

# Exchange Programme

stay | join | give | volunteer



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Thank you for  
expressing an interest  
in the **YHA Exchange**  
Programme.

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# Hello!

Thank you for expressing an interest in the YHA Exchange Programme in this brochure you can read everything you need to know about HI Connect and the Exchange Programme.

If you have any questions you can call Lynsey on **01629 592728** or email **[exchanges@yha.org.uk](mailto:exchanges@yha.org.uk)**

Kind Regards,  
The Exchange Team

# YHA History

A German schoolteacher first thought about Youth Hostels more than a hundred years ago. He understood the difference a night in a new place, meeting new people and sharing new experiences in fresh surroundings, could make, particularly for young people.

During the Second World War the number of YHA members doubled.

By the 80s, the needs of the modern-day traveller were changing. Young people were starting to travel widely. They wanted smaller rooms, better toilets and showers - the comforts and convenience of the modern world. Increasingly they began to book on the internet. Considerable change took place within YHA around this time with the establishment of a national framework and a professional management structure.

Today there are Youth Hostels, in towns and cities, in the countryside. There are Youth Hostels in cottages, castles, mansions and in modern buildings. There are Youth Hostels right around the world.

We have hostels throughout England and Wales, often in exceptional locations. These welcoming and sociable places are open to everyone.

We give people the chance to explore, to travel the world, to expand their horizons, to have fun and meet other people and to know that what they are paying doesn't go to shareholders, doesn't pay any kind of profit to someone else. People like it that they know that they are helping others who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to do exactly the same as them, to have a great time, to explore the world and to learn along the way.



# YHA Today

- Welcomes all - individual travellers, families, school and youth groups, recording around two million overnight stays each year
- Helps provide learning opportunities for 8,000 school, college and youth groups to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum and other educational needs
- Gives support to young people and families with challenging lives through YHA Breaks programmes
- Accommodates 750,000 overnight stays by young people under the age of 18 each year, travelling independently, with families or as part of an organised group
- Runs a network of around 120 Youth Hostels, we also offer bunkhouses and alternative accommodation such as Camping Pods, Bell Tents, Arctic Cabins and Safari Tents all in stunning rural, coastal and city locations throughout England and Wales
- Has over 200,000 members
- Is supported by more than 3000 active volunteers
- Employs more than 1,200 staff including 600 seasonal staff

- Has an annual turnover of £50 million
- Is one of Britain's top 50 charities
- Welcomes visitors from 80 different nations each year, accounting for 500,000 overnight stays
- Has invested over £22 million in our network since 2011 and is continuing to do so to update our hostels and create new ones, meeting the needs and expectations of our customers



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# About Hostelling International

Hostelling International (HI) was founded in 1932 to coordinate Youth Hostel Associations around the world. It is one of the world's largest international membership organisations with more than 3.7 million members, and it offers many benefits in addition to staying in HI hostels.

All members, known as National Associations, are non-profit, non-political organisations that are required to have the following mission: to do good.

Hostelling International operates hostels in all types of popular places, such as London, Paris, New York, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Bangkok and Rome. There also are some more unusual locations, such as a tree-house hostel in Norway and a youth hostel in a castle in Scotland.

Hostelling International ensures that all affiliated hostels are safe, clean, have good standards and deliver the right environment.

# A short history of HI

## 1909

German school teacher Richard Schirrmann sees the need for overnight accommodation for school children so that they have a place to stay during class trips. Schools are used during the holidays, with classrooms being temporarily converted to accommodate beds.

## 1912

Schirrmann sets up the first youth hostel in his own school in Altena, Westphalia. Soon after, this is replaced by a permanent hostel in Altena Castle.

## 1919

The idea of hostelling spreads across Germany, and Schirrmann founds the German Youth Hostel Association.

## 1932

The youth hostel movement quickly spreads worldwide and the International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) is founded. Richard Schirrmann is appointed president.

**1936**

Schirrmann is forced to resign by the German government.

**2006**

The International Youth Hostel Federation (IYHF) operates as Hostelling International (HI).



# HI employees of adventure via HI Connect

HI Connect is the name of the exchange programme for Hostelling International-affiliated staff members and volunteers. This programme aims to provide participants with a truly unique opportunity to experience all aspects of the hostel experience.

## **Goals of the programme:**

- To share knowledge;
- To experience life and work in another country;
- To enhance life skills and confidence;
- To embrace the culture and environment of the host country;
- To improve language skills.

## **Currently, the following countries are part of the programme:**

- Canada
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- England & Wales

- Germany
- HI International Office (England)
- Iceland
- Ireland
- Japan
- USA
- Netherlands
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Portugal
- Scotland
- Slovenia
- South Korea
- Spain

More countries are joining very soon!  
You can find them all on **hihostels.com**



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Your programme will be based on your **experience**, your learning **goals** and the **needs** within the hostel departments.

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# What to expect from an Exchange

## Programme

During your time with YHA, you will be involved in all aspects of hostel life. You will be provided with training to ensure you are able to carry out all duties associated with your role. Your programme will be based on your experience, your learning goals and the needs within the hostel departments. Daily work hours will vary based on the needs of the hostel. This will be a full-time temporary role, with 7.5 hours work a day and 2 days off per week.

## Exchange duration

The duration of the exchange will vary per hostel from 1 - to 2 - week.

## Exchange mentor

A mentor/buddy will be assigned to you to serve as a resource during your stay.

## Exchange transportation

Many provide transportation options such as bus, train, underground and taxis. Please note: YHA will

not cover any costs incurred from the use of Taxis (including UBER). Your local hostel will be able to provide more details regarding location specific transportation recommendations.

