

UK Rock - Private Guiding

We run most of our private rock trips in the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, Snowdonia or the Lake District. Each of these areas are justly famous for the variety and quality of the climbing they offer. From the gritstone crags of Derbyshire, and the limestone of the Dales, to the superb mountain crags of North Wales and the Lakes, there is an incredible abundance of climbing to suit all tastes and abilities.

We work with you to design a well balanced itinerary, tailored exactly to your needs: from basic crag skills, to more advanced rope work and lead coaching, right through to pure guiding on classic 'Extreme' routes, our aim is to help you achieve your climbing goals. Flexibility is the key to success and we often travel to a wide range of crags within each area to find the best weather conditions and terrain. We also regularly visit other climbing venues throughout the UK by special arrangement, including the sea cliffs of Devon and Cornwall and Scottish sea stacks.

Guiding Team

All our rock courses are staffed by BMG or AMI members, or by IFMGA guides. Our core team of guides are all keen activists operating at a very high level in their own climbing; this enthusiasm is one of our key strengths in providing safe and enjoyable mountain days.

Fitness and Experience

To make the most of the trip you need cardiovascular fitness, stamina, and some specific rock climbing fitness appropriate to your level of ability. We advise you to prepare well in advance, with as much indoor/outdoor climbing as you can manage. Please liaise with our office if you need further advice regarding fitness for your chosen trip.

Cost

The various components of the trip that are included in the price are detailed below. Approximate costs for items not included in the price may be found on our website.

Included in the price

- Guiding fees
- Communal safety equipment (ropes etc)
- Use of guides' vehicle

Not included in the price

- Food and accommodation
- Boot/harness/helmet hire (we have a limited amount of stock, please contact us beforehand, or local hire is available)
- Guides expenses (see below)

Climbing in Snowdonia

Snowdonia is the perfect venue for a multitude of rock climbing/mountaineering activities. The crags of this superb mountainous area are steeped in climbing history, and hold some of the most famous and sought after routes in the UK. From roadside to huge mountain crags, there is a perfect venue within easy reach to suit your goals. Our usual base and meeting place is the village of Llanberis.

Food and Accommodation

Private Guiding is on an instruction only basis, to allow flexibility with weather and personal budgets. For camping the Nant Peris site is a good choice. This is in the middle of the tiny village of Nant Peris, 5 mins drive from Llanberis at the foot of the Llanberis Pass. It's a basic site but in a brilliant location, just minutes from the climbing and opposite the Vaynol pub (great bar meals!). It's a large site so booking isn't usually required. For something a bit more upmarket try www.petes-eats.co.uk, the most famous climber's café in Wales, who also provide bunkhouse accom, or the Heights Hotel in Llanberis www.heightshotel.co.uk. For a bit more comfort the B+B's in Capel Curig are worth a visit, www.cobdens.co.uk or <http://tyn-y-coed.co.uk>

Liaison

We meet at 9am on the first morning of the course for a briefing and equipment check. The meeting point is the famous climber's café Pete's Eats in Llanberis, situated on the middle of Llanberis high street (you can't miss it). If you have a problem making it to Pete's we can arrange a meeting at your hotel/campsite instead, just let us know beforehand.

Travel

Llanberis is easily reached by following the A55 North Wales coast road towards Bangor. A few miles before you reach Bangor the route is signposted off to Llanberis from the dual carriageway. It can also be reached by train to Bangor and then bus/taxi for the last 25 minutes across to the village. Your guide/instructor will have a car for transport during your trip, or you can use your own.

Guides Expenses

Other expenses you need to cover are usually just fuel for transport during the trip. Our guides are usually local or stay with friends in North Wales, so there are no guide's accommodation expenses to cover. If this isn't the case we will let you know beforehand.

Climbing in the Lake District

The Lakes are a climbing Mecca, with roadside crags perfect for teaching and coaching, right through to remote mountain cliffs offering a true adventure climbing experience. Our usual base is the town of Ambleside in the South Lakes.

