bookshops.

London

London, of course, is one of the world's great literary cities. So much so that it allows us to focus on the locale around a single hostel, YHA London St Pancras, which overlooks the British Library and sits a whisper away from Bloomsbury, a neighbourhood so steeped in bookish connections it had a literary social 'set' named after it. JB Priestley, Karl Marx and Arthur Conan Doyle all drank in the nearby Museum Tavern, while the British Museum inspired Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere* and Keats's *Ode to A Grecian Urn*, as well as a key scene in Sue Townsend's *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*. Oh, and a short walk away is *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Yep, that one.

Don't miss: British Library, British Museum, Museum Tavern, Daunt Books Marylebone

Reading list: *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Charles Dickens
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13 ¾ by Sue Townsend





Manchester

Manchester is a dedicated UNESCO City of Literature. Little surprise, then, that it's worth coming to the city purely to explore its beautiful libraries, among them the 1930s-era Central Library, the neo-gothic John Rylands Research Institute & Library, and Chetham's Library, the oldest free public reference library in the English-speaking world (and where Marx and Engels wrote *The Communist Manifesto*). Anthony Burgess, the author of *The Clockwork Orange*, is one of the city's most famous authors, and Manchester also features in novels by Charles Dickens (*Hard Times*), sometime resident Elizabeth Gaskell (*Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life*) and Louis Golding's *Magnolia Street*, which provides a poignant look at life in pre-war Manchester. In modern times, the most evocative voices of Manchester have been the poets Carol Ann Duffy and the unmistakable John Cooper Clarke.

Don't miss: John Rylands Research Institute & Library, Sir Ralph Abercromby pub (frequented by Cooper Clarke and even Byron), Louder Than Words Festival, Manchester Literary Festival.

Reading list: *Manchester Happened* by Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, *Magnolia Street* by Louis Golding, *The Luckiest Guy Alive* by John Cooper Clarke.

Cambridge

It's little surprise that Cambridge should have bred so many authors. There are more than 100 libraries (the Wren Library is one of the world's most beautiful) and dozens of excellent bookshops. In short, it's a bibliophile's dream. The list of authors who have written or studied in Cambridge reads like a who's who of literary greats: Lord Byron (who kept a bear here), Rupert Brooke, Sylvia Plath, Zadie Smith, Stephen Fry, Ted Hughes, AS Byatt, EM Forster and many more. Books set in Cambridge are similarly numerous, including Robert Harris's *Enigma* and Kate Atkinson's *Case Histories*.

Don't miss: Wren Library, Heffers Bookshop, The Haunted Bookshop

Reading list: *The Old Vicarage, Grantchester* by Rupert Brooke, *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency* by Douglas Adams, *Porterhouse Blue* by Tom Sharpe, *The Liar* by Stephen Fry.

Bristol

Bristol wears its culture loud and proud, from the spray-painted artworks by local boy Banksy, to the colour-smothered façades of its pubs, galleries and shops. Musicians and artists have long been attracted to its edgy streets - and the same applies to writers. Eighteenth-century poet Robert Southey was born on Wine Street and befriended Samuel Taylor Coleridge in the city, and Daniel Defoe and Robert Louis Stevenson were both inspired by its maritime history. But modern Bristol doesn't dawdle in the past: for proof, pick up poetry by Helen Dunmore, anything written by Emily Koch, or *The Fair Fight* by Anna Freeman. You could even join Bristol's fantastic Write Club (writeclub.org.uk) and be inspired to pen your stories.

Don't miss: Bristol Central Library, M Shed, Write Club

Reading list: *Birdcage Walk* by Helen Dunmore, *Keep Him Close* by Emily Koch

Stratford-upon-Avon

Walking the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon, you really wouldn't know that Britain's greatest writer came from this Midlands town... oh, wait. The references are everywhere. Ya Bard (a craft beer shop) and Much A Shoe About Nothing (no prizes) are among the many puns that Shakespeare would have been, well, quite frankly horrified to see. He would have approved, however, of Maggie O'Farrell's fantastic *Hamnet*, which takes part of Shakespeare's story and brings 16th-century Stratford into vivid perspective. The town is also the location for *Women of a Certain Rage* by Georgie Hall and *One Summer's Night* by Kiley Dunbar. Elizabeth Gaskell went to school in the town, too. The Stratford Literary Festival is one of England's best.