## **Cost and insurance**

YHA will cover the cost of accommodation and food (Half Board which is breakfast and an evening meal) for the duration of the exchange programme. You must obtain an up to date EHIC (European Health Insurance Card - You can apply online at [www.nhs.uk/ehic](http://www.nhs.uk/ehic)). Appropriate travel insurance which should cover loss of luggage, delays, medical costs and repatriation if necessary. (YHA does offer free travel insurance - If you would like to use YHA travel insurance then please contact the Exchange team for the policy number).

## **Participant eligibility**

All candidates must have worked a minimum of 1 year continual service and must not have taken part in the exchange programme previously. All candidates must be nominated by their line manager and must link in to their PDR.

## **Application process**

All completed applications should be sent to **exchanges@yha.org.uk** for approval. Once the nomination has been approved a notification will be sent to the candidate and relevant hostel manager, a list of opportunities will then be sent to the candidate.

## **Language**

Roles within the hostels require the ability to communicate with English-speaking travellers and staff. Therefore YHA requires participants of the programme to have at least an intermediate level of the English language. Knowledge of another language is a plus.

## **Programme Evaluation**

Candidates will be required to complete a daily journal/diary of their experience during the placement. On the last day of the exchange the candidate will be asked to complete a short survey about their experience.

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Close to city centre shopping, live music venues, clubs and bars, including the famous Cavern Club, YHA Liverpool is the **perfect location** for a budget weekend break.

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# YHA Liverpool

## YHA Liverpool at a glance

YHA Liverpool is right at the heart of everything Liverpool has to offer. This Youth Hostel is suitable for families, backpackers, groups and anyone looking for a budget city break. The Youth Hostel is just a five minute walk from the historic Albert Docks which is part of the Liverpool Waterfront – a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site with world-class attractions like The Beatles Story and Liverpool Wheel.

We're located in the Baltic Triangle. Rather than heading north to the city centre and Liverpool One, head south and you'll stumble across fabulous bars such as the Camp and Furnace, Baltic Social, and the Liverpool Gin Garden.

The Tate, the International Slavery Museum, Maritime Museum and Museum of Liverpool are about 10 minutes walk from the Youth Hostel, so there is plenty to do in this city



of culture. Don't miss out on the ferry across the Mersey - the terminal is just a 15 minute walk away. Close to city centre shopping, live music venues, clubs and bars, including the famous Cavern Club, YHA Liverpool is the perfect location for a budget weekend break.

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YHA London Lee Valley is the perfect accommodation if you want a great mix of city **sightseeing** and **activities**.

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# YHA London Lee Valley

## YHA London Lee Valley at a glance

YHA London Lee Valley is a Youth Hostel with a twist as we are split over six buildings. We have five wooden Lodges with accommodation in them and a main wooden lodge which contains the cafe-style communal areas and conferencing facilities. Look out for our new wall murals and prepare to be inspired! The wooden lodges include en-suite rooms, small social areas and high quality kitchenettes – perfect for low cost family breaks.

YHA London Lee Valley is the perfect accommodation if you want a great mix of city sightseeing and activities. We are situated in the Lee Valley Regional Park – a 10,000 acre rural retreat just outside of London where you can explore open green spaces and even take part in watersports like white water rafting. Our attractive log structures sit in well-tended grounds and there's plenty of space for children



to play just outside.

Just a twenty minute train journey from central London, the hostel is within easy reach of the capital - perfect for sightseeing and city breaks. A train ticket purchased at Cheshunt station even includes your unlimited tube travel for the whole day - making it a great value day out.

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Whether you're a family wanting to visit the free city museums, a football fan here for the Etihad or Manchester United stadium tour or a party goer wanting to enjoy the nightlife, we're... **a great base in which to discover this great city.**

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# YHA Manchester

## YHA Manchester

YHA Manchester is a purpose built, stylish modern Youth Hostel located by the canal in the Castlefield area of Manchester, which is just 15 minutes' walk from the city centre and close to one of the free bus routes which operate in the city. We've got plenty of bright and colourful spaces to hang out and make new friends - look out for work by local artists and chat to our welcoming staff for tourist tips.

Whether you're a family wanting to visit the free city museums, a football fan here for the Etihad or Manchester United stadium tour or a party goer wanting to enjoy the nightlife, we're open 24 hours a day and a great base in which to discover this great city. How about booking one of our delicious Full English breakfasts to start your day?



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The Grade II-listed hostel is **only two miles** from Shakespeare's birthplace with easy access to historic Stratford-upon-Avon.

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# YHA Stratford-upon-Avon

## YHA Stratford-upon-Avon at a glance

Magnificent Georgian mansion Hemmingford House, set in three acres of grounds, is ideal for a budget family break. The Grade II-listed hostel is only two miles from Shakespeare's birthplace with easy access to historic Stratford-upon-Avon. See performances by the world renowned Royal Shakespeare Company or visit nearby Warwick Castle, one of England's finest Medieval castles, both great educational options for school trips.

- Fully refurbished in April 2013
- Short distance from the awe inspiring Warwick Castle
- New café & renovated bar
- New restaurant

Stratford-upon-Avon has a surfeit of selling points whatever the season. Whether it's the Museum of Mechanical



Art & Design (MAD), Tudor World or the costume displays in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre tower, there's an exhibition to suit all interests. When you walk around the town centre, lift your gaze above the shop fronts off Bridge Street and you'll see what the town might have looked like in Tudor times.

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We are YHA. Because where you go changes who you become  
stay | join | give | volunteer

[yha.org.uk](http://yha.org.uk)