Food and Accommodation

Private Guiding is on an instruction only basis, to allow flexibility with weather and personal budgets. For camping the Great Langdale site is worth a look, about a half hour beyond Ambleside. Go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk and follow the links:

Local to You / NW England / Lake District / Camping / Great Langdale.

For bunkhouses try www.englishlakesbackpackers.co.uk in Ambleside and www.backpackjobs.com/lodge/front.htm in Windermere. If you prefer a hotel then check out www.information-britain.co.uk and search for the Salutation Hotel in Ambleside, and the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, next door to the Great Langdale campsite. This is a superb spot, in the heart of some of the Lakes best known climbing venues such as Gimmer Crag.

Liaison

We meet at 9am on the first morning of the course, or 8pm the night before, for a briefing and equipment check. The meeting point is your chosen accommodation. We can clarify this by email before the course starts.

Travel

Ambleside is easily reached by road, by leaving the M6 at junction 36 for Kendal (or junc 37 to Kendal from the north), and following the A590 and its continuation A591 to Windermere, then on to Ambleside. You can reach Ambleside on public transport by taking the train to Oxenholme (on the London-Glasgow line), then a connecting train to Windermere followed by a short bus/taxi ride to the town. Your guide/instructor will have a car for transport during your trip, or you can use your own. We can also arrange a lift share or pickup from a local train station, just let us know.

Guides Expenses

Guides expenses you need to cover are fuel for transport during the trip and normally the guides accommodation (half board - we don't have a regular home base in the Lake District so we are happy to join you in your chosen hotel/B+B etc).

Climbing in the Peak District

The Peak District National park is home to one of the highest concentrations of rock climbs anywhere in the UK. The crags are mainly single pitch, but offering an unsurpassed quality and variety packed into a small area, making it the ideal venue for both refining technique and pushing your grade. Our usual base is the town of Hathersage on the eastern side of the Peak District about 30 minutes from Sheffield centre.

Food and Accommodation

Private Guiding is on an instruction only basis, to allow flexibility with weather and personal budgets. For camping North Lees site is worth a look, nestled beneath Stanage Edge about 5 minutes drive from Hathersage. Go to www.ukcampsite.co.uk and search for North Lees campsite. A convenient bunkhouse called Thorpe Farm can be found about 10 minutes walk from the centre of Hathersage, go to www.thorpe-bunk.co.uk/. For something a bit more upmarket the Scotsmans Pack is a nice traditional inn www.scotsmanspack.com/, whilst the George Hotel is a very good quality hotel right in the middle of town www.george-hotel.net

Liaison

We meet at 9am on the first morning of the course for a briefing and equipment check. The meeting point is the well known climbing shop in the middle of Hathersage called 'Outside', if this is a problem please let us know and we can also arrange to meet you at your accommodation.

Travel

Hathersage can be easily reached by road from any direction, use the RAC or AA route planners (on the web) for a detailed route plan, as many route options are available. Hathersage is also on the main Manchester – Sheffield train line and can be reached directly in about 30 minutes from either city. Your guide/instructor will have a car for transport during your trip, or you can use your own. We can also arrange a lift share or pickup from a local train station, just let us know.

Guides Expenses

Other expenses you need to cover are just fuel for transport during the trip. Our guides are usually local or stay with friends in Sheffield, so there are normally no guide's accommodation expenses to cover. If this isn't the case we will let you know beforehand.

Climbing in the Yorkshire Dales

The Dales are an area of outstanding natural beauty, famous for their remote gritstone moorlands and deeply incised limestone dales. The moors are studded with quality gritstone tors and edges, perfect for learning the basics, whilst the dales offer some of the best limestone climbing in the UK for the more experienced climber. Our base is the well known town of Ilkley on the southern edge of the region.

