

Ryedale Walking Group - Frequently Asked Questions

Here we aim to answer the most commonly asked questions about our group. If you cannot find the answer you are looking for then please contact a committee member by e-mailing or phoning *Colin, Eric or Phil* who's contact details are on the back of the latest programme or by chatting to the leader of any of our walks.

What age are the members in Ryedale Walking Group?

Members currently range from their 30s to their 70s. Young people under the age of 18 are also welcome but they must be accompanied by an adult. We currently have 99 fully paid up members (May 2016).

What does it cost to become a member?

You can become a full member of the group at a modest cost of £7 for the whole calendar year. There is then nothing more to pay other than sharing transport costs. Ryedale Walking Group is non-profit making. If you wish to try a "taster walk" to see if it suits you just turn up - you don't need to join until the 2nd occasion you walk with the group, but we are quite happy to take your subs the first time that we meet you!

How do I travel to the start of the walk if you meet in Pickering?

You may use your own car and meet us at the start of the walk. The group actively support car sharing however, and the walk leader will do their best coordinate this. On occasion we use public transport to allow us to do linear (end to end) walks more easily. If you need transport it is better to contact the walk leader beforehand. A lift can often be arranged. Remember, if you do car share to bring along clean footwear to change into after the walk and offer to pay an appropriate share of the fuel cost and car parking fee if there is one. Also if the weather is very bad on the morning of the walk contact the walk leader in case the walk has had to be cancelled. All walk leaders phone numbers are listed on the back of the programme.

What sort of clothing should I wear and what sort of kit do I need for the walks ?

Dress for the conditions. Remember weather can change quickly especially on high ground. We would recommend good comfortable walking boots, waterproof jacket and over trousers, gloves, hat and scarf in winter. Extra clothing can be carried if necessary. Jeans are not recommended as they become uncomfortable to wear when they get cold and wet. Other items that are essential are a packed lunch and plenty of water (hot drinks are recommended in Winter). Getting kitted out need not cost a fortune - you don't need to purchase specialised technical clothing.

Are the walks all close to Pickering?

No. We are a Ryedale based group and we walk there regularly, however we walk north south east and west of the area. We favour the North York Moors National Park, the Howardian Hills, the Cleveland Hills and the Yorkshire Wolds. We also venture further on special weekend breaks at least once per year. Each year since 2014 we have had a walking holiday overseas. Speak to committee members for further details.

Do I need to be super fit?

No, but you will get a lot fitter if you can walk with us regularly. We don't rush, and we enjoy the scenery and conversation as we go. The average pace of a walk including breaks is usually around 2 mph and even less than that on walks that involve steep ascents. We endeavour to give each walk a rating of difficulty to help you to decide if you can manage it. As your fitness slowly improves you will probably find you want to take on the more challenging walks. If the length of some of our walks sounds scary, remember 8 miles is not that far when taken over an entire day with a tearoom stop and rest stops along the route. If you are wanting to get fit you will find this more fun and cheaper than joining a gym.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to be able to read a map and what maps are the best to buy to walk in the area?

No. Each walk is led by a walk leader who is responsible for route finding. If you want your own maps go for the 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Explorer range. These are double sided for the National Park. Maps OL26 North Yorks Moors West, OL27 North Yorks Moors East, 300 Howardian Hills and Malton and 299 Ripon and Boroughbridge are the ones to consider buying. The webmaster will endeavour to offer an extract of the 1:25000 OS map for each walk. Look for the MAP button against the walk details on the Home Page. Some members use a GPS or a Smartphone for navigation which can be useful for determining your exact position.

Am I covered by the group's own insurance?

Yes you are for certain things. As a group affiliated to the Ramblers we hold Civil Liability Insurance. Please take note of the legal policy notice (below) which applies to all people that walk with the group. It is a condition that you must accept this if you join us on a walk.

We are staying in the area on holiday. Would we be able to join your walks?

Yes. You will be very welcome. It would help our planning if you could let us know in advance so that we can expect you. You are welcome to join us in car share, please don't forget to pay the driver your share of the fuel cost.

I have a dog - are they welcome on your walks?

Dogs are generally very welcome on our walks. However, if you would like to bring your dog on a walk, please act responsibly. You will need to keep your dog on a short lead at all times (no extending leads). Please always pick up after your dog. There are often stiles on our walks - please ensure you can get your dog over stiles without the help of others. If we need to walk through a field of cattle - please ensure you stay close to the group. If you know your dog may scare livestock we would ask that you do not bring it along on a walk. Some parts of a walk may be on access land where dogs may not be allowed. If this is the case, the leader will point this out when the walk is advertised. Please always respect the wishes of the walk leader, who may stipulate, when the walk is advertised, that no dogs are allowed due to reasons mentioned above, or for the safety of the group.

Owners need to be aware that landowners have a legal right to restrict access to walkers with dogs on access land. In particular, on grouse moors during the ground nesting season and during lambing times. This does not apply to normal public footpaths and bridleways which run within access land or in the countryside in general.

Legal Policy relating to all participants

Please make sure that you are fit enough to undertake the walk you intend to join. If you're unsure of your fitness level, try a short and easy walk first: it's much better to find a walk a little too slow and easy than to make yourself miserable and exhausted.

Most Club' walks are off-road in rural areas. Please have suitable footwear and clothing for the walk you intend to join, and bring some food and drink, even if the walk includes a pub or café break. Leaders may refuse to accept participants who in their opinion are inadequately equipped or unfit. When in doubt, contact the organisers or the walk leader in advance.

For your own and others' safety please read and abide by any advice and guidelines issued by the Club, and the instructions of the walk leader. Though walking is inherently one of the safest outdoor activities, no activity is completely without risk and it is your responsibility to behave sensibly and to minimise the potential for accidents to occur.

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