



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 150 acres of beautiful, mixed English woodland in East Sussex. Privately owned and with two species of deer, along with foxes, badgers, hares, a variety of bird life and no public rights of way, it is very secluded and your time spent here is guaranteed to be an experience in itself.

Having met at a separate location close by, we will drive in convoy to the property where we can park. We will then walk approximately 100 metres to our camp. Details of the meeting location will be sent to you separately.

Ray will teach in a central area around which you will find areas set up for you to use for the day. A thorough camp tour will be given on your arrival to help you familiarise and all social distancing and any hygiene measures will be discussed.

Catering

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

Woodlore will provide individual jerry cans of fresh drinking water. Hand wand wash points will be located conveniently around camp.

For refreshments, the communal brew box is stocked with tea, coffee, milk, sugar, fruit squash etc. and a kettle is provided

Toilets

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.

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 which are kept in our store tent on site. We would be grateful if you could take extra care when using sharp tools and take responsibility for any small cuts yourself. However, 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.

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 As the course will be running in 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 or • Woolpower Crewneck LITE with long sleeves or • Woolpower Ullfrotte Original Zip Turtleneck 200g and • Icebreaker Anatomica Boxers 	
<p>MID LAYER This should be a sturdy, warm and comfortable garment such as a fleece or woollen 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 • Swanndri Ranger Wool Bushshirt 	
<p>OUTER LAYER 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 • Fjallraven Keb Eco-Shell Jacket 	
<p>TROUSERS 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>KNEE PADS If your trousers have a pocket for kneepads then these will be an additional benefit on this course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Knee Pads 	
<p>SUN PROTECTION You may wish to bring a sun hat and sun screen if you are easily sun burned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilley T3 Cotton Duck Hat 	
<p>MUG & SPOON Bring a mug and a spoon for drinks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCB NATO Crusader Cup and • Optimus Titanium Folding Spork 	
<p>PACKED LUNCH 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 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 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 Waterproof Notebook 146 	
<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 Magni 25 Litre Rucksack or • Savotta Jääkäri S 18 - 22 litre Daypack 	

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