Food and Accommodation

Private Guiding is on an instruction only basis, to allow flexibility with weather and personal budgets. For a good local family run B+B in Ilkley, we recommend you speak to the Roberts Family B+B on 01943 817542. For hotels in Ilkley we recommend the [Dalesway Hotel](#), which is also a good local pub and the [Crescent Hotel](#) which is a 3 star hotel and restaurant.

Liaison

We meet at 9am on the first morning of the course for a briefing and equipment check. The meeting point is your chosen accommodation. We can clarify this by email before the course starts.

Travel

Ilkley can be easily reached by road from any direction, use the RAC or AA route planners (on the web) for a detailed route plan, as many route options are available. Ilkley can also be reached by train from Leeds. Your guide/instructor will have a car for transport during your trip, or you can use your own. We can also arrange a lift share or pickup from a local train station, just let us know.

Guides Expenses

Other expenses you need to cover are usually just fuel for transport during the trip. Our guides are usually local or stay with friends in Leeds/Otley, so there are no guide's accommodation expenses to cover. If this isn't the case we will let you know beforehand.

Climbing In Other Areas

We are happy to organise trips to any other region in the UK. Normal guiding fees apply for any activity within the UK. Expenses you would normally be expected to cover are travel expenses from the guides' home plus half board accommodation at the climbing venue.

Safety Awareness

Rock Climbing has its dangers. These can never be removed altogether but they can be minimised. Our goal is to provide you with a thrilling climbing experience that is directed with maximum attention to your safety.

Insurance

Although not compulsory, we recommend you buy holiday insurance covering cancellation and curtailment risks. The following companies provide specialist mountaineering insurance:

The British Mountaineering Council	www.thebmc.co.uk	0870 010 4878
Snowcard	www.snowcard.co.uk	01327 262 805

More information, including advice for non-UK residents, can be found on the Insurance page of our website here: <https://www.alpine-guides.com/climb/planning-your-climbing-trip/insurance/>

Equipment

A full kit list is enclosed. We will provide all climbing and communal safety equipment (ropes etc), although we recommend people use their own harness/helmet if they have them. You are responsible for providing your own mountain boots and rock boots (hire is available from many outdoor shops). Clients are expected to supply their own personal clothing, waterproofs and a rucksack.

Weather and Conditions

It's the UK, so the weather can do anything at any time of year! Please check the forecast and come suitable prepared, with full waterproofs and/or sun cream.

What Next?

- Bookings can be made online via our website. The balance is due 8 weeks before the course start date - we will email you a balance reminder including your invoice and possible payment methods.
- We will email you 2 weeks before the course start date with any final info including your guides contact details and any other final info.

More Info

Please contact us for more info regarding any aspect of the trip - info@alpine-guides.com or 0113 8151904 (we might be out skiing or climbing - if so please leave a message and we'll get back to you asap, thanks!).

Rock Climbing Kit List

Above all, your kit needs to do the job but be as light as possible. Lightweight breathable fabrics are ideal for waterproofs, which are carried as often as worn (hopefully!).

Technical Clothing

- **Waterproof jacket** – lightweight breathable model
- **Overtrousers** – with long side zips
- **Socks** – warm 'Smartwool' type, plus thin liner socks and spares
- **Wicking thermal tops/t-shirts**
- **Fleece mid layer** – or equivalent light insulating layer
- **Mountain trousers** – light/mid-weight windproof softshell model
- **Thin gloves** – windproof 'hardfleece' model is good
- **Warm hat** – must fit under a helmet
- **Spare warm layer** – fleece or lightweight synthetic belay jacket

Personal Items

- **Water Container** – at least 1 litre
- **Headtorch** and batteries
- **Map, compass and whistle** (optional, but a good idea)
- **Personal medications and blister kit** – zinc oxide tape, compeed, painkillers etc
- **Sun Glasses** – CE rated 3 or 4
- **Sun and lip cream** – factor 30+
- **Sun hat**
- **Shorts and t-shirt**
- **Wallet and passport**

