



Lewaigue Farm : Maughold : Isle of Man : IM7 1AW
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Teachers Information Pack 2010

Introduction to the Venture Centre

Thank you for considering our centre as a venue for your schools' activity holiday. Our, family run, centre has been in operation since 1982 and in that time has run courses for thousands of young people from both on and off the Island. Our activity programmes are tried and tested and ideally suited to young people who want to do something different and more challenging.

About the Venture Centre

The Venture Centre was, until recent years, part of a very large farm and in converting it into sleeping and eating accommodation we have tried to preserve its real character. The centre's office and shop used to be the dairy. The dormitories, former milking parlours, provide sleeping accommodation in bunk beds. There are toilets and wash basins adjacent. Group leaders' accommodation is in separate 2 bedded rooms. An additional block contains showers. The heavily timbered dining area and open plan kitchen was the ground floor of the grinding mill while the upper floor became the recreational room. Several outbuildings and a massive Dutch barn complete the list of buildings.

Drying facilities (spinners and tumble dryers) are conveniently located so that wet kit can be dried immediately after wet activities. The glen to the north side contains the centre's purpose built assault course. Archery and orienteering take place on fields next to the centre. Off road cycling takes place in the woodland to the east of the centre.

Our staff organise a morning, afternoon and evening activity session for your group. The centre staff are responsible for the supervision of the children from after breakfast approx 09.00 until the end of evening activities approx 20.00. Outside these times responsibility for supervision is with the visiting teachers.

Bed times will be at the discretion of the visiting groups however we expect lights out and quiet by 11.00 p.m. Your group's programme will be taken from the following list of activities:-

Orienteering, archery, assault course, abseiling, climbing, canoeing, sailing, kayaking, coastal walk, coasteering, gorge walking, off road cycling, sailing, ropes and poles, raft building, team building exercises, campcraft, wide game, aerial runway and map work. Activities are selected that are appropriate to your age group.

Our aim is maximum participation in each activity by all young persons with encouragement and help in a sympathetic manner from our instructors.

All programmes are subject to suitable weather and other safety considerations.
We reserve the right to alter activity programmes where we consider this to be necessary.

Safety

Safety is our main priority. Throughout all our activity programmes we adhere to strict safety guidelines. The centre is annually inspected by the British Activity Holidays Association and British Canoe Union. In addition we have our own operating procedures and risk assessments which are available for inspection.

We are approved by the Isle of Man Department of Education.

All introductory water based activities take place on a fully enclosed 12-acre seawater lake.

The maximum depth of the lake is 1.5 metres and it is not possible to be more than 70 metres from the bank.

In line with British Canoe Union policy we allow non-swimmers to participate in water based activities if they are water confident.

Group leaders are responsible for the supervision of any non participants and for their group outside activity sessions.

As safety is our main priority where we consider that a young person may be causing a danger to themselves or others their parents or guardians will be contacted to collect them at their own expense.

All our instructional staff undergo a police check and a full induction/familiarisation course.

Fire drills take place before the first night at the centre where this is considered practical.

A qualified 1st Aider is on call on site whenever persons are resident at the centre. All instructors carry first aid kits when off site.

Risk Assessments

Risk assessments are produced for all our activity sessions. These are available by request.

Insurance

The Venture Centre carries third party public liability insurance to a value of £5 million. However as with all holidays we strongly recommend that all groups take out adequate travel insurance. The reciprocal health care agreement between the Isle of Man and the UK will cease in 2010.

Telephone

There is a telephone on site (cash) but we discourage use of the phone as this can cause undue homesickness. Some UK mobile phones do not work on the Isle of Man.

If parents or guardians really need to speak to a teacher or member of Venture Centre staff about their child they should phone around meal times at 5.30 p.m.

Meals

Breakfast A cooked breakfast e.g. cereals, sausage and baked beans, toast and jam/marmalade
Tea, coffee or squash.

Lunch Sandwiches with a choice of filling, a piece of fruit, biscuits and a drink of squash.

Evening meal A substantial evening meal

Please let us know on the medical form of any food your child is unable to eat or any other dietary requirements.

Vegetarian options are available with prior notice.

National Curriculum

All courses cover the requirements of the National Curriculum with regard to outdoor and adventurous activities.

Medical Information

Personal and medical information of all visitors must be made available to Venture Centre staff. Our attention should be drawn to any potential problems in advance of the visit. If your child has any unusual requirements please let your group leaders know and phone us at The Venture Centre.

Valuables

These should not be brought to the centre. We recommend a maximum of £2 per day for pocket money and suggest that group leaders take charge of pocket money. There is a tuck shop on site selling sweets, drinks and small souvenirs.



