

## Di Gilbert Mountaineering – Lead climbing

*“...writing about climbing is boring. I would rather go climbing” Chuck Pratt.*

### Introduction

This course is aimed at individuals who have some climbing experience but wish to learn what's it like being “at the sharp end”.

Previously climbing experience is not an absolute pre-requisite although it will make things slightly easier for you.

### The Course

This is a 5 day introduction to lead climbing. During the course, we will develop your skills further and teach you skills which will make you a safe and proficient lead climber.

This course is based in the Cairngorm National Park but there may be the option to travel further afield if you wish.

Venues that we might visit include:

Cummingston  
Duntelchaig  
Binnein Shuas  
Polney Crag  
Kingussie Crag  
Pass of Ballater

### Dates

We are available from May – Oct for this course.

We meet you on the Monday morning and come up with a game plan for the week. We will have 5 full days out on the rock and finish on Friday evening – normally over a hot chocolate or pint.

### Price

£475.00 per person

This price includes instruction/guiding services and any technical equipment required.

Accommodation can be arranged in either a Bunkhouse, B&B or Hotel depending on your personal preference.

### Ratio:

This course is run on a 1:2 ratio and requires 2 people to go ahead.

## Equipment

### Waterproofs

You will need waterproof jacket & trousers. Essential to keep the wind and rain out and the warmth in. I prefer a hard wearing jacket and light weight trousers. Trousers with at least a half leg zip will ensure that they can be put on over boots.

### Clothes

I recommend the layering system so that you can easily regulate your temperature depending on what the weather is doing. I tend to wear a thermal (either short or long sleeve) and a mid layer fleece. Over this I'll tend to wear a thin, lightweight and windproof shell. Trousers which can dry out fast are ideal.

I'll also carry a thin pair of gloves and a woolly hat despite even the best weather forecasts. A sun hat is a good idea too for those hot & sunny days. Hats need to fit under your climbing helmet.

### Spare Clothes

Apart from clothes that I intend to wear through the day, I'll always carry an extra layer with me. I'm a big fan of the synthetic 'belay jacket' which is a lightweight jacket that can be worn over all my clothes. If you don't have one of these, an extra fleece will suffice. I'll also have a spare pair of big gloves with me.

### Rucksack

Roughly 40-45 litres will be fine for this course. You want to be able to comfortably get all your kit inside. I like simplistic designs with a good size pocket in the lid. I highly recommend [www.deutergb.co.uk](http://www.deutergb.co.uk).

Everything in your rucksack wants to remain dry so a waterproof liner is a good idea. I'm a big fan of Exped's Fold Dry bags. Failing this, lots of plastic bags will also work.

### Food & Drink

Like any engine, your body needs fuel to perform at its best. Lots of small items that can be munched on throughout the day are ideal. A one litre water bottle should provide enough liquid and/or a flask depending on personal preference.

### Footwear

A pair of walking boots can be used for the approach walk into the crags. Depending on the terrain underfoot I might just wear a pair of approach shoes such as those in the Scarpa x-terrain range [www.scarpa.co.uk](http://www.scarpa.co.uk).

I also want a pair of rock shoes that are comfortable enough to wear all day.

First Aid	Any personal medication and a small first aid kit to deal with common problems such as blisters, sunburn and insect bites.
Head torch	A small head torch with spare batteries. Either Halogen or strong LED's are the best. Only bring this if we are heading into the mountains.
Emergency kit	A cheap orange plastic emergency bivouac bag which can live in the bottom of your rucksack. A little whistle is good for attracting attention and weighs nothing. Once again, only bring this if we are heading into the mountains.
Climbing helmet	Essential for any type of climbing activity. This can be provided if indicated on your booking form.
Climbing harness	This makes things much easier – trust me. This can be provided if indicated on your booking form.
Climbing hard wear	Please feel free to bring along any personal climbing kit you have.