Don't miss: Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Reading list: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, *Women of a Certain Rage* by Georgie Hall



Liverpool

Many, no doubt, would argue The Beatles had a literary flourish to their lyrics (Paperback Writer?), but the more obvious plaudits go to poets Roger McGough, Adrian Henri and Brian Patten, who published Mersey Sound, one of the biggest selling poetry anthologies of all time. Seafaring author Herman Melville was familiar with the city, and wrote about it in his autobiographical Redburn, and Beryl Bainbridge was born here, inspiring the novels The Dressmaker and Liverpool Miss. The vibrant Museum of Liverpool features its literary history.

Don't miss: Museum of Liverpool, Walker Art Gallery

Reading list: An Awfully Big Adventure by Beryl Bainbridge, Mersey Sound by Roger McGough

Bath

It is Jane Austen who is forever associated with Bath, as evidenced by the annual Jane Austen Festival (September): if you've ever felt the urge to parade in a Georgian period dress this is your opportunity. Her books Persuasion and Northanger Abbey are partly set (somewhat bitingly) in the city. Meanwhile, Samuel Pepys, Mary Shelly and Charles Dickens all came to visit the spas - there must be something in the water. More recently, Bath in the Second World War is the focus of Keith Stuart's The Frequency of Us, and This is Paradise by Will Eaves. It's also where much of Bridgerton was filmed, but we can hardly call that literary... or can we?

Don't miss: The Jane Austen Centre, The Beaufort Bookshop, The Holburne Museum.

Reading list: Persuasion by Jane Austen, The Frequency of Us by Keith Stuart



Autumn escapes

Rooms from
£29 per night
this season

Layer up, pack a flask and head on out to explore the national treasures and hidden gems of England and Wales this autumn.

[yha.org.uk/breaks/autumn-holidays](https://www.yha.org.uk/breaks/autumn-holidays)



Let's go!



© adobestock/galitskaya

Autumn festivals around the world



What are your favourite things about autumn? Watching the leaves turn red and gold? Putting on your old snuggly jumpers again? Or maybe you love getting excited about events like Hallowe'en, Diwali or Bonfire Night?

In other parts of the world, people celebrate all sorts of different events at this time of year - and we're looking at some of them here.



Day of the Dead

In Mexico, the first two days of November are a chance to remember family and loved ones who have died. It might sound like a sad time, but it's actually a fun and colourful celebration, with lots of food and decorations.



Loy Krathong

In Thailand, the November full moon is the time when Loy Krathong - a festival of light to honour the goddess of water - is celebrated. People put candles in little decorated baskets (called 'krathong') then release them onto lakes, rivers and pools.

Thanksgiving

The fourth Thursday in November is a very important one in the USA, with big dinners and family reunions. It marks Thanksgiving, and remembers the first harvest of the Native Americans and European settlers who were here in 1789.



Pirates Week

In the Cayman Islands, which are scattered in the Caribbean Sea, the biggest event of the year is Pirates Week! Taking place each November, it attracts thousands of people, who come to watch costumed pirates, pirate ships, fireworks and more.



Let's visit!

Dr Beynon's Bug Farm!



What is it?

The Bug Farm is a really unusual research and visitor centre based on a farm in Wales. It focuses on insects (you probably guessed that!) and explores the many ways in which our creepy-crawlies play such a vital role in life on Earth. On site you'll find a Tropical Bug Zoo, a Bug Museum, a British Bug House, an Insect Farming Exhibition, Farm Trails and a Walled Garden. There's even a café where you can try eating yummy insect-based food!

Where is it?

Near the small city of St Davids in Pembrokeshire, South Wales. YHA St Davids is just a 10-minute drive from the farm, and YHA Broad Haven is nearby, too. It's really close to the beautiful Pembrokeshire coastline, so you can combine a trip here with lots of seaside fun!



Who is Dr Beynon?

Dr Sarah Beynon is a farmer, conservationist and entomologist. An entomologist is someone who studies insects - and Dr Beynon is one of the best around! She studied at the University of Oxford and has won lots of awards for her work. The Bug Farm was once a normal farm, but in 2013 she decided to buy it and turn it into a fascinating insect farm and nature reserve!

Can you eat insects here?

Yes, and they're surprisingly tasty! Scientists say that insects are one of the most sustainable types of food in the world, and that in the future many of us will be eating them regularly. Farming things like cows and sheep uses up lots of land and animal-feed, but farming insects uses much less land, water and space. So eating insects is an eco-friendly choice!

Dr Beynon's husband Andy runs Grub Kitchen, the café at The Bug Farm. His menu includes things like cricket cookies, plant-and-insect mince (called VEXo) bolognese, and gourmet bug burgers. There are non-insect dishes, too.



