

CH>RITY
CH>LLENGE



TRIP NOTES

**BELIEVE
ACHIEVE
INSPIRE**

**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY CHALLENGE
UK**

Fri 19 Jul - Sun 21 Jul 2024





In aid of your choice of charity

19 Jul - 21 Jul 2024

3 DAYS | UK | TOUGH

This tough one day challenge has you trekking a marathon distance along the Giant's Causeway Coastal Route. Whilst the distance alone would make this a tough challenge, the nature of the undulating terrain will have you ascending over 1000m along the dramatic coastline of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

- Trek through the Giant's Causeway UNESCO World Heritage site
- Marathon distance trek along the stunning Northern Ireland coast
- Walk along sandy beaches, past celtic castles and follow in the footsteps of legendary giants
- Two nights accommodation included
- Easily accessible by bus from Belfast

YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 *Fri 19 Jul*

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Day 1: Arrival and briefing

Arrive no later than 7pm at the challenge accommodation in the town of Bushmills to meet the team and for a full introduction briefing about the event.

Please note: Dinner is not included on this first night.

DAY 2 *Sat 20 Jul*

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Day 2: The challenge day!

After an early breakfast we will transfer to the start of the trek near to the iconic Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge where we will begin our trek west following the Causeway Coastal Route.

Following the dramatic coastline we will pass through the entirety of the Giant's Causeway World Heritage Site, pausing for photos and to take in the views of this stunning area.

The walk continues west passing Dunluce Castle and the town of Portrush before one final push along the coast to the finish. We then have a short coach transfer back to our hostel to freshen up for our celebratory dinner and our second night's accommodation.

DAY 3 *Sun 21 Jul*

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Day 3: Departure

After breakfast you are free to depart.

HOW TO FUND YOUR CHALLENGE

This page provides you details of the costs of your challenge.
The costs below are per person.

SELF FUNDER

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*Pay a registration fee of £75.00 when you book
Then a balance of £270.00
(9 weeks before your challenge)
Raise as much as you can for your charity.*

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP

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*Registration fee of £75.00 when you book
Raise a minimum of £550.00 for your charity.*

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

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- 12.5% off Cotswold Outdoor, Snow + Rock, and Runners Need
- Fundraising advice
- A-Z of fundraising ideas
- Fitness training notes
- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules

On your challenge

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- All challenge management before, during and post event
- Checkpoint snacks and drinks
- Travel to and from the challenge start/finish point
- 2 nights accommodation during the challenge (usually same-sex dormitories)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Clothing and equipment listed on your Kit List

On your challenge

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- Dinner on the night of arrival
- Any other specific items listed as not included in your Trip Notes

THE DETAILS

Fundraising deadlines

You will need to send your sponsorship money to the charity as you raise it. At least 80% of the minimum sponsorship required must be sent to the charity 11 weeks before departure (by 03/05/2024), and the remaining 20% within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 18/08/2024). 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.

Typical group size

The typical group size is 20 - 50 participants

Why book with Charity Challenge?

- You'll be booking with a globally respected, multi-award-winning challenge events company.
- The very best challenge walking 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.
- Two night's accommodation to give you the opportunity to enjoy your accomplishment with your new trekking friends.
- The highest quality Giant's Causeway charity trekking experience on the market!

Level of Difficulty

The Giant's Causeway challenge is graded as tough. This is the perfect challenge for participants who are of an adventurous spirit and an open mind, who have taken part in other trekking challenges and now wish to test themselves in a slightly more demanding environment. You can tell your supporters that on your Giant's Causeway Challenge you will be:

- Trekking for around 12 hours in a single day.
- Covering a full marathon distance on undulating coastal terrain. That's 42km!
- Ascending over 1000m in a single day.

Training

The Giant's Causeway Challenge is a long, sustained event over 12 hours and covering undulating terrain with some steep ascents and descents. It requires a good level of fitness. The ideal training for this challenge is, naturally, walking with particular emphasis on building up stamina on ascents and descents. However, if you do not have the luxury of living near the hills, then the stairs at home (or an office block) are a great place to start. 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 so try if possible to get out on a weekend and, if possible, train in an area with steep hills to help prepare yourself for the undulating terrain you will face on this challenge. 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 expedition, the more you will get out of it. Also see your Charity Challenge Fitness Training notes.

Group Size

Our minimum group size is 20 and groups are typically made up of between 20-40 people. There will be one challenge leader for approximately every 10-15 participants.

On occasion, we may be able to run a challenge with less than 20 people. This may incur a small group supplement. If this happens, it will be communicated before your invoice or fundraising deadline.

Group Management

This is a leader-led challenge and you will be accompanied by our challenge mountain leaders at all times.

We employ experienced and fully qualified challenge walking leaders to accompany and lead you. They hold outdoor specific first aid certificates 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.

