



Autumn Fungi Forager Course

Pre~Course Information

Preparing your path to discovery...



THE COURSE SITE, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

The Course Site

This course will be conducted from an expedition style camp set amongst the beautiful English woodland of a large, private estate in East Sussex. It is a hidden gem and a wonderful example of ancient British woodland, containing staggering specimens of Oak, Beech and Yew trees. Being England's oldest deer park, it really does feel wild and it's not hard to see why some of the most eminent figures in British history chose to spend some of their leisure time here. Henry VIII hunted here on several occasions, as did, on one occasion, his daughter Elizabeth I, spending six days hunting in 1573.

With three species of deer, foxes, badgers, hares - not to mention the array of bird life it is blessed with, your time spent here is guaranteed to be an experience in itself.

Although there are public footpaths in some areas of the estate, it is little known and in general is very secluded.

Having met in Tunbridge Wells, driven in convoy to the estate and parked, we will walk 900 metres to the camping area where you will have space to set up your personal camp. This beautiful area is made up mainly of broadleaf deciduous trees with plenty of flat, level areas for you to set up a tent and more than enough trees to string a tarp or a hammock between.

As well as your own camping set-up, there will be a communal area which will be used both for lectures as well as coffee breaks. Here you will find a circle of logs for seating, a black board, a fire, a kettle and a brew box.

A thorough camp tour will be given on your arrival to help you familiarise and hygiene measures will be discussed.

Catering

This course is self-catering so you will need to bring enough food and a stove to cook on. If you prefer, you may light a small fire to cook over but it is very important that you ensure it does not spread and that you practice a 'leave no trace' mindset. Being outdoors without refrigeration in potentially warm weather, it is a good idea to either bring fresh food to use at the beginning before moving on to dehydrated rations or to bring a good quality cool box with plenty of ice which allows you to keep fresh food for longer. Please see the Woodlore self-catering food suggestions for some convenient camp cooking ideas.

For refreshments, the communal brew box is stocked with tea, coffee, milk, sugar, hot chocolate, fruit squash and biscuits.

You will be issued with your own jerry can at the start of the course with fresh drinking water, which can be refilled when needed.

Washing up bowls are also provided along with sponges and washing up liquid. Andy Handys and soap are provided for hand washing.

Latrines and Showering

You will be provided with your own toilet kit, including toilet roll, a lighter and hand gel for use at the latrine trench. This is a simple, tried and tested, hygienic method. You will be taught the best hygiene practices to ensure everyone is safe and to ensure that we preserve the sensitive spring water sourced from this very special course site.

If you would like to have a shower, we have a canvas bag shower in a private area and a bucket for heating water over the fire. You may find it useful to bring some flip flops or similar to avoid getting your feet dirty while showering.

Equipment

The following items will be provided by Woodlore for your use during the course:

Collecting Baskets

We will have baskets amongst the groups to collect and transport our gathered fungi.

Fungi collecting knife

A very useful tool with a knife to trim at one end and a brush to clean away the soil at the other.

Guides to fungi Identification

We will learn to use both keys and reference guides to aid in positively identifying our collections. A copy of An Initial Guide to the Identification of Mushrooms & Toadstools by Paul Nichol will be yours to take away at the end of the course.

We also have very well stocked first aid kits, fire extinguishers and fire blankets for your safety which are kept in our store tent on site. This is an expedition style camp so please take extra care when using sharp tools and take responsibility for any small cuts yourself. If you need medical attention or start to feel unwell during the course, please let the course leader or a member of the team know at the earliest opportunity.

Please note that the use of any cutting tool apart from a small pen knife or you own mushroom knife is not permitted on this course.

If you wish to use a mobile phone during the course, please consider the other members of the group and switch it on to silent mode.



CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

This clothing and equipment list is designed to help you decide which items to bring and to ensure that you have the best experience possible. Having the right kit will make your experience more enjoyable and enable you to focus more on learning.

In the past we have been asked by clients for help in sourcing certain items of clothing and equipment. This list therefore includes options stocked by Woodlore which have been tried and tested by Ray Mears and the Woodlore Team. There is of course no obligation to buy from us and we will be delighted to offer you advice and guidance to ensure your preparation goes smoothly. With this in mind, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us, even for the slightest query.

