



New Members Guide to Club Trips

If you have never been away with the club, it can be a daunting experience with lots of 'first time' questions that you might be wary of asking. We don't want anyone to feel left out, so this document aims to cover everything you need to know to get yourself booked onto a club trip and maximise your enjoyment.

How does it work?

Generally people travel up after work on Friday and return Sunday late afternoon/evening, but many take the opportunity to extend the weekend and take one or both of the days off either side. Many members choose to car share to keep costs to a minimum so please let the organiser know if you are willing to take passengers. Members are expected to make their own arrangements for lifts etc., but the trip organiser will try to offer assistance and co-ordinate as much as possible. If car sharing, the driver will agree the split of the cost with each passenger.

What happens when we get there?

We want the meets to be as social, inclusive and coordinated as possible so if you have your own plans or would like to be included in other peoples then please do speak up. If there are a number of people interested in doing the same thing then a consensus will be gained using the expertise and knowledge in the assembled group. If the weather is not suitable for walking or climbing then if there is a local indoor wall we will usually take that option. If not, or climbing isn't your thing, then we will usually split off into groups depending on what people fancy doing, be that walking in the local area or inspecting the local pubs.

What level of experience do I need to have?

MKMC does not have any qualified instructors and does not operate as a training organisation, therefore any tuition or coaching is done on a 'personal advice' basis rather than an organised activity on behalf of the club. The club was founded to help encourage people to experience everything the outdoors has to offer and therefore every effort will be made to include less experienced members and help them participate fully in any activities. That said all members should be mindful that the more experienced members will also have their own enjoyment at heart and sometimes this will preclude the guidance or accommodation of lesser experienced members (e.g. if their goal was higher grade climbs or walks). In a nutshell, whenever possible, everyone will try to help out and bring on the skills and experience of each other, whilst still achieving what they set out to do.

What do I need to take?

Over and above all your normal climbing/walking/biking/canoeing (please delete as appropriate!) kit, you will need to take all the equipment, food and clothes to be self sufficient at the venue. If camping this means tent, sleeping bag and mat, cooking and eating equipment etc. If in a hut or hostel you will only need to take a pillow and sleeping bag as the cooking equipment (utensils, cutlery, plates, cups, pans, cookers etc.) will be in situ and shared with the other residents. Sleeping will be in mixed dormitory rooms, often with either bunk or 'alpine' beds – i.e. mattresses on the floor or on a low raised platform. Everything is very informal operating on a first come, first served basis – just put your stuff on a bed/area of mattress when you arrive. There may be separate gents/ladies toilets and showers, but usually they are unisex.