



TRIP NOTES

BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

**MIND HIKE 2018 - EDEN PROJECT
UK**

Fri 22 Jun - Sun 24 Jun 2018





In aid of Mind

22 Jun - 24 Jun 2018



3 DAYS | UK | EXTREME

To take part in this event you must contact the Events team at Mind and complete an application form. Please email events@mind.org.uk for more information.

Join Mind for a unique 24 hour trekking challenge based at the Eden Project that will test every ounce of you both physically and mentally whilst engaging in a genuine team event that will require incredible teamwork to achieve your goal.

The challenge will see two teams walking approx 50km along the spectacular Cornish countryside and coastline. Walking for 24 hours, throughout the night, requires a significant amount of stamina and endurance. The terrain on this trek is varied, involving long distances and little sleep. This is an extreme challenge, and one that has spectacularly rewarding views.

You'll need to set yourself a goal to get fit and build up stamina and endurance training in the months building up to this event. With expert mountain leaders on hand to support you on this challenge, you will create memories that will stay with you for a lifetime.

- 24 Hour trekking adventure to challenge yourself physically and mentally
- Tackle breathtaking coastal walk along the Cornish cliffs
- Unique team event with exceptional support
- Enjoy the achievement with a celebratory brunch after the trek
- Raise vital funds for Mind

YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 *Fri 22 Jun*

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Day 1: Arrival and Briefing

We will arrive in the evening at our hostel at the YHA Eden Project. After checking-in we will meet our team in time for a Welcome and Safety briefing about the event. After this it's time for an early night before the challenge begins.

Please note, dinner is not included on this first evening.

DAY 2 *Sat 23 Jun*

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Day 2: The Challenge begins!

After an early start the teams will go their separate ways. Our challenge is to make it to the finish by 8am the following morning, a full 24 hours away!

Each team will have in front of them 24 hours of stunning Cornish countryside and coastline. The route is split into two sections, both of which start and finish at the hostel at the Eden Project.

Both of these loops have spectacular scenery along the way, from riverside meadows to rolling hills, and from stunning coastlines to classic Cornish villages.

The terrain sees us tackle well walked footpaths, remote tracks and country lanes making up for a diverse and challenging route.

Not only will the terrain be there to challenge us, but as the sun sets on a full day of trekking we will only just be getting started!

After completing the first loop you will have time to stop at the hostel to refresh and have dinner. However, you can't rest for too long as the next section awaits you!

Our challenge continues through the night where we will need every ounce of team spirit to get us through.

We will be fully supported throughout the challenge by qualified leaders and a fantastic support team who will be supplying us with much needed drinks, hot meals and plenty of encouragement throughout the day and night.

DAY 3 *Sun 24 Jun*

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Day 3: Challenge finish!

We will finish back at the Eden Project hostel where we will celebrate our achievements. Our adventure doesn't end here though as both teams will then have time to celebrate, share stories and enjoy a fantastic celebration brunch.

This really is a unique team event like no other. 24 hours of trekking with fantastic people all working together whilst raising money for such a fantastic cause.

Minimum sponsorship

Registration fee of £95.00 when you book.

Raise a minimum of £690.00 for Mind.

What's included?

Before you go

- Discount on personal equipment from Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor and Cycle Surgery in the UK
- Support materials (itinerary, kit list, fact file, Q&As, health notes, travel tips, responsible travel policy and guidance)
- Fundraising advice
- A-Z of fundraising ideas
- Fitness training notes

On your challenge

- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Celebratory drink at the finish line
- Packed lunch and drinks
- All challenge management before, during and post event
- Drinking water on challenge days
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually in twin share)

What's not included?

Before you go

On your challenge

- Dinner on the night of arrival

The details

Fundraising deadlines

You will need to send your sponsorship money to the charity as you raise it. At least 50% (£345) of the minimum sponsorship required must be sent to the charity 8 weeks before departure (by 27/04/2018), and the remaining 50% (£345) within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 22/07/2018). If you have raised the necessary funds, the charity will then pay the balance of your challenge costs. The charity benefits by keeping the remaining sponsorship money and every pound over and above that you raise.

Raising the sponsorship

Thank you so much for choosing to fundraise for Mind. We really appreciate your support. Should you need any further assistance or help with your fundraising then please contact Nicola at Mind (n.ash@mind.org.uk) and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can!

Typical group size

The typical group size is 40 - 120 participants

Challenge Timings

Please note that precise timings and instructions will be provided 1 month prior to the challenge date. the following timings should be used as guidance when planning.

Your challenge begins on the evening before the trek, and you should arrive at the YHA Eden Project for approximately 7pm in the evening. You will then meet the leaders, as well as the rest of your challenge team, and then it will be time for your evening briefing. It is vital that everyone attend this safety briefing. Please note that dinner on the Friday night before the challenge is not included.

On the day of the trek itself, you will have a very early start for your hearty breakfast before the teams depart to their separate start points at approx. 8.00am.

The route that you will be walking is split into two 12 hour loops and you will return to the hostel once you complete the first loop and before you begin the night section. This will give you the opportunity to eat and rest.

