

## Island Escape 14-16 July 2017

A taste of island life on one of Britain's favourite nature reserves. Kayak between islands and stay at a secluded lodge with a private beach. Brownsea a former private island complete with a castle built by Henry VIII is now a wildlife sanctuary containing one of the last red squirrel colonies in Britain. Think sandy beaches, pine woodland, heath and lakes.

In 2014 Brownsea was voted Britain's favourite nature reserve

<http://www.ntsouthwest.co.uk/2014/01/brownsea-island-voted-nations-favourite-nature-reserve/> A former private island complete with a castle built by Henry VIII it is now a wildlife sanctuary containing one of the last red squirrel colonies in Britain. Think sandy beaches, pine woodland, heath and lakes.

We have our own exclusive lodge on the island. Set amongst woodland, we'll be staying in a former Victorian cottage, the lawn backing down onto our own beach.

It will be a weekend of island walks, watersports, BBQs, summer games and picnics. On Saturday there will be an optional kayak to other nearby islands. There will be time to relax, picnic and generally take advantage of our beautiful island location.

Travel time from London or Bristol is about 2 hours. Please note, because we will be catching a private ferry to the island, you must be able to get to our meeting point in Sandbanks by 8 pm.

If you've never come on an EC Adventure before, they're informal, friendly and great fun. We generally have singles, couples and small sets of friends coming along, from complete beginners to adventure professionals - what we all share is a love for adventure. Ages tend to range between mid 20s and mid 40s but anyone over 18 years old and young at heart is welcome.

### WEEKEND ITINERARY

#### FRIDAY

**Meeting time/location:** We have booked a private ferry for our group to get to the island. This will leave at 8 pm prompt from Sandbanks Quay. The postcode for Sandbanks Jetty is BH13 7QN, look for the yellow kiosk for Brownsea Island Ferries.

The boat will leave on time so please plan on arriving at least 10-15 mins early and account for parking time to ensure you do not miss them (please read the parking details below). You must make it to our booked ferry and let us know ASAP on the day if there is any chance you will miss it. If you know in advance you will be unable to make it for 8 pm let us know asap after you have booked and we may be able to arrange something.

Any issues on the day please call Alex your host on 07852 107455.

There are also public ferries that go to the island all day until late afternoon if you want to arrive earlier ([www.greensladepleasureboats.co.uk](http://www.greensladepleasureboats.co.uk), [www.brownseaislandferries.com](http://www.brownseaislandferries.com)), but you must let us know so we can arrange for you to access our accommodation early.

**Parking:** There is no free parking available near the ferry stop and the area has pay-and-display on street parking. When you arrive on Friday you will not be able to pay in advance using the machines for Saturday and Sunday and so you must pay over the phone whilst on the island. We strongly recommend pre-registering at Bemrose Phone & Pay before the weekend to make this easier: <https://www.phoneandpay.co.uk/>

Parking charges: Close to the ferry stop: Panorama Road, Grassmere Road, Brownsea Road are chargeable from 8 am to 6 pm and cost £10 all day. If you are forced to park further away at Sandbanks Car Park and the surrounding area, the charge is higher - 8 am to 10 pm £15 and 10 pm to 8 am £2. If you are willing to walk even further there is free parking available on Chaddesley Glen (after the right hand turn from the main road) and Brundenell Avenue - free parking on the loop away from the main road.

Important: In all instances make sure you have consulted a map, know where the parking locations are and ensure you leave enough time to both find a space and walk to the ferry stop.

#### **Trains and Lift-sharing:**

If you are arriving by train then Poole is the nearest station and it is ~ a 1 hour walk to the meeting point. Many people lift share. If you wish to lift share then it is easiest to arrange this through the facebook event page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1306624249393857/>

If you are struggling then nearer the time you can let us know where you will be coming from and we will share your request with the group via a group email. We find this works really well people and are often able to find someone to share a lift with, especially coming from Bristol/SW or London/SE.

#### **SATURDAY & SUNDAY**

On Saturday there will be a half day kayaking session for those who have booked this to explore the nearby islands. The charge for this is £45. All necessary equipment will be provided, if you are particularly small or large in build/ stature please let us know so we can ensure the right equipment is provided. At the end of this document if a list of medical conditions – if you are affected by any of these please provide some details so we can pass these to our instructors in advance.

For the rest of the weekend we will explore our island on foot, perhaps go for a swim from our own beach or play some summer games. There will be time to relax, picnic and generally take advantage of our beautiful island location. The island is known for its wildlife and hopefully we'll spot some red squirrels for which the island is famous.

**Departure on Sunday:** We expect people to leave the island at different times on Sunday according to their travel plans. We are not booked onto a particular ferry and you are free to take whichever public ferry is convenient to you. If you are traveling by train then you can

get the ferry back to Poole Quay rather than Sandbanks as it's closer to the station. Public ferries run until 5 pm and approximately every 30 mins during the day. If you need to get a particular train ensure that you leave enough time to get to the station and we do not recommend that you plan on getting the last ferry.

