



West Lancashire County Scouts Paddlesport Expedition



Scotland 2021 : The West Coast

Preamble

Following numerous successful expeditions to Scotland over the last 20 years, West Lancs Scouts Paddlesport Group offers you a chance to enjoy the fantastic coastline and remote islands off the west coast in July 2021. The proposed dates are 18th to 28th July 2021.

As a Paddlesport group we want to develop young people and leaders in technical kayak expeditioning skills, and in personal development. These skills will be put to the test whilst journeying around remote islands off the west coast of Scotland.



The plan

The exact plan will be finalized by the team, once selected. However, the initial idea is to drive by minibus to the Oban area and use sea kayaks belonging to West Lancs Scouts. We will then spend up to 10 days touring off the west coast, with the final destination depending on weather conditions at the time. The expedition will be self supporting in the sense that we will take all our food, camping equipment and personal gear in our sea kayaks whilst we explore off the mainland. We will predominantly be self-sufficient but may extend our menu depending on how much fish we catch! The actual route we take and how far we travel will depend on the weather conditions, however if the weather is favourable we would hope to travel at least 30km per day. This should give us time to explore our



new camp sites each day.

However, who knows what we may find to paddle round, what sea creatures we might see and desperately get a good photo of before it disappears - so we like to keep our plans flexible! We have allowed 11 days for the trip as this will give us time to travel to Scotland and pack the kayaks – which as those of you who have done this before know, can take half a day before setting off!

The expedition will be led by West Lancashire Leaders with extensive sea kayaking experience.

Who?

The trip is open to any member of West Lancashire Scouts from age 16 and upwards at the date of departure. Participants are expected to have a good level of fitness, be up to (old) BCU 2* level of technical skill and have some kayaking experience on rivers or sea – further training will be offered in the run up to the trip!

If selected for the expedition you will be expected to attend approximately 4 weekends of training, the cost of which is included in the overall price. There are 13 places available.



This is not a trip for pure novices or those after an easy and relaxing holiday!!

Equipment

Most activities will be run using member's own personal kit including tents, stoves etc, and a detailed kit list will be distributed well in advance – you may be able to borrow some of this kit from your Explorer Unit or District.



Some personal equipment such as dry trousers and dry tops can be drawn from the Paddlesport stores. All kit will be transported in the minibus and other support vehicles and will have to fit in the kayaks for the rest of the time, so think light and small!

Some items such as sea kayaks, paddles, spray decks etc. will be hired at modest cost from West Lancs Scouts.

Costs

The plan is to run the event on a self-catered basis; so the guide price has been split into two elements - central cost which will include minibus hire & fuel, insurance, camp fees and kayak hire – being no more than £330. Personal costs will be food for the training weekends and the expedition itself, being approximately £220 depending how well you wish to eat! You may wish to take a little spending money with you, although there will be few opportunities to spend it! The total cost for this trip will therefore be no more than £550.

What now?

The application procedure will be run online through the West Lancs Overseas website

www.westlancsscouts.org.uk/overseas/

Please complete the brief application form with as much detail as you can.

A full team meeting will then be called shortly after the closing date.

The closing date for applications is **31st January 2021**

Enquiries

If you need any more information on any element of the trip, please contact: -

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or reach us on paddlesports@westlancsscouts.org.uk