All items listed in red are essential for this course. All other items are just recommendations.

ITEM:	SUITABLE OPTION STOCKED BY WOODLORE:	✓
BASE LAYER What you wear next to the skin is of course dependent on the weather you are experiencing at the time. In midsummer it may only be necessary to wear a t-shirt, but if you are attending a course in spring or autumn it would be wise to bring something more substantial such as a woolen thermal layer. That way, you are prepared should there be a cold spell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Crowley Pique Shirt or • Swazi Micro Shirt or • Woodlore Organic Cotton T-Shirt - 40th Anniversary or • Woolpower Crewneck LITE with long sleeves or • Woolpower Ullfrotte Original Zip Turtleneck 200g 	
MID LAYER This should be sturdy, warm and comfortable. A pullover will suffice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.11 Tactical Long Sleeve Shirt or • Fjallraven Singi Trekking Shirt and • Fjallraven Abisko Trail Fleece or • Paramo Bentu Fleece Jacket or • Swannndri Ranger Wool Bushshirt or • Swazi The Hood 	
OUTER LAYER This should be waterproof and windproof. Mute, natural colours will increase your chances of observing wildlife closely.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swazi/Ray Mears AEGIS Tahr XP Anorak or • Paramo Halcon Jacket • Buffalo Systems Mountain Shirt 	
TROUSERS Lightweight, quick drying cotton trousers are best. Jeans are not suitable, being cold, restrictive and slow-drying.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Barents Pro Shorts or • Fjallraven Vidda Pro Regular Trousers 	
FOOTWEAR Footwear should be sturdy, give ankle support and have good grip. You will find it most useful to bring a lightweight pair of boots or trainers for dry conditions as well as a pair of waterproof boots in case the weather is bad. Another option, in the event of wet conditions is to wear waterproof/breathable socks inside your dry weather boots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanwag Tatra Top GTX Boots or • Rogue RB-2 Light Trail Boots and • Thorlos Socks or • SealSkinz Socks 	
SUN PROTECTION You may wish to bring a sun hat and sunscreen if you are easily sun burned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilley T3 Cotton Duck Hat 	
WOOLLEN HAT The temperature could drop suddenly at any time of year and combined with dampness, it can get rather chilly. A woollen hat can make all the difference to your comfort when sleeping outside or standing still for a while.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Ovik Flat Cap or • Possum Fur and Merino Wool Beanie Hat 	
WARM SLEEPING BAG Please ensure you bring an adequate sleeping bag. If you are purchasing a bag, go for one that is rated to be warmer than you think you need, you can always open it or use it as a duvet if it is too hot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Mears 3-Season Down Sleeping Bag – Black Bear or • Ray Mears 3-Season Sleeping Bag - Osprey or • Ray Mears 4-Season Down Sleeping Bag – Grizzly Bear or • Ray Mears 4-Season Sleeping Bag – Golden Eagle 	
LIGHTWEIGHT TENT OR SIMILAR SHELTER Please be mindful of what you bring with you as your home for your time on the course, bearing in mind the time of year. If you are bringing a bivvy bag, please make sure it is made from a breathable Gore-Tex or similar material. There are some fairly cost effective options available from army surplus stores.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hilleberg Tent or • MSR Tent or • Hilleberg Tarp XP 10 or • Fjallraven Abisko Tarp - Pine Green or • Ray Mears Tracker Tarp and • Snugpack Special Forces Bivvi Bag 	

