# York's £11 shed Airbnb sparks debate over cheapest overnight stays



One man's quest for an affordable getaway in York has sparked attention with his discovery of what he claims is the UK's cheapest Airbnb, priced at just £11 a night. John Levesley, sharing his experience under the name ‘To Hull and Back’ on Facebook, posted a video of his modest accommodation—a shed located at the end of a garden, devoid of electricity and proper facilities.

Accommodations like these serve as a reminder of the sometimes humorous extremes in the ever-competitive short-term rental market. As Levesley enters the shed, he describes it as "very, very basic," noting the absence of vital amenities such as a toilet. Despite these shortcomings, the interior boasts a single bed, a mirror, and even curtains, making it slightly more appealing than one might expect from its description.

John’s experience has drawn mixed reactions online. While he expressed appreciation for the peace and simplicity of his surroundings, suggesting it could even be a charming spot for a romantic getaway, many commenters were far less enamoured. Comments ranged from disbelief about the £11 charge, with one person quipping that Levesley should have been compensated for staying there, to others echoing concerns about the lack of basic facilities for a good night's rest.

This scenario underscores a notable trend in the accommodation landscape, particularly in cities like York, which is known for its historical significance and tourist appeal. According to a variety of platforms, including KAYAK and the Plum Guide, the average price for holiday rentals in York ranges significantly, often starting from around £35 per night for more conventional offerings such as apartments and cottages. For instance, the Plum Guide curates high-quality listings that pass stringent vetting processes, showcasing some of the best options for those seeking comfort and service.

Interestingly, data from Doorbll reveals that York's Airbnb market is largely motivated by its historical appeal, with numerous listings concentrated in areas like the city centre. Here, the average rental price hovers around £190 per night, exhibiting a stark contrast to Levesley's shed accommodation. Such insights are useful for travellers trying to navigate their options, emphasizing that while budget rentals exist, they might come with unexpected caveats.

There are also alternative affordable options in the area, such as charming cabins located just outside York, which provide a blend of comfort and nature. For example, a shepherd's hut-style cabin in Storwood offers basic amenities while immersing visitors in the scenic beauty of the countryside. Such cabins offer a unique experience, allowing travellers to enjoy a rustic stay without sacrificing essential comforts.

As the conversation around budget accommodation continues to evolve, it's becoming increasingly clear that while the market offers a plethora of choices, not all are created equal. While John Levesley's experience in the garden shed might appeal to those with an adventurous spirit and a tight budget, others may find more conventional options better suited to their needs. Whether for a night of fun or a more serious escape, the diversity of available stays ensures that there is something for everyone—as long as they are prepared for the quirks that come with the cheaper end of the spectrum.

In a world where travel preferences vary widely, Levesley’s story serves as a humorous reminder of the lengths to which some will go to secure a bargain, as well as a prompt for potential guests to consider what they prioritise in their travels.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraphs 5, 6
3. Paragraph 5
4. Paragraph 5
5. Paragraphs 5, 6
6. Paragraph 6
7. Paragraph 5

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/article-14730977/UK-cheapest-Airbnb-stay-york-shed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.thebrokebackpacker.com/cabins-in-york-uk/> - This article presents a selection of stunning cabins in York, including a budget-friendly shepherd's hut cabin with a deck. Located in Storwood, 11 miles from York, the cabin offers a secluded deck and yard with a fire pit. The interior features an open-concept living space with a kitchenette, a small dining table, a double bed, and a sleeper couch. A private ensuite bathroom is also included. The front doors open onto a raised deck overlooking the picturesque countryside, making it an ideal choice for backpackers seeking affordable accommodation in the UK.
3. <https://www.kayak.co.uk/York-Holiday-Rentals.14673.rental.ksp> - KAYAK provides a comprehensive search for holiday rentals in York, comparing prices across various platforms. The site offers a wide range of options, including apartments, cottages, and houses, with prices starting from £35 per night. Users can filter deals based on amenities such as free cancellation, free breakfast, and more. The platform also provides insights into seasonal trends, ideal booking windows, and other data-driven tips to help travelers plan their stay in York with confidence.
4. <https://www.plumguide.com/d/gb-england-york/airbnb> - Plum Guide offers a curated selection of the top 3% of holiday homes in York, serving as an alternative to traditional Airbnb listings. The collection includes properties like The Grand Old Duke, Milk & Sugar, and Stardust Cottage, each with unique features and high ratings. Plum Guide emphasizes meticulous vetting processes, including personal home visits from independent Home Critics, to ensure quality and comfort for travelers seeking premium accommodations in York.
5. <https://doorbll.com/report?country=UK&location=York> - Doorbll provides open Airbnb datasets for York, UK, offering detailed insights into the city's rental market. The data includes information on the number of listings, average prices, and review scores across various neighborhoods such as City Centre, Clifton, Heworth, and Holgate. For example, in the City Centre, there are 1,362 listings with an average price of £190 per night and a review score of 4.81. This resource is valuable for understanding the dynamics of the Airbnb market in York.
6. <https://www.cheapbedandbreakfast.uk/bed-and-breakfast-in-york-united-kingdom> - This website compares over 3,150 available self-catering and short-term Airbnb options in York, with prices starting from £7 per night. It offers a variety of accommodations, including guest houses, flats, and holiday homes, catering to different budgets and preferences. The platform provides detailed information on each property, including amenities, reviews, and booking options, assisting travelers in finding suitable and affordable lodging in York.
7. <https://www.airbnb.com/york-united-kingdom/stays/> - Airbnb's platform for York, United Kingdom, lists a diverse range of accommodations, including over 40 cottage rentals, more than 750 apartment rentals, and over 630 house rentals. The site offers various categories to help travelers find the ideal space for their getaway. Additionally, Airbnb provides information on nearby destinations, unique stays, and travel tips to enhance the overall experience of visitors to York.