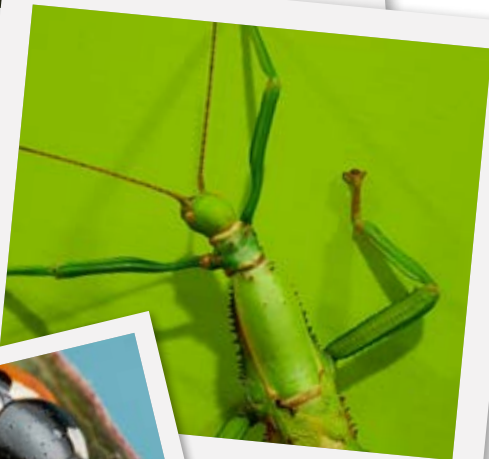
Dr Beynon says...

Whatever your age, there is something for you at The Bug Farm - even if you don't like bugs! If you are looking to have a fun and yet educational experience, learning all about nature and the food of the future, then you must come to see us.



Six fantastic things to do at the Bug Farm

- 1 Run riot in the Rustic Indoor Play Barn, whatever the weather!
- 2 Go wildlife-watching on the three trails that wind over 15 acres of farmland
- 3 See incredible insects from around the world in the Tropical Bug Zoo
- 4 Learn all about what bugs do for us, in the fun Bug Museum
- 5 Try a chocolate chip cricket cookie in Grub Kitchen Café
- 6 Find out more about our native insects in the British Bug House



Visit thebugfarm.co.uk for opening hours, tickets and more!

The lay of the land

How do the UK's National Parks stay looking as they do?
We spotlight three examples



South Downs National Park

The landscape of the South Downs is constantly changing. Our Iron Age forebears, who left the hill forts of Cissbury Ring, Chanctonbury Ring and Old Winchester Hill, would have seen much more woodland than we do today. Going back even further, today's contours were carved by glaciers and are still being altered by erosion, although the Downs' now-famous rolling grassland characteristic is largely down to sheep, and to a lesser extent rabbits. The nibbling of sheep - most prominently the fluffy-faced Southdown sheep - and the browsing of rabbits keeps the grass short, resulting in the 'old chalk grassland' that defines the region today. But it was nearly lost for good: a Second World War initiative turned much of the grassland into arable land, losing a unique habitat for butterflies and orchids, among much more flora and fauna. The worries ultimately led to the formation of the South Downs National Park in 2010, the newest in the country - its current ReNature campaign seeks to increase the 25 per cent of the park dedicated to nature to 33 per cent by 2030, to be a place "where wildlife can flourish, habitats thrive and where everyone can experience nature and wildlife at their best."

Factfile

The South Downs National Park (SDNP) covers an area of 1,627 sq km (628 sq mi) stretching for 140km between Winchester and Eastbourne.

The South Downs Way is the only National Trail that lies wholly in one National Park, extending 100 miles from Eastbourne to Winchester.

The diverse grassland and woodland of the South Downs harbours seabirds and coastal wildlife, while the grasslands are home to round-headed rampion, orchids, and rare butterflies including the Adonis and Chalkhill Blues.

Stay at: There are two youth hostels in the South Downs National Park proper: YHA South Downs, outside of Lewes, and YHA Truleigh Hill, inland from Shoreham. YHA Eastbourne sits right on the park border.

New Forest

Think New Forest, think open spaces, deep views and – yes – free-roaming ponies. Many thousands of these handsome animals wander the National Park, not only offering a near-guaranteed sighting but serving as de facto architects of the landscape, by grazing on long grass in spring and summer and chomping on gorse, holly and brambles in the winter. They keep the ‘lawns’ between the forested areas trim, and many of the trees have visible browse-lines.

Visitors are advised to keep their distance from ponies, and to drive slowly through the park, although each animal is actually owned by a member of the commoning community – local residents who have ‘common rights’ which allow them to graze them at will (the ponies are rounded up just once a year, in autumn, to check on their health). But these hardy creatures aren’t the only animals impacting the park. In different parts of the New Forest, cattle, sheep and pigs also perform their own appetite-induced gardening duties.

Factfile

The ‘New’ Forest is in fact almost 1,000 years old. In around 1079 it was made a royal deer-hunting forest by William the Conqueror, and given the name ‘Nova Foresta’.

Wild New Forest is a not-for-profit organisation offering guided wildlife tours, wildlife ID workshops, young persons’ wildlife camps and more. wildnewforest.co.uk

There are four railway stations within the National Park: Ashurst, Beaulieu Road, Brockenhurst and Sway. The latter two are the closest to YHA New Forest.

Stay at: YHA New Forest, tucked down a quiet lane in the heart of the park, within walking distance of Burley, with YHA Camping & Cabins options.