You will be walking for 24 hours, which makes your trek a very long day and night. You can expect to arrive back at the hostel at around 8.00am on Sunday morning. Delays can happen, and the return time will all depend on the speed of your group, so please do try and book flexible return arrangements.

Climate

As you know, the weather in the UK can be highly unpredictable and at times erratic, so being prepared is the key! We will run UK challenges between April and October, and although the summer months of June-August should be, in general, warmer, sunnier and more stable in terms of the weather conditions, we all know that this isn't always the case. As this challenge takes place at night the temperature can often reach close to zero, even in the height of summer. Please check the weather forecasts up to ensure that you bring clothing suitable for warm sunny walking weather and also sudden wind and downpours should they occur.

Emergencies

Your leading team are trained to deal with emergency situations in remote areas and will be carrying a mobile phone and radios in case the emergency services need to be contacted. The event is not run as a race and you will never be encouraged to walk at a pace 'beyond your ability'. There will always be a wide variety in people's walking abilities which will be carefully managed by the leader team. This team will always keep the group together for maximum safety on each peak and set a sensible pace for all to achieve this challenge within 12hrs. If we find that you are unable to trek at all, then we will arrange for you to be collected and taken back to the hostel.

Safety advice for the Mind Hike 2018 Challenge

Charity Challenge considers the safety of all of our participants and staff to be a top priority, and as such we have set up Challenge Safe, one of the most advanced and thorough safety management systems in the industry. Challenge Safe formalises our ethos when it comes to safety, and brings together the procedures and risk management strategies that we use to audit all aspects of our challenges, from vehicles to accommodation to the

challenge activity itself. Your welfare is absolutely paramount!

Here are a couple of important points that you should be aware of:

- The terrain on the challenge is often rocky and in wet conditions can be extremely slippery. Please make sure that your walking boots have good grip. Trainers are not appropriate as they lack grip.
- Trekking at night is by its nature a hazardous activity. A powerful, good quality headtorch is absolutely vital.
- Due to extra risks posed by trekking at night we always use a higher ratio of leaders to maximise safety. It is very important that you always listen to your leaders at all points and obey any decisions they make.
- The weather at night can be very different to during the day. Please make sure you carry an additional warm layer, waterproof jacket and trousers and a hat and gloves.
- 24 hours is a long time to be out on a trek, especially overnight. Ensure that you eat lots throughout the night and keep yourself hydrated by drinking lots of fluids.

Toilets

There will be bathroom facilities at the hostel; however during the challenge such facilities will be limited to the great outdoors!

Food & Drink

Meals while on the challenge include breakfast on the morning of the challenge, and then a packed lunch and snacks during the trek as well as dinner in the evening. We strongly encourage you to bring additional sweets and snacks if desired. Upon completion of the challenge a celebration brunch will be provided back at the YHA Eden Project. Please note that dinner on the Friday evening before the challenge is not included. The drinking of alcohol the night before is strongly discouraged for your own health and safety during this tough challenge.

Accommodation

For the challenge you will be sleeping in same-sex 'snoozeboxes'. If you would like to request to share a room with somebody then please let us know at least 1 month prior to the challenge.

YHA Eden Project accommodates guests in modern en-suite bedrooms made from shipping containers, in keeping with the Eden spirit of sustainable living and finding new uses for everyday items. These comfortable rooms are equipped with all the conveniences you expect from YHA and much more, including TVs in each room and full air conditioning,

If you would like to book any pre-or-post accommodation either before or after the challenge, there are several options in the area. Please use the [VisitCornwall](#) to find additional options. Alternatively please consider extending your stay at the [YHA Eden Project](#) by contacting the hostel directly.

Getting there

Accommodation, and the location of the celebration brunch on Sunday, will be at the YHA Eden Project. Click [here](#) for directions. Parking is available at the hostel.

Please consider using public transport when possible. The closest train station is in the town of St Austell. From the train station you can either take a taxi or the 101 bus from the train station to the Eden Project.

Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism. On this challenge in particular, we always liaise with the trail officers of the South West Coast Path to make sure that we minimise our impact on the local environment. Our leaders care passionately for the environment and will be keen to talk to you about how you can do your bit to conserve the local area and enhance your experience. We believe that acting responsibly should add to your enjoyment of the challenge so we won't lecture you about not dropping litter. Instead we'd like to encourage you to support the 'South West Coast Path' who maintain the excellent footpaths we will be walking on. For more information about the work done to manage the footpaths, and to donate to them yourself, click [here](#).

We would also like to encourage all our participants to spend a little extra time in the local area. Why not consider booking an extra night in a local B&B, and go out for a meal in one of the excellent local pubs after the challenge? The [VisitCornwall website](#) has lots of local options.

Please also make sure to take the time to visit the [Eden Project](#) either before or after the challenge.

Not only will you be able to celebrate your achievements but you will also be putting more money back into the local area. For extra information, please visit our [Responsible Tourism](#) pages, where you will be able to view a list of the other projects that we currently support.