Technical Equipment

- **Rucsac** 35/45l is perfect for general use
- (**Rucsac** – superlight 15/20l model, for taking on long multi-pitch rock routes)
- **Semi rigid B2 mountaineering boots** – see Axe, Boot and Crampon advice
- **Rock boots** – must be comfortable enough to wear for several hours
- **Approach shoes** or trainers
- ****Harness**, locking karabiner and belay device
- ****2 prussik loops and karabiner** – if in doubt, bring 3m of 6mm climbing cord!
- ****120cm sling** and locking karabiner
- ****Climbing helmet**
- **Camping gear** if you choose to camp in the valley

Possible extras: Trekking poles

**We may well be able to provide these items if you haven't got your own.

Boots must be reasonably stiff 3/4 season mountaineering models. These will be needed if we decide to go big boots style in poor weather on an easy classic. Very soft bendy boots are no good for technical scrambling/climbing. Check the advice article <https://www.alpine-guides.com/climb/insider-knowledge-climb/axe-boots-and-crampons/> on our website and seek advice on boots if unsure.

Your guide will have all other climbing safety kit, first aid and survival equipment. For more advice please get in touch.

Alpine Guides Ltd – Booking Conditions

1. All bookings are made with Alpine Guides Ltd, company number 4901552, whose registered office is at 14 Wrenbeck Close, Otley, West Yorkshire, LS21 2BU and whose directors are Alun Powell and Richard Cross.
2. We only accept bookings from persons over the age of 18 at the time of booking. Bookings by or on behalf of persons under the age of 18 may be accepted on certain courses, when accompanied on the course by another person over the age of 18 and subject to written parental consent.
3. Unless stated otherwise, your booking must be accompanied with a deposit of £300 per person per course booked, or if booked within 56 days (8 weeks) of the course start date by the full payment. When we receive your booking application, you will be sent a confirmation email. Once we have received payment and checked all information contained within your booking application, we will accept your booking. You will then be sent further information about the current status of your trip
4. We will store and process your personal information securely and in line with our Privacy Policy which can be viewed on our website.
5. Email and PDF attachments are our primary contact method, so you must provide us with a valid email address. You must also ensure that our email address: info@alpine-guides.com is added to your safe senders list, as we cannot be held liable for communication problems caused by personal firewalls, spam filtering systems, or your inability to open attached email documents.
6. Balance of payment is due 56 days (8 weeks) prior to the course start date. We prefer you to pay full balance by a direct bank transfer. If full payment is not received by this date we reserve the right to cancel your booking without refund.
7. For courses taking place outside the United Kingdom you must purchase specialist mountaineering insurance covering helicopter rescue, medical treatment and repatriation (plus on and off piste skiing for ski courses). You must bring all insurance documentation with you on the course. We reserve the right to cancel your booking at any time if we are not satisfied you have adequate insurance in place.
8. If you wish to cancel you must notify us in writing, where upon the following charges will be applied from the date we receive your notice of cancellation:-
 - More than 8 weeks (56 days) before start date – loss of deposit.
 - Between 4 and 8 weeks (28-56 days) before start date – 50% of course fee or loss of deposit, whichever amount is greater.
 - Less than 4 weeks (28 days) before start date – full course fee.
9. Requests for course transfers must be made more than 56 days prior to original start date and are subject to availability. You also have the right to transfer your booking to another person who satisfies all conditions for the course (including health, fitness and experience requirements), subject to the same conditions above.
10. We reserve the right to cancel any course due to insufficient numbers, or transfer bookings between courses to make numbers viable. In either event clients will be informed of our decision as soon as possible and not less than 21 days before start date. You will be offered either a free transfer, a full refund, or a mutually agreed alternative program. You must inform us as soon as possible which you choose to accept.
11. In the event of guide injury or illness, we will endeavour to find replacement guide(s) as soon as possible. If replacement guide(s) cannot be found part way through a trip, we will refund guiding fees for any days of guiding not provided and you may still use remaining accommodation nights unguided. In the event that we cannot find replacement guide(s) for the whole of your trip, you may choose to use the accommodation portion of your trip and receive a refund of guiding fees, cancel your trip with a full refund, or accept a mutually agreed alternative program.
12. We do not accept any responsibility for changes to travel arrangements that you make in order to join your trip or course. We accept no financial liability that may arise from any enforced change to your travel plans due to any alteration of the trip or course dates, the itinerary or its cancellation, howsoever caused. You are advised to book transferable, refundable travel tickets with no penalties should a cancellation be necessary.
13. At the discretion of the course director, guiding ratios may be varied from the stated course ratio to cover eventualities such as staff absence or change of itinerary, so long as this does not breach accepted local guiding ratios or other professional guidelines laid out by the British Association of Mountain Guides.
14. We do not accept bookings from groups or individuals participating in sponsored climbs or 'challenge events' of any kind. If we discover that you are seeking sponsorship or participating in such an event in connection with one of our courses, we reserve the right to cancel your booking without refund, or exclude you from further mountain activities whilst on the course with immediate effect.
15. Whilst we maintain high professional standards of client care and safety, you must realise and accept that climbing, mountaineering and skiing are activities which carry a danger of personal injury or even death, as they take place in remote and hazardous mountain terrain. All clients must be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement in such activities.
16. All information contained within our website, social media channels and other publicity is for guidance only. Whilst making every effort to ensure accuracy, we cannot be responsible for any inaccuracies or alterations beyond our control. Should any changes occur, clients will be notified before a booking is accepted.