Dartmoor

Dartmoor is one of Britain's most singular landscapes, a place that inspired no end of brooding literature and poetry (Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes evaluated the setting as "a worthy one, if the devil did decide to have a hand in the affairs of men"). Its big skies, open moorland, deep river valleys and distinctive granite tors have seen it described as the last true wilderness in southern England.

It's perhaps surprising, then, that for more than 5,000 years, the main land use of the region has been farming. Even today, more than 90% of the National Park is used for the purpose. Much of this is made up of open and enclosed moorland, used for grazing, and it's perhaps interesting to note that all the land within the park borders is privately owned. Landowners range from Prince Charles to the National Park Authority themselves, whose remit is to conserve and enhance the natural environment's beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.

Factfile

Around 1,500 Dartmoor ponies live within the National Park, doing their own bit to preserve the character of the landscape. Hoofprints have been found dating back 3,500 years!

Dartmoor National Park celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, having been founded back in 1951.

Love walking? You're in the right place. Dartmoor has some 725km (450 miles) of public rights of way.

Stay at: YHA Dartmoor sits in the heart of the National Park, with YHA Okehampton and YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor both on the outskirts.

9 hostels for wildlife-watching

With properties scattered across England and Wales, we're lucky to have a portfolio packed with variety. Whether in the mountains, along the coast or in the countryside, each of our hostels has its own unique appeal - something that applies not just in terms of each setting, but the creatures that creep, crawl, swim and soar close by. With this in mind, here are nine hostels primed for a wildlife-themed break.

YHA National Forest Animal activities

The eco-friendly YHA National Forest is well placed for any number of animal-themed excursions, from native wildlife-watching in nearby woodlands to llama-trekking - yes, really - and, in Bradgate Park, the chance to experience a modern incarnation of a medieval deer park. Twycross Zoo, which supports conservation projects worldwide, is 15 minutes away.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-national-forest





YHA Borrowdale

Lakeland fauna

Sitting in the Lake District valley of the same name, YHA Borrowdale still exudes a woody, hidden-away charm, despite being one of the most popular spots in the network. Bring your binoculars to try and spy peregrine falcons - the world's fastest bird - or seek out the valley's owls, rabbits and wild red deer. If your luck's in, you might even spot an otter.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-borrowdale

YHA Brecon Beacons

The Welsh wilds

The hefty, wide-open contours of the Brecon Beacons give home to all manner of native wildlife. This converted farmhouse sits almost bang in the middle of the National Park - well positioned to spot red kites tilting through the skies or, in summer, reed warblers singing from the reedbeds. The rivers, meanwhile, are breeding grounds for trout and salmon.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-brecon-beacons



YHA Berwick-upon-Tweed

Seabirds and seals

England's northernmost town is a historical gem in its own right (Exhibit A: the handsome 400-year-old bridge across the River Tweed) but it also serves as a fine base for a boat trip to the nearby Farne Islands, where the resident grey seals are joined each spring and summer by numberless guillemots, razorbills and - yes - bright-billed puffins.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-berwick

YHA Sheringham

Coastal delights

The North Norfolk coastline offers famously rich wildlife pickings. Sheringham itself is all about old-school seaside charm, but close by you're in a realm of birds such as avocets, marsh harriers and goldcrests, not to mention colossal (and noisy!) winter flocks of pink-footed geese. Thrillingly, sea eagles are occasionally spotted here too.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-sheringham





YHA Stratford-upon-Avon Butterflies of the Bard

It's not just Shakespeare quotes that flutter around Stratford-upon-Avon. Billed as 'the UK's largest tropical butterfly paradise', the town's highly rated Butterfly Farm brings a touch of the exotic to the Midlands, with year-round displays in zones such as the Rainforest Flight Area, which at any given time has around 2,000 free-flying butterflies.

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

YHA Truleigh Hill Wildlife on the downs

This countryside hostel offers outdoor escape on its doorstep, sitting as it does on the route of the South Downs Way. The varied habitats close by make it well placed for spotting wildlife ranging from barn owls to chalk hill blue butterflies. Thanks to funding from the South Downs National Park Authority, the hostel now also has a dipping pond on site.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-truleigh-hill



YHA Eskdale Cumbrian hideaway

A real jewel in the YHA crown, this beautifully located Lake District hostel is well assimilated into its surrounds, with a mapped-out nature trail, a wildlife pond and even its own secluded nature hide. Look out for green and great spotted woodpeckers on the feeders, or gaze skywards to spot buzzards, kestrels and peregrines. The hostel has 15 acres of private grounds.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-eskdale

YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall Wild nightlife

This modern Northumberland hostel has a spectacular location at any time, but come nightfall it takes on a life of its own, with a stargazing net (on which you can recline and stare skywards) and a plum setting in one the country's best known Dark Skies Reserves. Look out for owls, as well as the nocturnal mammals that snuffle through the local countryside.

yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-the-sill-at-hadrians-wall



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Reg Charity Number 306122



How to... Learn to skateboard

“Skateboarding,” says Lyndsay McLaren, “is for everyone.” And she has proof. Lyndsay is the founder of an innovative grassroots organisation called Neighbourhood Skate Club, which helps girls and women to experience the joys of one of the Tokyo Olympics’ most attention-grabbing sports.