Terrain

Despite its location in the UK, the difficulty of this trek should not be underestimated as it includes 24 hours of hiking, with tough ascents and descents along the coast, with the added challenge of walking in the dark. The route is predominantly on good paths, but it's the variation of footpaths that makes this challenge a unique and fun experience.

Leadership

We employ experienced and fully qualified trek leaders who all hold the Mountain leader qualification. The leaders are first aid qualified and have extensive experience in leading challenges throughout Britain and overseas. They will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group. They will be carrying full safety equipment and first aid kits with them at all times.

Group Size

The Mind Hike is run as a team event with each team having a maximum of 40 people. You will be allocated a team for the event.

The aim of this challenge is to work together as a team to help each other through the 24 hours. This is a great opportunity to meet other inspirational people like yourselves and to draw strength from each other.

There will be one leader per approximately 10-15 participants and there will be one team of leaders for the day section and another set of leaders for the night.

Insurance

We don't offer insurance for our UK trips, as any medical emergencies would naturally be covered through the NHS. If you wish, you could look into your own policy that covers cancellation for travel within the UK.

Money

During the trek there will be limited opportunities to purchase some extra snacks as we pass through villages (please do not rely on shops being open as it is not always possible to guarantee this). Therefore you may wish to take some money with you on the trek. We would advise you should need no more than £20.00, excluding your joining and returning home travel costs.

Training

The Mind Hike Challenge is an endurance trekking event over 24 hours, therefore requiring a good to high level of fitness. The ideal training for this challenge is, naturally, walking in the outdoors. However, if you do not have the luxury of living near the great outdoors, then the stairs at home (or an office block) are a great place to start. Try building in a walk to work if possible, or perhaps at lunch. Most training should be part of an ongoing lifestyle, but if this is not the case then you should begin training 2-4 months prior to the challenge and gradually build up as suggested. Remember to use the walking boots that you will be wearing on the challenge in order to get them worn in, and take the daysack that you will be using during the challenge.

There is no substitute for walking in the outdoors, over similar terrain that you will face on the challenge, so try if possible to get out on a weekend and train in an appropriate area. It can be a great way to discover nearby places that you never knew existed! If it is possible for you to practice walking at night with your headtorch then this is also useful. You should progress to training with your boots on from week 4 at the latest, but preferably from week 1. The more you exercise before the challenge, the more you will get out of it. The hardest part of this challenge to train for is the fact that you will need to walk for 24 hours. Whilst it is not expected that you will have practiced this we would recommend that you be comfortable with long days of walking for at least 10 hours, plus you should be comfortable walking for consecutive days. It is a good idea to have a training weekend where you perhaps walk for 8 hours on one day and then another walk the following day. Also see your Charity Challenge Fitness Training notes.

Clothing and Equipment

Equipment of good quality and durability could make the difference between a fantastic challenge experience and an uncomfortable one.

For this challenge, a good quality headtorch with spare batteries is vital. A headtorch is much better than a handheld torch as it allows you to keep your hands free. If you do not wish to buy an expensive headtorch just for this challenge then very good quality ones can be hired for the weekend from our partners at Outdoor Hire.

Waterproof and well-worn in boots will be indispensable. The terrain is uneven and can be very rough, so it is vital that you use a strong pair of canvas or leather boots with good ankle support for this challenge, coupled with a pair of good quality walking socks. Sports trainers are not suitable. As this is a nighttime challenge the temperatures will be significantly colder. Enough warm layers are vital as are hats and gloves. If possible, try to bring two pairs of gloves and two hats as these can very often get wet.

The benefits of a comfortable day sack cannot be underestimated - so make sure that you train with this. Other essentials are high quality gore-tex waterproof and windproof jackets and trousers, as well as technical/wicking t-shirts rather than cotton shirts. We would like to emphasize that jeans should not be worn on this challenge.

A full kit list for this challenge can be found [here](#). Once you book you will have access to kit discounts with our partners The Outdoor Shop, Outdoor Hire and Cotswold Outdoor.

Level of Difficulty

The Mind Hike challenge is graded as extreme. This is the perfect challenge for participants who are of an adventurous spirit and having taken on a previous trekking challenge and are now looking to push themselves to their limits. You can tell your supporters that on your Mind Hike you will be:

- Trekking for 24 hours continuously.
- Covering undulating coastal terrain, with the added challenge of walking through the night!
- Trekking as part of a team, supporting each and every team member to get through the challenge.

Why book with Charity Challenge

- Everything included from the moment you arrive. We include everything from hostel accommodation, your evening meal when you arrive, plenty of food and snacks whilst on the trek and then the opportunity to rest at the hostel upon completing the challenge before a celebration brunch.
- The very best trek leaders, who are fully qualified, highly experienced, knowledgeable and fun. They will do everything to help you complete the challenge and have a great time doing it.
- Ethical consideration. For every participant we donate money to the 'South West Coast Path National Trail' in order to protect the beautiful route that we use. We also try wherever possible to use local suppliers, which helps us to put money back into the local area.
- The highest quality night-time charity challenge experience on the market!

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Any more questions?

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