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River Wye Canoeing Adventure 24th-25th March 2018

The River Wye is the fifth-longest river in the UK passing through many towns and villages including Rhayader, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, the famous Symonds Yat, Tintern (with its historic abbey) and Monmouth. The River Wye itself is a 'Site of Special Scientific Interest' and one of the most important rivers in the UK for nature conservation. Much of its lower valley is also designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's home to a wealth of rare fauna and flora too. Peregrine falcons and goshawks patrol the skies and deer and wild boar inhabit the woodlands.

Depending on the conditions we will start at either Ross on Wye or Hoarwithy and travel downriver for two days to Redbrook. This route takes you through what we think is the prettiest part of the Wye valley and includes Symonds Yat Rock, Symonds Yat East/West and also Symonds Yat rapids. Each day will begin with a safety briefing tailored to the conditions we find at the time.

We'll be using highly stable canoes and no prior paddling experience is necessary. The group will be no bigger than 14 people (7 x 2 person canoes).

EC adventures are informal, friendly and great fun! They're made up of singles, couples and small sets of friends with ages typically ranging from mid 20s to mid 40s but anyone over 18 years old and young at heart is welcome. Whether it's your first time exploring the outdoors or you're an adventure professional, EC adventures are a great way to meet like-minded people in a safe, welcoming and fun environment.

ITINERARY

We'll meet and register at Ross on Wye Canoe Hire at 9:30am sharp on Saturday morning where we'll be introduced to our boats, safety equipment and river guide for the weekend. Your EC host for the weekend is Kathryn, who you can contact during the weekend on **07762 895145**. Please let Kathryn know ASAP if you are going to be late or have any problems.

We'll have a short safety briefing before being bussed to the start point of our journey in Ross-on-Wye. As the day progresses so will our paddling skills and there will be plenty of time to stop for lunch and perhaps some riverside drinks along the way before reaching our accommodation for the night. It's an easy 13 miles on day one which sounds like a lot but is suitable for complete beginners, and then we'll moor up the canoes at Ye Olde Ferrie Inn, unpack our stuff and freshen up before sharing dinner together and spending the evening unwinding. You have a table booked for dinner at Ye Olde Ferrie Inn for 6:30pm on Saturday night.

The next morning we'll enjoy breakfast before heading back to the water for another 8 miles including some rapids - but don't worry you'll be in safe hands and you'll enjoy the thrill! Once we reach our end point (around 4pm on Sunday) we'll be transported back to the start by minibus and we can celebrate our achievement!



MEETING POINT: Ross-on-Wye Canoe Hire, Unit 6, Martins Grove Business Park, Symonds Yat West, Herefordshire, HR9 6BJ (please note this is NOT in the village of Ross-on-Wye)

Driving directions: Sat Nav is unreliable in Symonds Yat West – please consult a map before you begin your journey and don't rely on the postcode (follow the instructions below). Please note that as you approach Symonds Yat Leisure Park there is a red sign at the entrance – follow this red sign to the parking area.

From the M5

Take the M50 which leads to the A40 heading towards Monmouth. Go over 3 islands staying on the A40, up and over a long hill passing the Scania Garage on the left hand side. Go past signs for Symonds Yat East and Goodrich Castle and take next exit left signposted 'Symonds Yat West and Whitchurch'. Go straight ahead at the island, past the Old Court Hotel on the right. As the road forks sharply to the right, turn left beside the sign to the canoeing centre at the entrance to Symonds Yat Leisure Park, and into the Pay and Display car park / field, then park on the right hand side of the centre road.

From Monmouth

Take the A40 heading towards Ross-on-Wye, go up and over a long hill passing First Services on the left. Go under the bridge, turn left signposted 'Symonds Yat West and Whitchurch'. Keep left, go over the A40 and turn right at the island, past the Old Court Hotel on the right. As the road forks sharply to the right, turn left beside the sign to the canoeing centre at the entrance to Symonds Yat Leisure Park, and into the Pay and Display car park / field, then park on the right hand side of the centre road.

When you have parked walk across the grassed area towards a wooden building with a bright orange flag, this is the centre. Walk through the gate just below the orange flag. Bring your belongings with you.

If you have any trouble finding the place please call the centre on 01600 890 883 or 01600 890470. Alternatively, you can try these numbers for the canoe centre owners: 07747 451348 (Richard) or 07435 970329 (Mark).

Parking: There is parking on site but it is pay-and-display – please bring coins as the machine only accepts these. For multi-day parking it is £4 per car per day, otherwise £3 for a half day.

Public Transport: From Bristol there are regular trains to Gloucester and then you can get buses to Hereford/Monmouth that stop at Whitchurch roundabout - you can walk to the canoe hire centre from there in 5 minutes. Similarly if you're coming from other areas, it's best to take a train to Gloucester or Abergavenny and get buses from there.

Lift Sharing: If you can offer or need a lift (or just want to say "hi" to fellow attendees), then you can do this on the event Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/132937690755638/>



Closer to the time if you have not found a lift share let us know where you will be coming from and we will give out your details to others in the group by email.

ACCOMMODATION

We're staying at Ye Old Ferrie Inn, a 600-year-old pub right next to the river with postcard views, so we can just pull our canoes up in the evening and head straight for the shower, bar or bed! The Inn is characterful, with great food and ale and the most idyllic setting. The bunkhouse attached to the Inn is basic, but clean and warm - we're all sharing one 14-bed dorm-style bedroom. Please note you'll need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow and towel.

KIT LIST

Download our recommended basic kit list for canoeing trips [HERE](#). You'll need at least one other set of dry clothes and shoes in case you get wet! **Don't forget for the accommodation you need to bring a sleeping bag, pillow and towel.**

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 1 night accommodation at Ye Old Ferrie Inn right on the banks of the River Wye
- Breakfast at our accommodation on Sunday morning
- 2 day fully guided canoe journey (including canoe hire and all safety equipment such as life jacket, transportation of canoes, safety briefings etc)
- EC Host for the weekend

You'll need to bring your own lunches for the weekend and Saturday night dinner is also not included, but we'll book a table for our group to share a meal at a local pub so you can enjoy some lovely hot food after a day on the river!

Please note:

- If you do not have the right kit you may not be able to participate.
- 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.

If you have questions about any aspect of the trip, please contact Alex (alex@explorersconnect.com).