17. Although we adhere to planned itineraries wherever possible, changes may occur to both travel and guiding itineraries due to external factors beyond our control. In particular, the guide has total discretion to alter programs at any time in the interests of client safety and current mountain, or weather conditions.

18. By booking you agree to abide by instructions and decisions made by the guide regarding individuals and the group as a whole. Our guides reserve the right to exclude individuals from a planned activity on the grounds of health, safety or the success and enjoyment of the rest of the party. Any individuals so excluded are not entitled to a refund. Any individual contravening the decisions or advice of their guide, or undertaking independent mountain activities during the course shall forfeit all protection and duty of care from the guide.

19. We accept no liability for the consequences of strikes, riots, acts of war or terrorism, disease outbreaks, government intervention, natural disasters or adverse weather conditions. If such occurrences cause us to have to cancel a course or trip we will offer an alternative holiday if possible, but accept no liability for return of fees paid prior to cancellation or curtailment.

20. If you have a complaint about the guiding or other services you receive during your holiday, you must notify ourselves or the guide involved as soon as possible, in order to give us the opportunity to put things right. Non of our guides have authority to promise refunds or compensation on behalf of Alpine Guides Ltd. Only the company directors are authorised to make such decisions.

If, despite our best efforts and having followed the above procedure for reporting and resolving your complaint, you feel that it has not been satisfactorily settled, we recommend that it is referred for arbitration under the ABTOT Travel Industry Arbitration Service. An Independent Arbitrator will review the documents relating to any complaint and deliver a binding decision to bring the matter to a close. Details of this scheme are available from The Travel Industry Arbitration Service, administered by Dispute Settlement Services Limited, 9 Savill Road, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 2NY. This scheme cannot however decide in cases where the sums claimed exceed £5,000 per person or £10,000 per booking form, or for claims which are solely or mainly in respect of physical injury or illness or the consequence thereof.

21. On courses that include accommodation in the course fee:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Alpine Guides Ltd, membership number 5394 and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

1. non-flight packages and
2. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the EEA, which are sold to customers outside of the EEA.

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if you are abroad. Please note that bookings made outside the EEA are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Alpine Guides Ltd. In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/634/contents/made>

22. All terms and conditions between clients and Alpine Guides Ltd are to be governed by and held under the exclusive jurisdiction of English Law.

23. Making your booking implies that you understand and accept the booking conditions and agree to abide by them.