



Hiking Buddies UK - Member Guide

Welcome to Hiking Buddies UK!

Hiking Buddies UK is a community for hikers who enjoy exploring the great outdoors together with fellow hikers. We provide a platform for members to coordinate and join hikes, share experiences, and connect with like-minded adventurers.

This guide explains how the group operates, including how to create and join events, safety guidelines, and member responsibilities.

1. How the Group Works

1.1. Creating Events

Any member can create and coordinate an event. Organisers are not professional guides; they are simply arranging a walk and inviting other members to join them.

When creating an event, members must:

- Provide clear details about the route, terrain, difficulty level, and expected duration.
- Include parking details, estimated costs, and meeting points.
- Ensure they have researched the route and have an alternative plan in case of bad weather.
- Be clear about any required equipment (e.g., spare clothing, waterproofs, food, water).
- Check the event regularly, answer questions, and confirm attendance with a roll call before the hike.

1.2. Joining Events

To join a hike, members must:

- Carefully read the event description and assess whether it is suitable for their ability.
- Ensure they have the correct kit and supplies.
- Mark themselves as 'Going' only if they fully intend to participate.
- Respect event limits—if an event is full, do not add yourself unless invited.

1.3. Communication

- Events are posted in the Facebook group and on the **Hiking Buddies UK** website.
 - Messenger is available for confidential queries.
 - Event coordinators may post updates before the hike regarding weather conditions, safety, or changes.
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2. Safety & Responsibility

2.1. Risk & Liability

- **Participation is at your own risk.** Hiking Buddies UK provides a platform for events but does not take responsibility for any accidents, injuries, or losses.
- We have a **Risk Assessment, Health & Safety Policy, and Insurance**, but liability remains with each individual participant.
- **You are responsible for your own safety, navigation, and well-being during hikes.**
- If you are unsure of your fitness level or ability to complete a route, **do not attend.**

2.2. Group Safety Guidelines

- **Check the weather:** Be aware that conditions can change quickly.
- **Know your limits:** Do not attempt hikes beyond your ability level.
- **Bring the right equipment:** Proper hiking gear is essential for your safety.
- **Follow the coordinator's instructions:** While not professional guides, they have coordinated the event with safety in mind to their best ability and knowledge.
- **Stay together:** Avoid separating from the group, especially in poor weather or difficult terrain.

2.3. Environmental Responsibility

- Follow the **Leave No Trace** principles—take all litter home, including fruit peels.
- Avoid making new trails; stick to established paths.
- Be mindful of wildlife, livestock, and local communities.
- Keep dogs on a lead where required and respect landowner rights.

3. Event Planning Guidelines

To help ensure successful events, coordinators should:

1. **Choose a safe and accessible route** – Check public access and right of way.
 2. **Set clear expectations** – Include difficulty level, terrain type, and estimated duration.
 3. **Limit numbers if necessary** – Consider safety, parking availability, and environmental impact.
 4. **Prepare an alternative route** – Have a backup plan in case conditions change.
 5. **Check attendance** – Remind members to confirm or update their status before the event.
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4. Event Disclaimer

- **Event coordinators are not professional guides or Mountain Leaders.** They are fellow hikers arranging walks for social purposes.
 - **By attending an event, you acknowledge and accept that you participate at your own risk.**
 - **The coordinator is not responsible for injuries, accidents, or lost property.**
 - **Each participant is responsible for assessing their own ability and ensuring they have the right equipment.**
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5. Contact & Further Information

- For questions, message an admin or post in the Hiking Buddies Facebook group.
- Visit www.hikingbuddiesuk.uk for overseas event listings, resources, and updates.

By joining **Hiking Buddies UK**, you agree to these guidelines and accept personal responsibility for your participation.

Happy hiking and stay safe! 🌿👟