# York garden shed stay highlights extremes of UK’s budget Airbnb market



The rise of the Airbnb phenomenon has transformed the way many travellers approach accommodation, often yielding better value compared to traditional hotels. However, the recent discovery of what may be the UK's cheapest Airbnb has taken the concept of budget stays to an unprecedented level. John Levesley, sharing his experience on Facebook under the handle ‘To Hull and Back,’ posted a video detailing his stay in a garden shed in York for just £11 a night, attracting both intrigue and criticism.

Levesley’s choice of lodging raises eyebrows not only due to its price but also because of its rather primitive conditions. The shed, which is devoid of electricity and lacks basic amenities such as a toilet, exemplifies the extremes of budget accommodation. As he entered the space, Levesley noted, “It’s very, very basic,” illustrating the stark reality of his stay. The interior, equipped with a single bed, a mirror, and curtained windows, provides a semblance of comfort but fails to meet standard expectations for lodging.

Despite its simplicity, Levesley portrayed a surprisingly positive attitude, contemplating the shed as a potential romantic getaway. “I’m a simple man, I’d be happy with a tent in the woods,” he remarked, highlighting an openness to unconventional experiences. However, public opinion diverged sharply from his outlook. Many commentators expressed disbelief and concern over the cramped quarters, with one quipping, “Did you say you paid them £11? I think it should have been the other way around.” Such reactions underscore a broader conversation about the ongoing trends in short-term rentals and what constitutes acceptable lodging.

This incident highlights the unique challenges and opportunities present in York's accommodation landscape, especially given its reputation as one of the UK’s pricier cities for rentals. Alternatives to Levesley’s shed include a spectrum of more conventional and better-appointed options. For instance, curated listings such as those provided by Plum Guide feature properties that meet high standards of quality and comfort, signalling a shift towards more reliable and enjoyable stays.

Furthermore, York boasts various charming cabins and cottages that can provide travellers with distinctive experiences without compromising on comfort. Options like the Private Shepherds Hut Cabin or Tinson’s Barn offer rustic charm and often come equipped with amenities that enhance the guest experience, such as private gardens and hot tubs. These alternatives not only appeal to budget-conscious travellers but also attract those seeking memorable and unique stays away from the fragmented traditional hotel market.

Interestingly, the growth of budget accommodation options has spurred discussions around the definition of value in travel. Many platforms aggregate listings from multiple sources, allowing prospective guests to compare prices and features across accommodations. This means that while a stay in a shed may be enticing for some brave souls drawn to adventure, a plethora of better-reviewed and adequately equipped alternatives exists for those prioritising comfort.

In a market increasingly shaped by eclectic offerings, it is clear that while innovations like Levesley’s shed may provoke laughs and questions about practicality, they also signal a shift in how we perceive value in travel. York remains a vibrant destination pulsating with history; therefore, its accommodation options must adapt to meet diverse traveller needs while ensuring comfort and satisfaction remains paramount.

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 curated list of ten stunning cabins in York, UK, highlighting unique and affordable accommodations. It features options like the Private Shepherds Hut Cabin with a secluded deck and fire pit, ideal for budget travelers seeking a rustic experience. The guide emphasizes the charm and seclusion of these cabins, making them suitable for those looking to escape the city's hustle while enjoying the picturesque countryside.
3. <https://www.plumguide.com/d/gb-england-york/airbnb> - Plum Guide offers a selection of the top 3% of holiday homes in York, providing alternatives to traditional Airbnb listings. The collection includes properties like The Grand Old Duke and Milk & Sugar, each with unique features and high ratings. This curated list ensures travelers have access to well-vetted accommodations that meet high standards of quality and comfort, offering a more reliable option for those seeking exceptional stays in York.
4. <https://www.thebrokebackpacker.com/cottages-in-york-uk/> - This article showcases ten stunning cottages in York, UK, focusing on unique and affordable options. It highlights properties such as Tinson’s Barn, a romantic getaway featuring a hot tub and private garden, and a riverside village cottage offering a cozy sitting area and proximity to the city center. The guide emphasizes the charm and character of these cottages, making them ideal for travelers seeking a distinctive and intimate experience in York.
5. <https://www.cheapbedandbreakfast.uk/bed-and-breakfast-in-york-united-kingdom> - This platform compares over 3,150 available self-catering and short-term Airbnb options in York, starting from £7 per night. It provides a comprehensive overview of budget-friendly accommodations, including guest houses, flats, and apartments, catering to various preferences and budgets. The site aims to help travelers find affordable and comfortable stays in York, offering a wide range of options to suit different needs and preferences.
6. <https://www.kayak.com/York-Vacation-Rentals.14673.rental.ksp> - KAYAK offers a platform to search hundreds of travel sites simultaneously for vacation home deals in York. It provides insights into seasonal trends, ideal booking windows, and other data-driven tips to help travelers plan their stay in York with confidence. The platform emphasizes the ease of use and the ability to compare various options, ensuring travelers can find the best deals and accommodations that suit their needs.
7. <https://www.hichee.com/vacation-rentals/uk/near-york> - HiChee compares vacation rental prices in York, UK, across platforms like Airbnb, Vrbo, and Booking.com. It features listings such as Cocoa River, a loft-style living space with secure parking, and Ay Come Inn, a cozy option for two guests. The platform aims to help travelers find the best deals by aggregating listings from multiple sources, providing a comprehensive view of available accommodations in York.