“We say we empower women through voice, movement and skateboarding. Movement because although we think about skateboarding as a lifestyle, it’s actually a full-body workout. So when I’m teaching, I’m

talking about weight-shifts, where to lean into, how to connect to your core and feel the ground through your feet. By using that language, it takes away the aggressive side of skateboarding, the intimidating side, and brings you into yourself, letting you connect to your body. So when you learn and get cruising, there’s a joy there.”

Neighbourhood Skate Club is a classic example of a movement growing organically in a very short space of time. Scotland-born Lyndsay works in the skate industry full-time and competed professionally in downhill skateboarding when living in the US. But it wasn’t until coming out of lockdown that she started teaching, when two family members - women in their 30s - asked for lessons. She then began to explore offering one-to-one lessons through her own Instagram page, and within two days was booked up for six weeks.

How to get into skateboarding

- 1** Look for local skate communities, skate parks or skate lessons taking place in your area! Use social media to explore, reach out, and get involved. You might not even need a board of your own to sign up - many places and groups offer borrow boards to get you started.
- 2** When you're ready to get a board of your own, go to your local skate shop and ask advice from the shop staff. Ask about boards, trucks and wheels so you can build up a skateboard that is customised to your specific preferences. Hard wheels are good for skate parks and tricks, and soft wheels are good for cruising. Pro tip - don't forget to buy a skate tool so you can adjust your trucks!
- 3** Find yourself a skate spot and remember this can be as simple as a smooth bit of concrete or pavement - whether that's outside your house, in your back garden, or at a local park. Find somewhere you feel safe and comfortable to practise.
- 4** Watch skate videos and find out more about tricks from YouTube, TikTok and other social media platforms. Remember you don't NEED to do tricks to be a skateboarder. If all you want to do is cruise around then that's OK!
- 5** Follow @NeighbourhoodSkateClub on Instagram for tips, tricks, workshops, inspiration and more!

She developed a teaching method where the goal was to get them standing alone rather than being handheld. Word spread.

At the same time, Lyndsey also noticed how many women of all ages were skating, alone, around Victoria Park in East London. “I realised I wanted to turn what I had into something that brought all these solo women skaters together.” She started Neighbourhood Skate Club in May 2021, and her first monthly group skate had an RSVP list of 80 women - all ages, all abilities. There was clearly an appetite for a safe place for them to skate.

She’s now working with parents of children in nearby estates to set up workshops for kids, and most recently with larger organisations who work with inner-city children (keep an eye on @NeighbourhoodSkateClub for details).

“I noticed how much women felt they had to learn in a tiny space because they felt so vulnerable, especially women learning to skate in their 20s, 30s and 40s. They’d stay off to the side, they’d be terrified to take up space. So part of this, for me, is to give women a feeling of being empowered and strong enough. To say, ‘I’m here - I’m not going to feel ashamed because I’m learning to skate and I’m not a 14-year-old boy.’”

Neighbourhood Skate Club is one of many skate clubs across the country that provide a safe place for people to skate, no matter what their background. Chances are there’s one near you.

Skate Gals & Pals

A collective of skaters with the aim to empower marginalised communities as well as amplifying their voices. It caters not only for marginalised communities’ needs through Skate Gals & Pals, but for BIPOC individuals in London through Melanin Skate Gals & Pals.

skategalsnpals.com

Rollin’ With The Girls

A platform that represents female skaters in Leeds. “We aim to inspire girls locally to take up skating by showing the basics of skateboarding, the fails and, of course, the makes!”

rwtgleeds.com

Queer Skate Collective

An inclusive, intersectional and welcoming group giving all Queer people a safe, sober space to skate. Based in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Newcastle.

queerskatecollective.com



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

Four outdoor items put through their paces by The Journey team

La Sportiva Cyklon with Boa Fit

boafit.com

The pleasingly named Cyklon trail running shoe is a fascinating collaboration between La Sportiva and BOA. Skiers and cyclists will recognise BOA's circular dial that draws in laces. With La Sportiva, BOA has deployed the technology on a pair of shoes. Now, this is a system that could scream gimmick, but after spending a wet summer running in them, be assured it's not. For me, there are three main advantages. Firstly, the micro-adjustment it affords for a precise fit. Secondly, there's very little give, so they'll stay secured. Finally, they can be adjusted for up and downhill.

