



Information for Parents and Young People

Portland Outdoor Centre
Real Experiences - Real Environments
Est 2017

Associated centres



We are really pleased that you are coming to stay at Portland Outdoor Centre. We love the area where we are based and the range of activities that we can do here.

Our mission is for you to have as much fun as we have, doing what we love doing.

Staying at Portland

Over 70 people can stay at Portland Outdoor at a time and this means that we can have 2 groups sharing the site. Groups numbering 34+ will have exclusive use of our centre.

If sharing, all the people visiting and staying at Portland Outdoor are with pre-booked groups and we ensure that groups are compatible with each other.

Portland Outdoor is based in a converted victorian hotel and consists of dormitory style bedrooms that spread across 2 floors. The ground floor consists of the Fossil Room, the Dorset Adventure Cafe.

If sharing, each group has its own rooms on separate floors to other visiting groups, their own times for meals and their own instructors from Portland Outdoor to oversee their visit.

Bedrooms are large spacious dormitory style accommodation which consist of 4 - 7 beds per room.

The majority of our rooms are Ensuite and the rooms that are not have access to a bathroom on the same floor as their room.

There will be opportunities for groups to mix with other schools in the evenings at the discretion of the group leaders.

Activities

Activity programmes are set for each group and you will only participate on an activity with people from your group.

We like to provide activities that are real and that contain a sense of adventure and learning. We like to operate in environments that are also fully outdoors which is why we utilise natural rock for climbing and abseiling and open water environments for water-sports including coasteering.

Our approach to using the outdoors means that we go out in all weathers and adjust what we are doing to suit the conditions.

Activities are run on a challenge by choice basis and we will not force anyone to do something that they do not wish to do. However, we do hope that you will come with a willingness to get involved, and a desire to help the people around you succeed.

Catering & Hospitality

We know how much energy gets burned up combining outdoor activities with staying residentially in an outdoor centre so we ensure that everyone is well fed.

Breakfast includes a cooked option everyday along with cereals, toast and juice, tea and coffee.

Lunch is normally a filled roll with a choice of fillings along with fruit, crisps, cake/ chocolate and water.

Evening meal is hearty comfort style cooking such as spaghetti Bolognese, cottage pie or roast chicken. All accompanied with a pudding.

We regularly cater for a wide range of special diets, which we need to know in advance. Please ensure that your group organiser has been given the details so they can let us know before you come so we can plan accordingly.

Kit List

During the activities, Portland Outdoor provides all the required safety equipment.

All clothing should be labelled with the owner's name and participants are responsible for their personal belongings.

We strongly suggest that people do not bring jewellery or new/expensive clothes as the nature of the activities can get clothes wet, muddy or worn.

During water sports activities you will have to wear secure closed toe footwear that will get wet and muddy.

Things to think about when packing your bag

How many days are you at the Centre?

Are you doing any water sports?

What do you want to wear during the evening or when not on activity sessions? What will you wear to sleep in or if you need to get up and walk to the toilet in the night?

What are you going to keep wet and dirty clothes in after activity sessions? What's the weather likely to be like?

What to pack

Waterproof Jacket and Trousers Walking boots/outdoor shoes Closed toe shoes for water activities Water bottle

Rucksack

Torch Sun cream and sun hat Hat and Gloves

Insect repellent Swimming costume/shorts Towel and toiletries Pyjamas Underwear and lots of socks

Indoor /evening shoes

Casual clothes to wear in the evening

Clothes to wear on activities – t-shirts, warm jumpers, long trousers (not denim) and shorts

Personal Medication

Please ensure that your teachers/leaders are aware of any personal medication you may need prior to coming to Portland Outdoor Centre. Each school/group will have its own system for managing medication during the trip.

Bedding

All our bedrooms come complete with pillows, duvets and linen so there is no need to bring any bedding.