
THE
BUSHCRAFT
company
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THE WOODS
3 DAY RESIDENTIAL

THE WOODS

The three-day residential course acts as a fantastic step towards the development of leadership skills, demanding resourcefulness, decision-making and practical thinking from students. Each day will be made up of a range of hands-on workshops, offering a chance to really get to grips with life in the outdoors and providing a unique environment in which to learn and interact.

This experience is structured so that activities alternate between group discussions and practical elements, putting the skills taught into immediate use. The students will work in small groups of between ten and fifteen, each of which will be assigned a Bushcraft group leader, allowing every student the opportunity to really contribute to the collaborative effort required.

Whilst content is strongly linked to the National Curriculum, our courses offer students the chance to excel away from conventional classroom standards, intending to inspire a positive attitude to learning, as they develop new skill sets in new and exciting surroundings. Students will leave us with a sense of achievement, confident in their ability to live and operate in an outdoor environment, as well as a greater understanding of the British landscape.

Time spent living in the wild offers a fantastic opportunity for students to interact away from the distractions of everyday school life, taking them out of their comfort zones and encouraging both independence and teamwork. By the end of the course, the students will have gained a far better understanding of the natural British landscape and they will leave with a new sense of self-sufficiency and confidence.



ITINERARY

This is a sample itinerary. Activities and/or the order of these may differ on delivery. If you have any questions about these activities, contact the school Trip Leader.

DAY ONE

Arrive 10am

Introduction to Camp

Our instructors will discuss the key elements of Bushcraft and explain what the students can realistically achieve living in the wild. They will then have a safety briefing and familiarise themselves to their new surroundings.

Fire Workshop & Wilderness Cookery

The students will learn the basic principles of the fire triangle and put this knowledge into practice by collecting wood and lighting their fires using flint and steel. They will then learn how to cook a simple meal using fresh seasonal ingredients, over the fire.

Lunch

Camp Craft

Students will be challenge with making a tribe identity, they will name their tribe and even make a flag to distinguish their tribe from everyone else's. Students will also have the chance to make survival bracelets and clay models to take home.

Shelter Building

The students will learn why we need shelter when we are living outside, and the types of shelter people from different societies, nationalities and places have used across the ages. Each tribe will then build their own shelter, using natural materials from around the woodland.

Supper

Evening Games

Games are a great way for the children to bond with their fellow students and their teachers. It will also help the students to use any of the remaining energy that they have left over after the day, ready for a good night's sleep.

Sleep in shelters

DAY TWO

Breakfast

Wilderness First Aid Workshop

The students will learn basic skills to cope with a medical emergency in the wild, including how to construct a simple stretcher from the items you have on you, and how to improvise an effective splint.

Camouflage and Concealment

Students will take part in a fun camouflage and concealment exercise, employing team tactics and making the most of their surroundings to camouflage themselves and evade capture.

Lunch

Cutting Tools

Students will learn about the different types of tools used in the field of Bushcraft, both primitive and modern, and the reasons for their use. They will be taught safe handling techniques, helping them to understand how to manage risk effectively.

Scenario SOS

The students will put their new skills to the test and work in teams, using navigation to locate a simulated plane-crash scene, where they will treat the casualties and make improvised stretchers to evacuate them back to camp.

Supper

Tribes Got Talent

This is a fantastic way to spend the final evening, participating in our trademark talent competition, in which each tribe performs a skit, dance or song which they will have been practicing all week. All of the students enjoy themselves and it is always brilliantly amusing, and at times, astonishing, as the students show off their skills.

Sleep in shelters

DAY THREE

Breakfast

Trap Making

Students are taught how to make a variety of different animal traps and what they would be used for. They will learn the pros and cons of the traps.

Bushcraft Challenge

The teams will participate in a series of fun but challenging initiative exercises that will really put them to the test, both mentally and physically. This is a great team-building activity and demands trust and communication.

Lunch

Leave No Trace Procedures

The students will learn the importance of leaving their environment as they found it and understand the impact human activity can have on the natural landscape. They will be asked to strike camp and return their team camp areas to their natural state.

Depart 3pm

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

STUDENTS WILL LEARN

- How to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an outdoor environment
- To generate and contribute to a sense of team identity
- To work as part of a team towards a shared goal
- To be proactive and to make individual contributions to group activities
- To develop confidence in unfamiliar surroundings
- To react positively to new experiences and to share these with their peers
- Where food comes from and to make informed choices about diet and lifestyle
- To think creatively about their surroundings
- To develop a greater understanding of the natural British landscape
- How to ensure that their presence in the woodland leaves minimum impact on the environment

PRACTICALITIES

LOCATIONS

1. **CASTLE HOWARD**, Yorkshire
2. **CHOLMONDELEY CASTLE**, Cheshire
3. **BOUGHTON WOODS**, Northamptonshire
4. **KNEBWORTH**, Hertfordshire
5. **CUFFLEY**, Hertfordshire
6. **PENSHURST PLACE**, Kent
7. **WEST DEAN**, Sussex
8. **BLenheim**, Oxfordshire
9. **CORBURY PARK**, Oxfordshire
10. **BADMINTON**, Gloucestershire

ACCOMODATION The students will alternate between sleeping in shelters and bell tents, which 10-15 students will share.

FOOD We will provide all of the food for the course and all of our meals are cooked from fresh, exciting ingredients. The menu will vary depending on the season and the length of the course, and we pride ourselves on being able to cater for all dietary requirements. Examples of meals include wood fired pizza, lamb stews, spaghetti Bolognese, and fruit crumbles. Students will also be given snacks throughout the day which will include fresh fruit and biscuits, as well as water and squash to drink. Evenings will of course include a traditional cup of hot cocoa and toasted marshmallows around the campfire.



KIT LIST

Below you can find our recommended kit list. We do stress that it is not necessary to go out and buy all new and expensive kit to come on our trips. As long as you have a **sleeping bag** and **roll mat**, **torch**, **appropriate footwear** and some **warm clothes** you will be fine, but just to be sure we have outlined the key items of kit below.

ESSENTIALS

- Large rucksack (or alternative bag/suitcase)
- Small rucksack for daytime away from camp
- Warm sleeping bag (season 3)
- Roll mat
- Tracksuit/hard-wearing trousers
- T-shirts
- Warm jumpers/fleece
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Warm socks and underwear
- Footwear (2 pairs - e.g. walking boots, old trainers)
- Swimwear & suitable swimming footwear e.g. old trainers (please check with school if this is planned for you)
- Towel(s)
- Wash bag including toothbrush, toothpaste and face wipes

- Good torch with fresh batteries
- Insect repellent
- Alcohol Hand Gel

OPTIONAL

- Sleeping bag liner
- Pillow
- Whistle

WEATHER DEPENDENT

- Wellington boots
- Warm hat
- Gloves
- Sun cream
- Sun hat

- ✘ We kindly ask that you do not bring any sweets or snacks onto camp, particularly those containing nuts.
- ✘ We also do not advise bringing electronic equipment, such as mobile phones.