Daniel Neilson

- + Stable, secure shoes
- + Impressive lacing (obviously)
- + Great traction
- La Sportiva often come out small





Finisterre Etobicoke Insulated Jacket

finisterre.com

Using a fabric made from regenerated plastics - therefore offering durability without plundering a finite resource - this stylish new insulated jacket serves as a great alternative to a traditional down layer. It makes use of FEI, Finisterre's own synthetic insulation, which retains 75% of its warmth when wet compared to down, and gives ample warmth without being too bulky. It's lightweight, so easy to pack, and the slightly retro design was a hit with this reviewer. A further plus: it's as comfortable to wear to the shops as it is on the slopes.

Tom Rhys

- + Warm synthetic insulation
- + Good-looking lightweight jacket
- + Recycled materials
- None



Sherpa Machuva Beanie

sherpaadventuregear.co.uk

Sherpa's hats are hand-knitted in villages in Nepal, directly benefiting the women who make them, which not only means they're exceptionally warm (sub-zero Snowdonia? Not a problem) but ethical as well. The newest of its many hat designs is the Machuva, a reassuringly chunky unisex beanie with subtle branding, a cableknit upper section and a ribbed lower section. It stood up well in our test, and although it might not be an especially technical piece of kit, it's eminently practical, looks good and - most importantly of all - keeps your head toasty.

Francine Morgan

- + Very warm
- + Made in Himalayan climate
- + Supports Nepalese workers
- Thicker than some walking hats



Fjällräven Tree-Kånken

fjallraven.com

Did you know Fjällräven was an official 'Purveyor to the Royal Court of Sweden'? It says plenty about the quality of this 50-year-old brand which, in true Scandinavian style, is also working to stay one step ahead of the sustainability curve. This new backpack - the latest addition to its time-honoured Kånken range - is a case in point, making use of an innovative tree-based fabric called Pine Weave (in essence, wood-pulp from Swedish forests). The pack itself not only looks good but feels sturdy, robust, and beautifully put together. Everything, in short, that you'd expect.

Louisa Williams

- + Very well made
- + Eco-friendly material
- + Comes in four colours
- Pricier than some rival packs

Hostel guide



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YHA Black Sail
YHA Blaxhall

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YHA Edmundbyers
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YHA Ennerdale
YHA Eskdale

YHA Exford
YHA Eyam

YHA Gower

Meadow Green, Batch Valley, All Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JW
34 to 38 Green Batt, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1TU

The Firs, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3RW
Gypsy Lane, Alstonefield, nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FZ

Waterhead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 OEU
Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6JZ

Bovey Combe, Beer, Seaton, Devon, EX12 3LL
Dewars Lane, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1HJ

Swallow Falls Hotel, nr Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 ODW
Friar's Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 ODF

Black Sail Hut, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX
The Old School House, Blaxhall, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EA

Mill Beck, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4UQ
Longthwaite, Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria, Lakes, CA12 5XE

Morlais, Borth, Ceredigion, SY24 5JS
Palace Stables, Boscastle, Cornwall, PL35 OHD

Boswinger, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LL
Libanus, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8NH

National Park Study Centre, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, LD3 7YS
Ratlinghope, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 OSP

Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH
14 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA

Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3JH
Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XA

97 Tenison Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 2DN
54 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DT

Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 8WB
Hillfield, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3HN

Ince Lane, Wimbolds Trafford, Chester, Cheshire CH2 4JP
Beacon House, Amesbury Road, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 OEW

The Mill, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NY
Coppermines House, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8HP

Holly How, Far End, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DD
Larkhill, Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy, LL32 8AJ

New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1JH
Parc Behan, School Hill, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6SA

Old School, Lockton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7PY
Bellever, Postbridge, Devon, PL20 6TU

Dufton, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6DB
1 East Dean Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8ES

Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 7ZH
Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG

Low House, Edmundbyers, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9NL
Elmscott, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, EX39 6ES

Cat Crag, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, Lakes, CA23 3AX
Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria, CA19 1TH

Exe Mead, Exford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7PU
Hawkhill Road, Eyam, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QP

Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN

YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe

YHA Grinton Lodge

YHA Hartington Hall

YHA Hathersage

YHA Hawes

YHA Hawkshead

YHA Haworth

YHA Hawse End

YHA Helmsley

YHA Helvellyn

YHA Holmbury

YHA Honister Hause

YHA Hunstanton

YHA Idwal Cottage

YHA Ilam Hall

YHA Ingleton

YHA Ironbridge Coalbrookdale

YHA Ironbridge Coalport

Isle of Wight Brighstone

YHA Jordans

YHA Keswick

YHA Kettlewell

YHA Kings

YHA Kington

YHA Lands End

YHA Langdale

YHA Langdon Beck

YHA Leominster

YHA Littlehampton

YHA Litton Cheney

YHA Liverpool Albert Dock

YHA Liverpool Central

YHA Lizard

YHA Llanddeusant

YHA Llangattock

YHA London Central

YHA London Earls Court

YHA London Lee Valley

YHA London Oxford Street

YHA London St Pancras

YHA London St Pauls

YHA London Thameside

YHA Lulworth Cove

YHA Malham

YHA Manchester

YHA Mankinholes

YHA Manorbier

YHA Medway

YHA Minehead

YHA National Forest

YHA New Forest

YHA Newcastle Central

YHA Newport Pembrokeshire**Easedale Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9QG**

Grinton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6HS

Hall Bank, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 OAT

Castleton Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 1EH

Lancaster Terrace, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3LQ

Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QD

Longlands Drive, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8RT

Hawse End Cottage, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UE

Carlton Lane, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5HB

Greenside, Glenridding, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0QR

Radnor Lane, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW

Seatoller, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5XN

15 Avenue Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5BW

Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 3LZ

Ilam Hall, Ilam, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ

Greta Tower, Sammy Lane, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EG

1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7NR

John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Shropshire, TF8 7HT

North Street, Brighstone, Newport, PO30 4AX

Welders Lane, Jordans, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2SN

Station Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5LH

Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU

Kings, Penmaenpool, Dolgellau Gwynedd, Wales, LL40 1TB

Victoria Road, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BX

Letcha Vean, St Just-in-Penwith, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7NT

High Close, Loughrigg, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9HJ

Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0XN

The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EQ

63 Surrey Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5AW

Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9AT

25 Tabley Street, off Wapping, Liverpool, Mersyside, L1 8EE

Kansas Building, Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE

The Polbreen, Lizard Point, Cornwall, TR12 7NT

The Old Red Lion, Llanddeusant, Camarthenshire, SA19 9UL

Wern Watkin, Hillside, Llangattock, Crickhowell, NP8 1LG

104 Bolsover Street, London, W1W 5NU

38 Bolton Gardens, Earl's Court, London, SW5 0AQ

Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9AJ

14 Noel Street, London, W1F 8GJ

79-81 Euston Road, London, NW1 2QE

36 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AB

20 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 5PR

School Lane, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5SA

Malham, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 4DB

Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB

Mankinholes, Todmorden, Lancashire, OL14 6HR

Manorbier, nr Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7TT

351 Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JE

Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW

48 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BD

Cott Lane, Burley Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 4BB

17 Carloliol Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland NE1 6UQ

Lower St Mary Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 0TS

YHA Ninebanks	Orchard House, Mohope, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DQ
YHA Okehampton	Klondyke Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1EW
YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor	Bracken Tor, Saxongate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1QW
YHA Osmotherley	Cote Ghyll, Osmotherley, Notherallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AH
YHA Oxford	2a Botley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 0AB
YHA Patterdale	Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 ONW
YHA Penzance	Castle Horneck, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8TF
YHA Perranporth	Droskyn Point, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 OGS
YHA Poppit Sands	Sea View, Poppit, Cardigan, Pembroke, SA43 3LP
YHA Port Eynon	Old Lifeboat House, Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN
YHA Portreath	Nance Farm, Illogen, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 4QX
YHA Pwll Deri	Castell Mawr, Trefasser, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, SA64 OLR
YHA Ravenstor	Millers Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8SS
YHA Rhossili	Rhossili Middleton, Rhossili, Swansea, SA3 1PJ
YHA Rowen	Rhiw Farm, Rowen, Conwy, LL32 8YW
YHA Scarborough	Burniston Rd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 ODA
YHA Sheen Bunkhouse	Peakstones, Sheen, Derbyshire, SK17 OES
YHA Sheringham	1 Cremer's Drift, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HX
YHA Sherwood Forest	Forest Corner, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9RN
YHA Skiddaw House	Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4QX
YHA Slaidburn	King's House, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 3ER
YHA Snowdon Bryn Gwynant	Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NP
YHA Snowdon Llanberis	Llwyn Celyn, Llanberis, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4SR
YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass	Pen-y-Pass, Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NY
YHA Snowdon Ranger	Rhyd Ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7YS
YHA South Downs	Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS
YHA St Briavels Castle	St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG
YHA St Davids	Llaethdy, Whitesands, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6PR
YHA Stratford	Hemmingford House, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7RG
YHA Streatley	Reading Road, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9JJ
YHA Street	The Chalet, Ivythorn Hill, Street, Somerset, BA16 0TZ
YHA Swanage	Cluny, Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS
YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall	Military Road, Bardonia Mill, Northumberland, NE47 7AN
YHA Tanners Hatch	Off Ranmore Common Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6BE
YHA Thurlby	16 High Street, Thurlby, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 0EE
YHA Tintagel	Dunderhole Point, Tintagel, Cornwall, PL34 ODW
YHA Totland Bay	Hurst Hill, Totland Bay, Isle Of Wight, PO39 0HD
YHA Treyarnon Bay	Tregonnan, Treyarnon, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8JR
YHA Truleigh Hill	Tottington Barn, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5FB
YHA Wasdale Hall	Wasdale Hall, Wasdale, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1ET
YHA Wells Next The Sea	Church Plain, Wells, Norfolk, NR23 1EQ
YHA Whitby	Abbey House, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4JT
YHA Wilderhope Manor	Manor, Longville in the Dale, Shropshire, TF13 6EG
YHA Windermere	Bridge Lane, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LA
YHA Wooler	30 Cheviot Street, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6LW
YHA Wye Valley	Near Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6JJ
YHA York	Water End, Clifton, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 6LP
YHA Youlgrave	Fountain Square, Youlgrave, nr Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1UR

