

Avon Mountaineering Club

Avon Mountaineering Club (AMC) runs 15-20 trips per year – one a month from October to Easter and alternate weekends from Easter until September. The winter month trips are hut based and the majority of summer trips are camping. Summer trips are organised to align with good tide times for climbing when at coastal venues; we always run trips over Easter and the two May bank holidays.

Most trips are over a weekend, however we usually run an extended winter trip to Scotland and a four day trip in September to Lundy Island. Other longer trips may be included in the calendar as and when club members want to organise.

Below is some information for those new to the club or who haven't been on a trip before to give information about how the trips are organised, what to expect on the trip and what you need to bring with you. Information about how to book onto a trip and about payment is in the separate document 'AMC trip booking and payment'

[Booking on to a trip](#)

Please see separate document – AMC trip booking and payment'

[Huts and camping – facilities to expect](#)

Our winter weekend trips use mountaineering / climbing huts. These are usually owned by other mountaineering/climbing clubs. Huts vary in size and we usually have sole occupancy. There may be a room in a hut that is reserved for the club's own members to use, even if we have booked the rest of the hut.

Sleeping arrangements are usually dormitory style and may be mixed sex. Beds are usually single bunk beds with several to a room, although some huts have alpine style sleeping areas.

All the huts we use have a cooking area with fridge(s), hobs, usually ovens and cooking utensils etc. They have bathroom facilities, with showers, which may be mixed sex. We usually have a 'sitting' room area – which may vary in different huts, and often a fire or stove.

Huts do not usually have resident wardens; we are responsible for clearing up before we leave. All trip attendees must contribute to this effort with tasks such as cleaning, vacuuming, taking out rubbish / recycling and emptying fire place etc. Throughout the trip individuals must clear up after themselves in all areas.

Longer trips are usually in a rented house with smaller rooms – 2-4 people per room. The number of spaces advertised will be the number of beds. Some accommodation has double beds. If you are attending as a couple or are willing to share a bed, let the trip organiser

know. This will allow for more people to attend and bring the cost down. Bedding is usually provided in these buildings and the kitchen facilities may be more extensive.

Camping trips are usually to small independent campsites. We don't tend to use camping club style campsites and as such, may be more basic but cheaper than some bigger commercial sites. We try to negotiate camping costs as we often have lots of individuals in small tents. Payment is usually cash on arrival. All sites we use have toilets and drinking water and usually showers and washing up facilities, although these may be basic. Some campsites won't allow cars where the tents are pitched so be prepared to carry your kit. BBQs and/or open fires are permitted at some sites, but not all. We usually go to campsites where campervans are permitted, although they may not always be in the same area as tents and many don't have electric hook ups.

We must adhere to campsite rules, and make sure that as individuals and as a group we do not disturb other campers late in the evening.

Logistics

Once the initial trip email has been sent, the majority of discussion about the trip should occur using the AMC website forum.

Prior to the trip, the trip organiser will send an email and post on the forum any additional information, including whether there is to be a communal meal or a pub booked meal, and to allow those to share lifts and make walking / climbing plans with others going. If a pub meal, meal choices are sometimes required in advance (pub dependent). If a communal meal, attendees will usually be included unless they opt out and payment maybe required in advance or on attendance (cash).

Travel

Lift shares are encouraged to keep cost down and reduce car usage. The forum should be used to either ask for or offer lifts.

If you need a lift, try to be as flexible as possible, bearing in mind people travel from different areas in and around Bristol; you may need to arrange to meet somewhere convenient.

For weekend trips people usually travel on Friday afternoon/evening, returning Sunday evening (Monday evening if bank holiday). If you need to travel outside these times, please be clear in your offer / request for lifts and be aware that there may not be others travelling later/earlier.

It is usual practise for anyone getting a lift to split the fuel cost and any parking /campsite vehicle fees with the person driving. This should be discussed between individuals and arrangement for payment in cash / bank transfer made.

If you are offering a lift, please ensure you are clear as to your travel times, and if for any reason have to make changes to this, ensure that your travel companions know in advance.

If you're getting a lift please be aware of the amount of luggage you're taking; it maybe that you can't take your super-deluxe camping armchair if you're getting a lift with two others in a mini for example!

Many of the locations we go to are not always easy to get to on public transport – however, lifts from train stations may be possible if asked for in advance.

Individuals are responsible for their own travel arrangements. It is not the responsibility of the trip organiser to arrange a lift for you. People are usually accommodating, but there is no guarantee of a lift when signing up for a trip.

