

North London Outdoor Group

Fact Sheet 1: Weekends

Away

This guide is for all North London Outdoor Group members. There is a separate **Weekend Organisers' Guide** for anyone who organises a Group weekend.

1. WEEKEND BOOKINGS AND PAYMENTS

The group has to book YHA accommodation far in advance. Bookings for weekends may open about 4 months before the weekend and normally close 9½ weeks before the weekend.

When you put your name down for a weekend, please give the weekend organiser a phone number and email address where you can be contacted and tell the organiser whether or not your phone number and email address can be circulated to others on the weekend. Please make sure you have a note of the weekend organiser's phone number.

When we book YHA accommodation for you, we have to send money in advance to confirm the booking. Please help the weekend organiser by paying your full accommodation cost promptly.

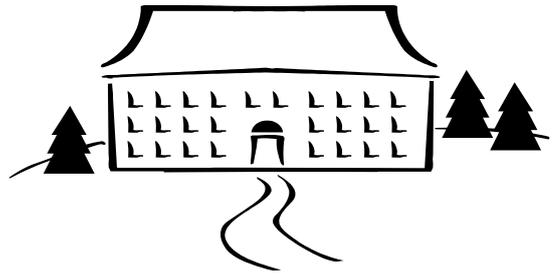
If you need to cancel for any reason, please tell the weekend organiser as soon as possible, so that there is more chance that someone else can take your place and you can have a refund of your accommodation costs.

If you cancel after transport has been arranged, please also tell the driver who is taking you. Under certain circumstances, you may still be required to pay your share of the transport costs; see Fact Sheet 2, "Transport Arrangements" for full details.

You do not need to join YHA (England and Wales) Ltd for most Barnet YHA Group trips as you are covered by the group's Affiliated Group membership card but this only covers trips in England and Wales.

Members under 18 can only take part in any Group activity if they are accompanied by a responsible adult aged 18 or over. This

should be a parent, guardian, elder sibling or grandparent. If not, they must have written authorisation by the parent or guardian of the



member under 18 to hold parental responsibility.

The YHA have special rules for under-18s, for example they may be required to stay in a family room rather than shared dormitories. Please contact the YHA for more details.

2. YHA ACCOMMODATION

The YHA provide two main types of accommodation: hostels and bunkhouses. Hostels are warm and comfortable, usually with small rooms. Bunkhouses are of a simpler standard and may not have heating in the bedrooms. Some of the bunkhouses and simpler hostels are situated in attractive out-of-the-way places, sometimes only accessible on foot.

YHA accommodation is normally in shared single-sex rooms. These often have 4 or 6 beds, occasionally 8 or more. You will usually only be sharing with other members of our group but in some cases, there could be others who are not members of our group.

Rooms can usually be locked but the keys often need to be shared.

There may be lockers or boxes for storing your luggage but you need to provide your own small padlock.

YHA Booking Conditions state that YHA reserves the right to ask for ID from any guest on check in.

Acceptable forms of ID include current passport, Services ID (Fire, Police or Forces), valid photographic driving licence, no more than 10 years old, student Identity card, from a UK university with a current admissions date, bus pass, bank card when accompanied by another card that has the individual's name embossed on it.

3. OPENING & CLOSING TIMES

Most youth hostels, apart from those in large cities, close at 11.00 p.m. Members cannot normally arrive later on their first night unless special arrangements have been made. Once we have checked in, most (but not all) hostels provide a "keycode" which gives access to the hostel after closing time.



YHA expects guests to be quiet in the dormitories between 11.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. Anyone going to bed when others are already asleep should be as quiet as possible, using a bedside light or torch rather than putting the main light on.

As washrooms, etc. are shared and there may be limited space in the rooms, we may stagger getting up times from 7:00 a.m onwards but please be considerate of others still in bed.

On some Group weekends, we may have breakfast provided, normally at 8:00 a.m.

On the day we leave, we have to check out of the youth hostel by 10.00 a.m. but we typically leave at 9.30 a.m. every morning.

4. DRINKS

Most YHs sell beer, wine and cider, and the licensing conditions only allow alcohol to be consumed if it was bought at the YH.

Members are only permitted to bring their own beer, wine or cider to drink in the YH if the YH is not licensed to sell alcohol or if we have booked it on Exclusive Hire.

5. BEDDING, ETC.

Sheets, duvets and pillows are provided by the hostel. You must use the bedding provided and not take your own sleeping bag.

The bed is normally made up when you arrive but you are asked to strip the bed before you leave.

However, in Scotland and many other countries, you will need to provide your own sheet sleeping bag or pay extra to hire one.

You should bring your own towel as YHA does not provide towels, although these are usually available to hire.

6. ACTIVITIES

On most of our Group weekends, walking is the main activity although we sometimes arrange weekends with other activities. On a walking weekend, there may be a choice of walks of different distances. We try to arrange transport in connection with walks or visits to places of interest but can't always take everyone to all the places they may want to visit.

On some weekends, we stay at more than one youth hostel so it will be necessary to leave your luggage in a parked car during the day. In that case you will need to bring food that will keep without being refrigerated.

7. DISABLED MEMBERS

YHA has a diverse network of hostels, from castles and scheduled ancient monuments to inner city, purpose built hostels. Not all are operated by YHA as some are 'Enterprise hostels'.

Many hostels have some adaptations which may make them suitable for wheelchair users and people with mobility impairments. These hostels have access statement at the bottom of each hostel information page on the 'Accessibility' tab.

If you are a wheelchair user or have mobility impairments, please ask the Weekend Organiser if the hostel we are visiting has an access statement.

If you use an assistance dog, please mention this to the Weekend Organiser when you book for a Group weekend. A person with an assistance dog would not share a room with other Group members but YHA (England and Wales) can usually make appropriate arrangements for a suitable room if we give them enough notice.

Nevertheless, YHA accommodation is often booked up far in advance at weekends so suitable accommodation may not always be available when a Group weekend opens for booking.