

Avon Mountaineering Club

Avon Mountaineering Club (AMC) runs 15-20 trips per year – one a month from October to Easter, 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 tides for climbing when at coastal venues, and we always run trips over Easter and the two May bank holidays.

Information about how to book on to a trip and the payment requirements is detailed below.

Booking on to a trip

Weekend / bank holiday trips are usually advertised 4-6 weeks in advance. Longer trips, for example to Lundy and Scotland, are advertised up to 6 months in advance to allow for leave to be booked and flights bought.

Trips are advertised by the trip organiser using the AMC mailing list. Information is provided about the trip including the location, details of whether camping or a hut based trip and the cost.

Those wishing to book on the trip should email the trip organiser to be added on to the attendance list.

Camping trips

Payment in advance is not usually required for camping trips and numbers are often unrestricted. Individuals usually pay directly at the camp site on arrival or as per campsite regulations. If you cannot attend the trip you should inform the trip organiser as soon as you are able. This avoids those on the trip worrying as to the whereabouts of individuals if they do not arrive when they were previously expected.

Hut trips (weekends / bank holidays)

Hut trips have a limited number of spaces available – as defined by the property booked. This is stated when the trip organiser advertises the trip. Payment for the trip is required in advance and usually only covers the cost of accommodation.

Having emailed the trip organiser to be added to the attendance list, the trip organiser will email the attendee a link for trip payment. The space is only secured when the payment has been received and the payment should be made as soon as possible. If payment isn't received within a week of the link being sent out, the space may be offered to someone else.

Due to the popularity of trips, there may be more people wanting to go than bed spaces available and therefore a waiting list is formed. In this instance the payment deadline maybe moved forward as places won't be 'held' while others are waiting. If payment is not received by the deadline, the place is offered to the first person on the waiting list and subsequent places offered in chronological order of sign up time.

If an attendee is no longer able to attend the trip they must inform the trip organiser. A refund will only be made if all spaces on the trip are filled. If there is a waiting list the organiser will offer the space to those on the waiting list (in chronological order of sign up), with a time limit for uptake. If no uptake, or no waiting list, the space is offered to the rest of the club. Only once the trip is full and the unwanted space has been paid will a refund be made to the original attendee.

If the attendee who is unable to attend knows of another club member who wants to take their space this must be co-ordinated through trip organiser, as priority must go to those on the waiting list before opening up to others.

If the attendee withdraws with less than 72 hours notice, it is at the discretion of the trip organiser as to whether they are able to co-ordinate advertising the space as organising the logistics at short notice may not be possible.

Refunds are made through PayPal and may take up to 5 working days to clear.

Hut trips are limited to in number to the number of beds booked and paid for. 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.

Hut trips (longer trips e.g. Scotland and Lundy)

These trips are advertised earlier than the weekend trips, as are higher cost and for many people require days off work and flights / ferries.

These trips are often more costly and there maybe the option to make two payments, by set deadlines, in order to break the cost up if required. This is communicated when the trip is advertised.

For trips that are advertised in the year prior to it happening, trip payment will also include membership renewal fees. This is to ensure that all those attending the trip are paid up members for the year that they sign up for the trip and the year that the trip occurs.

If an attendee is no longer able to go on the trip, any refund will be issued as detailed in the Hut trips (weekends) section, however, the cut off is at the trip organisers discretion due to the additional complexity of longer trips.

Refunds are made for the cost of the trip; membership fees paid in advance will not be refunded.

Communal meals

Some trip organisers will offer to cook a communal meal. The cost of this maybe included in the cost of the trip and information provided at the time of advertising; this is usually a cheap and filling meal and a sociable occasion. It is usually assumed that everyone will join in the communal meal and if you don't want to be part of the meal, you opt out.

Refunds for communal meal payments after food has been purchased will not be made.

Dropping out of trips

If someone drops out of a trip this potentially deprives other club members of a space if the notice is short. Dropouts may also affect trip activities, particularly smaller and / or climbing based trips. It also increases the trip organisers work load and may affect lifts already arranged with other attendees.

We appreciate that there are occasionally situations when someone has to pull out of a trip due to illness or emergency. However, if an individual repeatedly drops out of hut trips, this may lead to prioritising other club members having a space on a hut trip, particularly trips that are very popular, as the club must ensure that all members have good opportunities to attend trips.