



# Take a leap of faith

**We highlight some of the best activity and adventure-filled ideas for schools, along with some of the popular residential destinations.**

## **Adventures for all ages**

You're never far away from **YHA**. Its network of activity centres and accommodations span the length and breadth of England and Wales' most inspiring landscapes, with a range of adrenaline-fuelled activities to choose from. To inspire the next generation of conservationists, there is a Caring for Nature package which is designed to inspire students to take on conservational work and care for the natural world. Pupils will embrace their natural environment by taking part in activities such as studying habitats, building bug hotels, planting trees, shelter building or bee bombing.





• YHA offers a variety of exhilarating residentials for all ages.

The YHA's Connecting to Nature residential is another top option, where students can combine nature-based activities with ways to develop greater self-awareness and respect for the environment. Schools that have a high number of pupil premium and free school meals, or are based in a high social deprivation area, could be eligible for bursary support too.

Celebrating 80 years of fieldwork, education charity the **Field Studies Council** was formed in 1943 to promote the study of living plants and animals. Today the charity continues to offer exciting outdoor learning residentials across 24 locations such as Birmingham, Amersham and Epping Forest, to educate

young people about the world around them. School trips with the charity are said to provide quality first-hand experiences in the outdoors and involve days packed with curriculum-linked activities exploring natural environments.

Students will spend dedicated time outside the classroom to inspire and motivate them, while developing life skills such as resilience, teamwork and problem solving. Packages will also link outdoor learning to work back at school to ensure objectives for the experience were met.

In north Yorkshire, **Studfold Adventure Trail** is run by two former teachers and has been designed to help support the primary national curriculum, allowing youngsters to value and respect the environment that surrounds them. The trail encourages children to become successful learners through a diverse range of interactive and fun activities on the trail, with a camp nearby where pupils can try their hand at cooking on an open fire.

The **Outward Bound Trust's** mission is to inspire young people so they can achieve more than they ever thought possible by funding disadvantaged students across the UK to experience Britain's wildest places. The charity works with primary and secondary schools to produce tailored outdoor learning courses which aim to deliver an alternative education, giving young people the confidence to tackle the real world head on.

With five UK locations including the Yorkshire Dales and Lake District, **Lost Earth Adventures** takes groups to stunning natural areas to abseil, canoe, hike, climb and much more. Its aim is to take students out of their comfort zone in authentic outdoor spaces to improve confidence and resilience.

**Lee Valley** is another top option, stretching across London, Essex and Hertfordshire. Its Forest School programme provides an innovative approach to learning in nature and its White Water Centre is perfect for thrill-seeking students. ➔

• The Field Studies Council has been offering life-changing visits for the last 80 years.







### Top activity centres

In Milton Keynes, **The Caldecotte Xperience** creates bespoke programmes tailored for all budgets and needs, with up to 20 activities to choose from including water sports. Run by charity Action4Youth, Caldecotte is fully accessible for young people with special needs and disabilities, welcoming more than 9,000 students from Years 3-12 last year alone. Bespoke offers include the likes of residentials, transition days, emerging leader days, development days and team building experiences. This includes a specialist activity programme for SEND groups.

**Avon Tyrrell**, based in the New Forest, is an outdoor learning centre that aims to offer pupils the chance to 'experience, learn and develop' through bespoke outdoor learning packages for day trips and residentials in a safe, accessible environment. Teachers can choose from comfortable, all-weather accommodations, whether it's the Grade I listed calendar house that sleeps from 20-109 people, the self-contained forest lodges or tented camps that will help immerse your students in nature. With over 30 activities, from archery to canoeing and environmental bushcraft, it's a suitable environment to experience outdoor learning through adventure and discovery.

There are more than 40 challenging, fun activities and problem-solving tasks across **Mill on the Brue's** 25 acres of fields, woods and river valley in Somerset. In consultation with the teacher,

• Make memories to last a lifetime at Avon Tyrrell.



every programme is written individually for the visiting school, and each group has one instructor who stays with them all week. Sometimes the biggest challenge for children is not the activities but the food, and Mill on the Brue grows its own organically, and teaches visiting schools about alternative energy, sustainable living, reducing waste and caring for the environment. The centre is open all year for residential or day trips, accommodating 120 pupils, as well as a camp site in the summer for 60+ with large canvas tents on wooden floors.

Students can grow in confidence among the trees at **Oaker Wood Leisure** in Herefordshire. Its multi-activity days and overnight camps fulfil the PE National Curriculum through outdoor and adventurous activity challenges. The centre encourages team building and leadership skills for children, combining fun and personal development in a woodland environment, where children can take part in high and low ropes adventures, paintball, rafting and the Woodland Krypton trail.

