



Low season
special offers for
visits taken
between
November 2026 –
March 2027

Ilam Hall

All-inclusive **Discovery** residential
packages for schools

Available all year round

Book Now

Call us on **0203 467 2002** or email
school.travel@firstbus.co.uk
to discuss your requirements.



Who are we?

First Education and School Travel are one of the UK's leading providers of school trip packages, working in partnership with over 100 venues and activity providers.

Renowned school tour operator

We are a fully bonded school tour operator working to current UK Package Travel Regulations through our membership of the British Coach Holidays Financial Protection Scheme. This means your deposit payments are 100% safe with us. See our website for details: www.firsttravelsolutions.com/fest

We are members of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom



Book Now – Call us on 0203 467 2002 or
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The Venue

YHA Ilam Hall is a **breath-taking Victorian Gothic mansion** built in the 17th century, set in 84 acres of stunning National Trust parkland and with all of the beauty of Dovedale on it's doorstep.

This unique hostel offers school groups an immersive residential experience where history and geography come to life. From the peak of Thorpe Cloud to the iconic stepping stones of Dovedale and the winding River Manifold, the surrounding landscape provides an inspiring location for team-building and outdoor adventure – helping students to build confidence and create lasting memories in one of England's most beautiful settings.

The hostel offers a total of **121 beds across 26 bedrooms** with a layout that lends itself to offering smaller groups their own accommodation zone. Many of the bedrooms have ensuite facilities, whilst others access shared toilet and shower cubicles.



All-inclusive Packages

These great value, all-inclusive curricular linked residential visits are delivered in partnership with **YHA Ilam Hall** and are renowned for their high quality and value for money – **we include all coach travel, accommodation, meals, plus your chosen activities.**

2 nights / 3 days – Arriving at lunchtime on Day 1 – departing at lunchtime on Day 3 – activities are delivered during the mornings, afternoons, and evenings. Starting with the afternoon on Day 1.

This LOTC accredited venue and activities cover various subject areas within the curriculum. Activities are led by on-site staff, with programmes arranged, itineraries planned and all detail is fully risk-assessed, taking away the pressure from trip organisers.

The Programmes

We offer **THREE packages** with a range of activities for you to choose from in advance, these are delivered both in the hostel grounds and also within the surrounding landscape of the Peak District National Park.

Choose from our all-inclusive **KS2 linked Discovery Programme**, our **KS2 Geography Programme** or the more adventurous **Multi-Activity Programme** – each package includes your return coach travel, accommodation, a full board meals service as well as your chosen **activities**.

The Discovery Programme:

Includes a fabulous range of activities and team challenges. Choose from...



Orienteering – Duration 1 ½ hours – An exciting outdoor activity that exercises mind and body. The aim is to navigate between checkpoints or controls marked on a special map. The students are taught orientation of the maps and key skills in how to read the landmarks to find the checkpoints.

Map Skills – Duration 1 ½ hours – The students are taught how to read and interpret a map. The students are encouraged to learn keys and symbols that would be on a map to interpret information about the land they represent. A further level is to introduce students to gridlines. The students will create their own maps showcasing the skills they have learned.

Compass Skills – Duration 1 ½ hours – The students will learn the elements on a compass and how they each work together for direction and orientation. The students will learn how to take a bearing and create a bearings trail.

Guided Walk – Duration 1 ½ or 3 hours – The students can enjoy a stunning countryside walk of the Peak District. Exploring the local area there is an opportunity to learn about the geology and human history of the area as well as connecting to nature. Walk the infamous Dovedale Stepping Stones or ascend Thorpe Cloud. (Weather permitting). The walk requires half a day minimum.

Team Challenges – Duration 1 ½ hours – The core idea behind Team Challenges is to empower individuals to contribute to the common goals. The very success of the group depends upon their ability to work as a team. A series of active challenges will be set up for the group to complete.

River Dipping – Duration 1 ½ hours – River dipping is a fun and straightforward way for the young people to explore an aquatic habitat and observe different creatures from freshwater Hog Louise to Mayfly Nymphs. Learn about the aquatic habitat and the adaptations of the stream/river fauna.

Mini Beast Hunt Duration 1 ½ hours – Exploring the local woodland to discover the vast array of life that lies beneath the logs and leaves.

Environmental Art Duration 1 ½ hours – A variety of craft activities that explore the natural environment. This activity can be enjoyed indoors if the weather isn't suitable.

The GEOGRAPHY programme:

Bring the Great Outdoors to life in the heart of the Peak District with our KS2 geography programme.

