

Geckos two-day climbing trips to The Peak District

The climbing

Our usual destination is to the climbing mecca of the Peak District National Park in Derbyshire. The area is home to a huge number of crags, making the most of the world-famous gritstone. All climbing is top-roped, so suitable for any age and level of climber

We usually climb from 10-5pm each day, though this is obviously weather dependent. If it's too wet to climb, alternatives are hill-walking (many of the Geckos instructors also



have a Mountain Leader qualification) or a visit to one of Sheffield's indoor climbing walls (very much a last resort. We've not taken this option over the last 10 years)

Each under 18 climber must be accompanied by their respective parent or guardian, who is required 'to remain in sight or sound' while they are climbing. N.B. This is not our choice; it's a stipulation of the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, though it seems likely it will be removed from 2013 onwards

Equipment

We will supply all climbing equipment, including shoes, helmets and harnesses. We would strongly recommend packing full waterproofs in addition to your normal climbing gear

Accommodation

Our base is the North Lees campsite, just north of the village of Hathersage. It's a small campsite, aimed mainly at climbers and walkers, but has a drying room and hot showers (though no shop). It regularly features in the Guardian's list of the best UK campsites.

See: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2007/may/12/camping.uk5>

Alternatively there are a number of decent B&Bs in the area. A Geckos' favourite is Polly's: Moorview Cottage, Cannonfields, Hathersage, Derbyshire. Tel: 01433 650110

Food

Breakfast Campers can either DIY at the site or there is a café in Hathersage, which is open from 8am

Lunch You will need a packed lunch and plenty of water. There's a Spar in Hathersage or several of the M1 services have an M&S

Dinner We usually eat in the local pub (The Plough), which does very decent food, as well as the usual kid-friendly bar meals



Travel

By car Hathersage is between 3 and 4 hours from London, depending on traffic

Turn off M1 at junction 29 and follow road to Chesterfield and Chatsworth. Continue through Chesterfield, following signs to Chatsworth House (A 619). Continue then take A623 turning off a roundabout (to Manchester) to Calver, then turn right and follow road to Grindleford. Turn left in Grindleford on B6001 to Hathersage

Follow road into Hathersage and T junction (Little John pub on left). Turn left and take your first right, then second right (Coggers Lane) and continue up hill before turning right again into Birley Lane (sign for campsite). Follow road down the hill, round the bend, then campsite is on the left just before the sharp bend to the left

By rail Train from St. Pancras to Sheffield, and change for Hathersage. Around 2.5-3 hours. One of the instructors, or parents, will collect you from the station and drop you off again at the end of the trip

Further information

There are some images from previous trips on the Geckos' website: www.geckos.co.uk. I can be contacted by e-mail: richard@geckos.co.uk or by mobile: 07803 597669