One down...

Reader Martin sent in this fantastic photo of his baby son Oscar, who collected his first hostel stamp after a recent three-night stay at YHA Cambridge. Here's to many more happy YHA adventures, Oscar!

Share your adventures with us by emailing magazine@yha.org.uk or tweet using the hashtag #LiveMoreYHA



Thank you, William

We'd like to extend our warmest thanks to William Howarth, who retires as our chief financial officer in November, after more than a decade spent helping us grow and evolve as an organisation. Quite frankly, we couldn't have done it without him!

James Blake, YHA's chief executive, says: "William has made a huge contribution to YHA in his 13 years with us. A big part of that has been overseeing the most successful period in YHA's recent history: taking us from a turnover of £35m when he joined in 2008 to £51m in 2019, and from an organisation in financial decline to one of steady growth. More recently we have had cause to be particularly grateful for these firm foundations, as William has steered the YHA ship calmly through the most troubled financial waters of our history.

He is driven by our mission and our values, and anyone who has ever been in a conversation or meeting with him will know how these twin concerns shine through all that he does. In his role he is of course a boss to some, but a colleague and a friend to many, and a reassuring presence to us all in times good and bad. He will leave very big shoes to fill."

William himself, meanwhile, has this to say. "At the heart of YHA is the charitable object which says this is an organisation for all, but especially young people, and there have been no better moments than seeing our hostels full and providing the opportunity to explore, often for the first time, the beautiful landscapes and iconic cities of England and Wales."

We'd like to wish William the best of luck for the next chapter in his life.



Name the UK National Parks

WIN a pair of KEEN Ridge Flex WP shoes worth £145

Between them, England and Wales have a total of 13 National Parks. We've jumbled up the names of five of them here. Can you work out what they are? (The map on p34 might help.)

1. OXROME
2. CORBEN ABCNOSE
3. ERIKHORSY SLADE
4. WINONADOS
5. SHOUT WONDS

To enter simply send us an email with your five answers - and whether you'd prefer the men's or women's pair as a prize - to magazine@yha.org.uk by 17th December 2021. Feel free to share your thoughts on this magazine at the same time.



About the prize

With a striking, trail-ready silhouette, the Ridge Flex WP is constructed in premium, environmentally preferred leather sourced from LWG-certified tanneries that operate on a closed loop basis to reduce water and energy usage, an industry gold standard that completely eliminates waste water. Inside the boot, a pesticide-free Eco Anti-Odor treatment uses only natural materials to break down odour in sweat, eliminating pesticides and biocides from going into the environment. A KEEN.DRY membrane keeps feet dry and comfortable in all conditions, while the KEEN ALL.TERRAIN outsole is equipped with rugged 5mm lugs for sure footed traction wherever you roam. [keenfootwear.com/en-gb](https://www.keenfootwear.com/en-gb)



Choose from a mid (£155) or low-cut (£145) model in men and women's specific editions.

Last issue: Congratulations to Elaine Monaghan, who won a set of Kora Outdoor base layers. **39**

We are YHA.

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YHA (England & Wales), Trevelyan House, Dimple Road, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3YH

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