Our experienced team will encourage your pupils to get hands on with the world around them, guiding them to sites of interest that are on our doorstep and with educational activities including map skills, navigation work, river investigations, guided walks and more!



Evening Activities (Self-led)

Film Night A perfect activity for the evening to give young people a chance to relax after a busy day. The group can sit and watch a favourite film together on the projector. The hostel has a small selection of DVDs, but the group is encouraged to bring their own.

Bingo Night Start the evening off with Human Bingo, this activity encourages personal interaction among individuals. Human bingo is an enjoyable activity that blends socialisation, dialogue, and discovery. Enhancing relationships, forging fresh bonds, and discovering fascinating details about one another. Followed up by a tradition game of old-fashioned numbers bingo for a bit of fun.

Outdoor Scavenger hunt OR Indoor treasure hunt, the young people follow a carefully curated list to find a specific set of items. They can work in teams or individually and is a brilliant way to get out and about, discovering the environment around the hostel.

Board game evening Play an old favourite or learn something new, challenge each other to an exciting game.

Multi-Activity Programme

A selection of the Discovery activities, with the addition of some more adventurous off-site activities (around 20-30 minutes away from the hostel). Please let us know at the time of your enquiry if you would like this programme – prices are higher for Multi-Activity programmes. Example options include:

Abseiling – Duration 2 ½ hours – A controlled, adventurous descent down a vertical surface, such as a cliff face, using a rope, harness and climbing devices – a thrilling, high-trust activity!

Canoeing – Duration 2 ½ hours – The group will paddle on expanses of open water or the River Derwent, learning watercraft skills and taking part in team building games and challenges.

Raft building – Duration 2 ½ hours – Working in teams to construct rafts before launching them for their first voyage. This is a great challenge, incorporating creativity and design skills. Will you be paddling away or swimming back to shore?

Rock climbing – Duration 2 ½ hours – This activity will be a physical test as well as a test of nerves. The Peak District is a premier destination for rock climbing with some of the most accessible outcrops in Britain – perfect for beginners and skills development.



Why choose YHA Ilam Hall

This grand mansion is truly an impressive sight and benefits from its scenic, rural setting at the southern end of the Manifold Valley and at the edge of the Alpine-style village of Ilam.

YHA Ilam Hall is an ideal base for enjoying the countryside, with easy access to walking trails (including the iconic Dovedale Stepping Stones) and plenty of safe grounds to enjoy the fresh air, views and take part in activities. The hostel has the added feature of a games area with table tennis and pool table for any free time after daily explorations have finished!

School groups in particular love the wow factor of this location, the historic surroundings really offer a unique and memorable residential experience!

What can we eat?

The package includes a **full board meals service for groups** covering breakfast, packed lunch, and a two-course evening meal.

Breakfast is a buffet, served by members of the team, with guests choosing items from a range of cooked food (**sausage, bacon, hash brown, tomato, beans, scrambled eggs and vegetarian sausage**), **continental pastries, cereal, yoghurt, fruit juice, along with tea and coffee.**

Packed lunches consist of a pre-ordered sandwich, a piece of fruit, a biscuit bar and a bag of crisps. Please note that as part of YHA's commitment to reducing plastic waste, bottled drinks are not provided – however a water refilling station is available and we recommend that all guests bring a bottle to fill and refill.

Evening meals vary on different days, and an **example** two-course evening meal would consist of the following options:

- Meatballs with extra veggies in a tomato sauce with pasta and garlic bread
- Vegetarian 'meatballs' with extra veggies in a tomato sauce with pasta and garlic bread (v)
- Jacket potato with optional cheese and/or beans (v)
- The salad bar consists of lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes and dressing.
- Chocolate fudge cake
- Choc ice (v)
- Fresh fruit (v)

The team can cater for most allergies and other dietary requirements with advanced notice. Group leaders are sent meal choice forms ahead of the visit to allow participants to make their choices and return them along with details of any dietary requirements.

Be more inclusive – reducing the cost for parents

We understand the current impact of cost-of-living increases on household budgets. We recognise how this will be affecting some children's opportunity to take part in a school trip.

You can help parents to include their child in a visit by moving your trip to a **low season month**, reducing the cost burden significantly and thus encouraging more opportunities for more children.

We can beat the squeeze on budgets with our low season residential packages, delivered between November and March when significant savings can be made.



These special prices are only available when booked directly with us as an all-inclusive package



How to book

Simply let us have some details of your school, age and year group, your proposed group numbers and your ideal dates.

We will check availability and come back to you with one all-inclusive price.

Simple as that!

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