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 us using the details at the bottom of each website page.

What age are the members in Ryedale Walking Group?
we have members in a wide range of age groups and we welcome people of any age. Many of our members are retired and we organise mid-week walks as well as weekends. Young people under the age of 18 are also welcome but they must be accompanied by an adult.

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", you don't need to join until the 2nd occasion you walk with the group, although we are quite happy to take your subs the first time that we meet you!
We do ask that those coming on a taster walk complete a membership form with their contact details. This is for insurance purposes

How do I get to the start of a walk?
You may use your own car and meet us at the start of the walk. The group encourage car sharing. We have an active WhatsApp group where you can offer or ask for a lift. On occasion we use public transport to allow us to do linear (end to end) walks more easily.
Remember, if you do car share, 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.

What if the weather is bad?
We try not to cancel walks, but sometimes bad weather can affect both the walk safety and also the roads to access the walk. We will try to notify you of any cancellations by email. Also, check the website before setting out. If in doubt, contact the walk leader using the phone numbers listed on the walk 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). Sometimes a short walk may finish before lunch time and there won't be a lunch stop on the walk. It's still a good idea to bring something to drink and a snack in case of delays.
Getting kitted out need not cost a fortune - you don't need to purchase specialised technical clothing.

Where do you walk?
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 sometimes venture further on special weekend breaks Each year since 2014 we have had a walking holiday, sometimes overseas. However these are planned on an ad hoc basis and depend on group members to come up with ideas and to organise them

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.

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 the walk leader 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.

Note that if you come on more than one walk, we expect you to become a member and pay the £7 subcription.

Can I bring my dog?

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

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.