Weather

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 March and November, 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. Please check the weather forecasts to ensure that you bring clothing suitable for warm sunny walking weather and also sudden wind and downpours should they occur.

Terrain

Despite its location in the UK, the difficulty of this trek should not be underestimated as it includes one long day of hiking, with tough ascents and descents. The route is predominantly on good paths, but it's the variation of loose gravel and rocks that makes this challenge a unique and fun experience. In particular real care needs to be taken when walking along any cliff tops.

Challenge Timings

Precise arrival times and instructions will be sent out 1 month prior to the challenge.

Your challenge begins the evening before the trek and you will need to arrive at the accommodation in Bushmills for approx. 6pm for registration and your safety briefing.

In order to maximise the time available to complete the challenge we will have an early breakfast before transferring to the start of the trek at 6.30am to ensure we start trekking at 7.30am.

You will be walking for approximately 10-12 hours, which makes your trek a very long day. You can expect to arrive back at the finish at around 7pm. After having time to get clean and refreshed we will celebrate together with dinner before a final night at the accommodation.

Getting to and from the Challenge

We will confirm the event location at no later than 1 month prior to the start of the challenge.

Your accommodation will be provided at the HINI hostel in Bushmills.

Bushmills is less than an hour and a half by bus from Belfast with frequent services. Please check the Translink website for precise timetables and to book tickets.

We will send across all driving details, plus the address of the accommodation, at no later than 1 month prior to departure.

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided on the night before the challenge in the HINI Bushmills. You will be staying in same-sex dormitory style rooms with shared bathrooms. It's all part of the challenge!

Food & Drink

Breakfast and a packed lunch on the day of the challenge is provided, along with your celebration dinner after the challenge. Breakfast is also included on the final morning before you check-out.

The drinking of alcohol the night before the challenge is strongly discouraged for your own health and safety during this tough challenge.

We would recommend that you bring along at least 2 litres of water and a few of your own snacks to keep you going throughout the challenge. Additional water and some snacks will be provided at set checkpoints.

Please note that dinner is not included on the first night. There are several pubs and fish and chip shops in Bushmills and nearby that we recommend heading to after registration and your safety briefing.

Clothing & Equipment

Equipment of good quality and durability could make the difference between a fantastic challenge experience and an uncomfortable one. For this challenge, 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. 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, Cotswold Outdoor.

Toilets

There will be toilet facilities both at the start and end of the trek and at set points along the route. Your leaders will make you aware of these. However, in between such facilities will be limited to the great outdoors!

Money

During the trek there are not many opportunities to spend any money. You may wish to bring some money for drinks at the celebration meal. We would advise you should need no more than £20.00, excluding your joining and returning home travel costs.

Safety

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.
- The weather on the coast can be very different to inland. Please make sure you carry an additional warm layer, waterproof jacket and trousers and a hat and gloves.
- 12 hours is a long time to be out on a trek. Ensure that you eat lots throughout the day and keep yourself hydrated by drinking lots of fluids.
- The terrain across the cliff tops can be very loose and rocky and should be taken with care.
- Cliff tops are extremely dangerous and can be very exposed. please listen to your leaders and stay away from the edges of any exposed cliffs.

Emergencies

Your leadership team is trained to deal with emergency situations and will be carrying mobile phones 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 set a sensible pace for all to achieve this challenge within the planned time frame. A support vehicle will be available at checkpoints for anyone struggling to complete the challenge.

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

We do not professionally vet your medical details. Please assess for yourself whether you are fit and able to take on the challenge. Please review the detailed Trip Notes and itinerary to get a better idea of what is involved. Please speak to your doctor or specialist if you have any concerns about taking part. If you think that there are things we can do to make the challenge more accessible/comfortable for you, it is your responsibility to let us know, and we will then let you know if we can accommodate your request.

Medical Support

First Aid qualified staff will be provided with the medical details that you give on your booking form but please note that they are on the challenge to support with medical matters related to the challenge environment and terrain itself, i.e. heat/cold, high altitude and so on. They will deal with any incidents and accidents (cuts, sprains, breaks and so on). They are not intended to continue any ongoing specialist medical care that you receive in the UK for pre-existing medical conditions, and should not be assumed to have any professional experience of your specific medical condition.

If you have any specific needs around pre-existing medical conditions, you should discuss with your family doctor or specialist in advance and can discuss any advice given by them with the challenge leader..

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.

Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism. On this challenge in particular, we always liaise with the rangers at the Giant's Causeway 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 National Trust' who maintain the whole UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Giant's Causeway, including the excellent footpaths we will be walking on. The National Trust have an excellent website all about their work at the Giant's Causeway and we would recommend that you check this out before arriving for the challenge. Their website can be viewed [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? Not only will you be able to celebrate your achievements but you will also be putting more money back into the local area. For more information about accommodation and what else to do in the local area then please visit [Discover Northern Ireland](#).

For extra information, please visit our Responsible Tourism section.

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Any more questions?

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