## ACCOMMODATION

We'll be staying in a Victorian lodge on the island, converted to provide accommodation for groups. Rooms will be shared between 2-6 people. A mattress, pillow and blanket are provided, you should bring a sleeping bag and pillowcase. If you haven't done 'communal living' for a while it is lots of fun but you might want to bring earplugs just in case!

## FOOD

We will provide breakfast each morning and dinner on Saturday night. Please bring a packed lunch with you for Saturday and Sunday and **please let us know ASAP if you have any dietary requirements.**

## WHAT TO BRING

We suggest packing your things in a backpack – the lodge is 15 min walk from the quay. Also please note that the public ferry companies reserve the right to restrict passengers to 1 piece of hand luggage (standard backpack sized) and could charge for extra luggage – so don't over-pack.

Waterproofs (waterproof jacket and trousers ESSENTIAL)

Walking boots with proper ankle support

Gaiters (non essential)

Suitable base layers (thermals)

Fleece/woolly jumper

Walking trousers (non-cotton preferable, NOT jeans)

Hat, gloves, scarf/buff

Swimming costume if you fancy a dip

At least one other full set of dry clothes

For kayaking: Dress for the weather in comfortable clothes (swim shorts/swimsuit underneath if you like/thermal top/layers/windproof-waterproof jacket) that you don't mind getting wet. **Your footwear in particular is likely to get wet and muddy so please don't wear your most expensive trainers!** Closed shoes only please and nothing that could slip off (no flip flops). Please ensure you bring a sunhat/sun tan lotion/sunglasses and a water bottle. Make sure you have at least one other full set of clothes and shoes with you in case you do get wet.

Rucksack to carry all your kit

Rucksack liner or tough bin liners to waterproof all your kit

Water bottle (at least 1 litre)

Sleeping bag/pillow case

Washkit + Towel

Personal first aid kit (non essential)  
Any medicines you normally take  
Ear plugs  
Water bottle/thermos (at least 2 litres)  
Torch (head-torch preferable)  
Map and compass (non essential)  
Binoculars

Cash (£3.25) for the return ferry

**Remember, if you're an EC CLUB member you get discounts off kit and more** with loads of outdoor brands both in-store and online - log in to the discounts section on the [membership page](#) with the CLUB password to get the codes you need. And if you're not a CLUB member yet [sign up here](#) and get access to all discounts and benefits today!

Please note:

- If you do not have the right kit you may not be able to participate. We do have some equipment to lend out so contact us well in advance if you need anything.
- On arrival you will be asked to sign a medical declaration form and provide us with next of kin/emergency contact details. If you have a medical condition or injury that we should be aware of please let us know in advance. Please contact us asap if there is anything you think may affect your participation.

#### **Medical information for Kayaking:**

- Any arm, leg or joint problems
- History of recurrent back problems or surgery
- Asthma
- Any type of hernia
- Unable to swim
- Impairment of sight, hearing or speech
- Recurring dizziness
- Migraine headaches
- Hay fever or allergies
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy, seizures or convulsions
- High blood pressure
- History of heart attacks
- Regularly take some form of medication
- Any other condition which may affect your participation on the course

#### **PAYMENT**

##### **Price includes:**

- 2 nights in a private Lodge on the island
- 2x breakfast
- Dinner on Saturday night (BBQ weather permitting)
- Private ferry to the island
- EC Host

**Price does not include:**

- Half day kayaking at £45 pp (no experience needed. If you didn't let us know on booking then you must let us know ASAP after you book if you want to take part as we need to ensure we have enough instructors)

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

Thank you for paying a £75 deposit for this trip. Unless otherwise arranged the remaining balance for this trip is due on Friday the 2nd June 2017. Please see below for the details of how much to pay. If you are unsure of how much you owe please email amy@explorersconnect.com

- Remaining Earlybird BALANCE (if you booked on/before 15th May 2017) is £85 for non-EC CLUB Members
- Remaining Standard BALANCE (if you booked after 15th May 2017) is £105 for non-EC CLUB Members
- ½ Day Kayaking costs an additional £45
- EC CLUB members receive a £20 discount

**Paying your balance:**

You should have received an email from our booking system with the subject:

Booking confirmed - 'Explorers Connect' Friday, 14 July 2017 19:00

This email will contain a link which you can simply click to pay your balance. You will automatically be taken to a page with the correct details on for your booking where you can pay online. If you have any problems email [enquiries@explorersconnect.com](mailto:enquiries@explorersconnect.com).

**Please note if we have had neither payment nor contact from you regarding payment by the 2nd June then we will assume you are not coming in which case you will lose your place and your deposit. If you booked before the Earlybird deadline but pay your balance late then you will lose your Earlybird discount.**