

Di Gilbert Mountaineering – Rock refreshers & improvers

“Someone with a plan will always be able to absorb the unexpected faster than the lackadaisical punter who pinball’s his way through the day.” Scott Semple.

Introduction

Well, Kay wanted a 2 day refresher course in rock climbing skills, so here we are ☺

A course for individuals who have previous rock climbing experience but perhaps haven’t been able to keep the skills sharp and would like someone to keep a watchful eye over them. We will ensure that you are tying the correct knot and clipping the correct piece of rope.

The Course

This is a 2 day course which will be tailored around your needs. Whether you want some assistance in constructing anchors, belaying, placing gear on the lead, stance management or abseiling, this is the course for you. We could also provide training in improvised rescue – i.e. what to do if things go wrong – if required.

We will find out what areas you want to improve during the morning on the first day and we will concentrate on brushing up your skills to enable you to feel comfortable heading out by yourself.

This course is based in the North East of Scotland.

Venues that we might visit include:

Cummingston
Logiehead
Aberdeen Sea Cliffs
Pass of Ballater

Dates

We are available from May – Oct for this course.

We meet you in the morning on the first day, most likely at the crag. We will spend 2 full days at the crag and will normally finish over a pint or hot chocolate.

Price

£210.00 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 30 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.

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.

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.

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.