



Carving Master Class with Ray Mears

Pre-Course Information

Preparing your path to discovery...



THE COURSE SITE, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

The Course Site

This course will be set amongst the beautiful surroundings of a large, privately owned scout site. Lying in the Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, it is easily accessible for those travelling from further afield while retaining its wonderful secluded feel. Although there are sometime scout events being conducted in the area, the vicinity we work in is very quiet and away from any such activity.

With two species of deer, including Fallow and Roe, along with foxes, badgers and many more species, your time spent here is guaranteed to be an experience in itself.

Once you have arrived, please wait until a member of the Woodlore team arrives to meet you at the arranged time and place. Once everyone is together we will walk the 500 metres to our camp. Details of the meeting location will be sent to you separately.

Ray will teach in a communal area which will also be used for lunch and coffee breaks. Here you will find a circle of logs for seating, a fire, a kettle and a brew box.

Catering

This day long course is self-catering so you will need to bring a packed lunch and some snacks for the day.

Woodlore will provide refreshments in a communal brew box which supplies tea, coffee, milk, sugar, hot chocolate, fruit squash and biscuits. We have a kettle over our campfire so hot water for drinks will always be available.

Fresh drinking water is also always available in our camp as we have a mains water supply running nearby. We use the taps to fill several jerry cans which are then distributed around the camp in convenient areas.

Two communal washing bowls are also provided along with soap and a nailbrush for washing your hands.

Toilets

We will have access to a toilet block for the duration of the course. This is located a short walk from where we will be situated and will be pointed out shortly after your arrival.

Equipment

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

Axe

You will be issued with a small axe made by Swedish axe maker Gransfors which will be the tool used most during the day. This will either be a [Small Forest Axe](#) or a similar sized model.

Spoon knife

To finish your project (usually a spoon) we will issue you with an [S.Djarv Hantverk Spoon Knife](#). This is a knife with a small curved blade used for creating depressions such as the bowl of a spoon.

Sharpening equipment

Oil stones will be provided so that you can keep your tools sharp. You will be taught how to use them correctly as part of the course.

We also have very well stocked first aid kits, fire extinguishers and fire blankets for your safety.

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:	✓
<p>BASE LAYER</p> <p>As the course will be running in early summer and carving is a physical activity, your base layer can be a thin item of clothing such as a t-shirt. If the weather is warm and dry it may only be necessary to wear this layer however you should come prepared with other layers in case of poor weather.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlore Organic Cotton T-Shirt 35th Anniversary or • Woolpower Ullfrotte Original Zip Turtleneck 200g and • Icebreaker Anatomica Boxers with Fly 	✓
<p>MID LAYER</p> <p>This should be a sturdy, warm and comfortable garment such as a fleece or woolen jumper. You should avoid anything overly loose or baggy which may interfere with your ability to carve effectively and safely.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Singi Trekking Shirt or • 5.11 Tactical Long Sleeve Shirt and • Swandri Ranger Wool Bushshirt 	
<p>OUTER LAYER</p> <p>This should be waterproof and windproof.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swazi/Ray Mears AEGIS Tahr XP Anorak or • Buffalo Systems Mountain Shirt or • Bergans Super Lett Jacket 	
<p>TROUSERS</p> <p>Lightweight, quick drying cotton trousers are best. Jeans are not suitable, being cold, restrictive and slow-drying.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Vidda Pro Regular Trousers or • Fjallraven Barents Pro Shorts 	
<p>FOOTWEAR</p> <p>Footwear should have good grip and must give protection to your feet from possible cuts. Open footwear that leaves your feet exposed is not suitable as we will be using axes and moving pieces of wood around.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanwag Tatra Top GTX Boots or • Rogue RB-2 Light Trail Boots and • Thorlos Socks 	
<p>MUG & SPOON</p> <p>Bring a mug and a spoon for drinks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCB NATO Crusader Cup and • Esbite Titanium Folding Spoon 	
<p>PACKED LUNCH</p> <p>Bring plenty of snacks with you, carving is hungry work! We will provide a brew box with tea, coffee, sugar, fruit squash etc. We will also provide fresh drinking water and a kettle which we can hang over the fire for hot drinks.</p>		
<p>SMALL FIRST AID KIT AND PERSONAL MEDICATION</p> <p>Our staff are highly trained and have immediate access to first aid equipment at all times, but you should bring a small first aid kit including plasters and any personal medication, including headache tablets, reading glasses/contact lenses, inhalers etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Tom Tick Twister and • Uncle Bill's Sliver Gripper Tweezers 	
<p>GOOD INSECT REPELLENT</p> <p>There have been ticks encountered on our course sites and a good repellent is useful.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid Trek Repellent 	

<p>WATERPROOF NOTEBOOK AND PENCIL</p> <p>There will be a lot of information to take away from the day and you may like to record your experiences for future use. Having a pencil is also useful for drawing what you intend to make before you start.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chartwell Watershed Waterproof Notebook or • Rite in the Rain Tactical Binder Kit 	
<p>FOLDING SAW</p> <p>Please ensure your saw blade is sharp and cuts efficiently.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahco Laplander Folding Saw 	
<p>BUSHCRAFT KNIFE</p> <p>Your knife must have a fixed blade, be strong and not too big. A blade length of roughly 10cm (palm width) is plenty for the jobs we need to accomplish. If possible, make sure your knife is sharp when you arrive at the course. We will be demonstrating how to sharpen your tools so if you are unsure and your tools are blunt then we will sort them out on the day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morakniv Companion Heavy Duty MG Knife 	
<p>AXE (if you already have one)</p> <p>If you have your own axe and would like to bring it then please feel free. Please bear in mind the size of your axe; you should be able to use it comfortably with one hand without it causing any strain. Your axe should also be sharp. The measurement from your elbow to your fingertips is a good rough guide for a suitable length of axe. We will have axes available for you to borrow if you do not own one.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gransfors Bruks Small Forest Axe or • Gransfors Bruks Ray Mears Wilderness Axe or • Gransfors Bruks Wildlife Hatchet 	
<p>DAY SACK</p> <p>We will be static for the day so you will only have to carry your kit a few hundred yards at the beginning and end of the day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karrimor SF Sabre Delta 25 litre Rucksack 	
<p>SUN HAT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilley T3 Cotton Duck Hat 	

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