INSULATING SLEEPING MAT You could have the warmest sleeping bag but without an insulative mat under you, you will feel the warmth being drawn away from you by the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Therm-A-Rest Mattress or • Multimat Superlite 25 Sleeping Mat 	
MUG & EATING UTENSILS Please bring suitable utensils for eating your meals and a mug for drinks. A good set up is to have a NATO crusader cup, which can be used for meals as well as drinks, and a spoon or spork for eating with. This is perfectly adequate and keeps things simple, but feel free to apply your own system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCB NATO Crusader Cup and • Optimus Titanium Folding Spork 	
MUSHROOM KNIFE If you already have a mushroom picking knife you can bring it with you but a knife will be provided for you if you do not have one.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Jewel Finnish Wilderness Mushroom Picking Knife 	
STOVE, FUEL & COOKING EQUIPMENT Please ensure you bring enough fuel with you for the duration of the course. You may light a small cooking fire if you are confident in your ability to manage it and tidy up thoroughly at the end of the course. Bear in mind that in poor weather it can take longer if relying on a fire so it may be a good idea to bring a stove as a backup.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littlbug Junior Camping Stove and • Trangia Spirit Burner and • Zebra Stainless Steel Billy Can or • Eagle Products Lavvu Set or • Ray Mears Folding Griddle 	
FOOD We will be static in one camp for the duration of this course so weight and bulk of food is not really a concern. Bear in mind when choosing what food to bring, that the weather could be very warm and there is no refrigeration available on our course site. Some people choose to bring a coolbox for storing their food, which works very well and also helps to keep your food protected from wildlife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expedition Foods - Chicken Korma with Rice (High Energy Serving) and • Expedition Foods - Spaghetti Bolognese (High Energy Serving) and • Expedition Foods - Couscous with Cajun Spices and Vegetables (High Energy Serving) and • Expedition Foods - Macaroni and Cheese (High Energy Serving) 	
WATER BOTTLE (1 litre) x2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osprey NATO Water Bottle 	
SMALL FIRST AID KIT AND PERSONAL MEDICATION Our staff will have swift access to first aid equipment at all times, but you will need to bring a small first aid kit including plasters and any personal medication, including headache tablets, reading glasses/contact lenses, inhalers etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Tom Tick Twister and • Uncle Bill's Sliver Gripper Tweezers 	
WASH KIT & TOWEL We provide hand washing facilities including Andy Handys and hand soap. Please bring your own towel with you and your own washing bowl if you wish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandpa's Pine Tar Body Wash or • Grandpa's Charcoal Soap or • Grandpa's Wonder Pine Tar Soap and • Nikwax Travel Towel – Trek Size 	
ALCOHOL HAND GEL Although we will provide plenty of hand washing facilities, it would be of great benefit to bring along your own alcohol hand gel for situations where you are away from hand washing areas.		
GOOD INSECT REPELLENT There have been ticks encountered on our course sites and a good repellent is the first and best line of defense against them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid Trek Repellent 	
WATCH You will be asked to meet at certain times for lectures or meals and we cannot wait for anyone who is not on time.		
WHISTLE A valuable tool should you become lost and an item of equipment you should have on you at all times during your stay with Woodlore.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox 40 Micro Whistle 	
WATERPROOF NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL There will be a lot of information to take away from the course and you may also like to record your experiences for future use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chartwell Watershed Waterproof Notebook or • Rite in the Rain Waterproof Notebook 146 	

<p>HEAD TORCH WITH FRESH BATTERIES & 2 SPARE SETS</p> <p>This is a very important but often forgotten piece of equipment. Under the cover of the trees it can get surprisingly dark and therefore it can not only be inconvenient to move around without light, but dangerous too. A head torch is the most convenient as it leaves your hands free for other jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petzl TACTIKKA Plus RGB Headtorch or • NITECORE HC65 V2 	
<p>DAY SACK</p> <p>During the course we will be walking a short distance from camp and you will need to carry a waterproof jacket, some lunch and a drink with you.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Singi 28 Backpack or • Fjallraven Singi Stubben - Dark Olive or • Karrimor SF Magni 25 Litre Rucksack or • Savotta Jääkäri S 18 - 22 litre Daypack 	
<p>RUCKSACK/HOLDALL to contain all of your kit</p> <p>A holdall is easier to live out of than a rucksack and as we will be static during the course, is probably the best option.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karrimor SF Sabre 45 litre Rucksack and • Karrimor SF Sabre Side Pockets or • Ray Mears Leaf Cutter Rucksack or • Savotta Keikka 50L or • Scottish Mountain Gear Holdall 	
<p>CAMERA</p> <p>There may well be opportunities to photograph wildlife during the course.</p>		

Please visit the Woodlore online shop at www.raymears.com