Trip activities

Activities on trips vary according to location, time of year and conditions. Many trips have climbing and walking/mountaineering options available.

There is no official training provided on AMC trips. Please do not expect to go on a trip and be taught climbing/mountaineering skills. However, individuals may be willing/able to take others with them if this is arranged on an individual basis. Please remember that people may go on trips with ideas of what they want to do, and it may not be possible to add numbers to this so don't be offended if you aren't able to add to a pre-sorted group going climbing.

If you are new to the club, or have not attended a trip before, it is often useful, particularly if wanting to climb, to write on the trip forum post with a bit of information about yourself – your experience, whether you lead, second, climb sport only and the grade you're able to climb and whether you have gear etc, as this will make finding climbing partner easier. Please be clear what your experience is – it is better to underestimate what you're capable of than over estimate and be in a dangerous situation.

Please ensure that you have the right experience for the trip and the activity you want to do. Whilst many trips have various options depending on your skill, some are more restrictive. There are a small number of trips whereby trad climbing experience and competence is a necessity as the trip is centred around this activity (e.g. Lundy). Ensure that you are self-sufficient in the activity you want to do i.e. for trad climbing that you are able to set up an anchor, abseil (sea cliffs particularly) and make clear if you are unable to lead climb. There is no obligation within the club for any member to climb with anyone else and therefore to avoid disappointment it is advisable to pre-plan and have a plan b in case no climbing partner is available.

What to bring on a trip

Food

Unless explicitly stated, the cost of the trip is accommodation only. Communal meals may be arranged on hut trips and paid for in advance; this is usually a cheap and filling meal and a sociable occasion. You need to bring any food you need for the duration of the trip with you – or buy when there. It may not be possible to walk to a shop from the accommodation. For some trips a pub meal may be organised or in the summer a communal BBQ maybe planned (bring your own food and drink and BBQ/coals).

Camping

For camping trips, attendees need to bring their own tent plus all other necessary camping equipment (sleeping bag, mat, cooking equipment, spare loo roll) and anything else required. The club doesn't have any camping equipment to hire/lend.

Huts

Unless stated otherwise you need to bring a sleeping bag (or duvet) on all hut trips. Some huts provide bottom sheets and / or pillows. This information will be provided for each trip.

Hut trips are limited to in number to the number of beds booked and paid for by the club. It is not possible for additional people to camp / park vans outside huts and use facilities, or for people to stay in the hut and sleep on sofas etc.

Personal belongings

Don't forget to bring your washbag, towel, change of clothes, phone charger, head torch, ear plugs etc. For hut trips ensure you bring a pair of shoes / slippers other than your walking shoes/ boots as most huts do not allow walking boots indoors.

Equipment

It is not within the scope of this document to detail everything you need to bring for each activity. People may arrange to share gear however generally you will need (as appropriate for the trip)

- Climbing kit
 - We recommend anyone climbing to wear a helmet; if you ordinarily don't, and are climbing with someone you don't know, ensure they will be happy to climb without you wearing a helmet
- Wet weather gear
- Winter equipment
- Appropriate footwear for walking / scrambling / mountaineering
- Appropriate clothing for the activity, weather, location
- 1st aid kit, emergency shelter, map, compass, head torch, guidebook

For trips in winter conditions it is essential that you take and know how to use the equipment required for the conditions you will be out in. It is expected that you will have, at minimum, B1 winter boots, crampons and a walking/mountaineering ice axe.

The club has some basic walking crampons and walking axes which can be borrowed for a trip; the user must have appropriate winter boots (B1 minimum) and the skills to use the equipment. Equipment must be returned to the equipment officer after the trip.

The club library has a number of guidebooks and maps for areas that we usually run trips.

Animals on trip

Dogs (or other pets) are not permitted on hut trips. Dogs may be permitted on camping trips (if the campsite allow animals). The owner must take responsibility for the dog at all times and must be aware of others attending the trip who may not like dogs.

Additional costs

- Payment may be required for power or fuel for fire / stove at huts. Please bring some loose change to contribute to this.
- Any parking or additional campsite fees must be paid by the individual
- Communal meal not paid for in advance will require payment on the day – please bring the correct change.

Please remember that all our trips are organised by club members in their own time. Trip organisers will assist attendees, particularly new members, if they can, however please remember that we are not providing a travel agency service and that the cost of the trip covers only the accommodation and personal organisation must be by the individual.