



Carving Master Class with Ray Mears

Pre-Course Information

Preparing your path to discovery...



THE COURSE SITE, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

The Landscape

This course is 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 time here. Henry VIII hunted here on several occasions, and Elizabeth I spent six days hunting here in 1573.

With three species of deer, foxes, badgers and 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.

Arriving at the Course Site

From the meeting point we will drive in convoy to the estate where you will be able to park your vehicle. The walk to the area where the class is held is about 900 metres.

A thorough tour of the camp will be given to help you familiarize yourself with the area and hygiene facilities and measures will be discussed.

Ray will teach in a central area around which you will find areas set up for you to use for the day.

Food and Drink

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 jerry cans of fresh drinking water. For refreshments, the communal brew box is well stocked with tea, coffee, milk, sugar, hot chocolate and fruit squash.

Latrine & Hygiene Facilities

A 'toilet kit' consisting of toilet roll, a lighter (to burn paper) and sanitising hand gel is provided in a container for use at the latrine trench which is away from the main camp area. This is simple, tried and tested, hygienic and convenient. Andy Handy water dispensers and soap are provided for hand washing in the main camp area. Best hygiene practices will be discussed to protect everyone's health.

First Aid and Safety

This is an expedition style camp so please 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. We have well stocked first aid kits, fire extinguishers and fire blankets on site for your safety.

Phones and Photos

If you wish to use a mobile phone during the course, please consider the other members of the group and switch it to silent mode. If you would like to take photos on your course, again, please be considerate of other participants and don't forget to share them with us!

Equipment Provided for You

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.



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.

This list 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.

| CLOTHING | SUITABLE OPTION STOCKED BY WOODLORE: | ✓ |
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| <p>BASE LAYER</p> <p>As the course will be running in spring 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"> • Swazi Micro Shirt • Woodlore Organic Cotton T-Shirt • Woolpower Crewneck LITE with long sleeves • Woolpower Ullfrotte Original Zip Turtleneck 200g | |
| <p>MID LAYER</p> <p>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"> • 5.11 Taclite Pro Long Sleeve Shirt • Fjallraven Singi Trekking Shirt • Paramo Bentu Fleece Jacket • Swannndri Ranger Wool Bushshirt • Swazi The Hood | |
| <p>OUTER LAYER</p> <p>This should be waterproof and windproof.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffalo Systems Mountain Shirt • Keela Tactical Mk5.0 Jacket • Fjallraven Vardag Hydratic Anorak • Swazi Tahr XP Anorak | |
| <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 Barents Pro Shorts • Fjallraven Vidda Pro Trousers - Improved Fit | |
| <p>FOOTWEAR</p> <p>Footwear should be sturdy, offer ankle support and have good grip. Ideally lightweight boots for dry conditions or waterproof boots if the weather is wet. Waterproof, breathable socks can be particularly useful.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanwag Tatra Top GTX Boots • Hanwag Banks GTX Boots • SealSkinz Socks • Thorlos Socks | |
| <p>HEADWEAR</p> <p>You may wish to bring a hat to keep you warm or to protect you from the sun depending on the weather.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tilley T3 Cotton Duck Hat • Noble Wilde Beanie • Swannndri Swanni Wool Baseball Cap | |
| FOOD & WATER | | |
| <p>MUG & SPOON</p> <p>Bring a mug and a spoon for drinks.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCB NATO Crusader Cup • Optimus Titanium Folding Spork | |
| <p>PACKED LUNCH</p> <p>Bring a packed lunch and 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 to heat water over the fire for hot drinks.</p> | | |
| HYGIENE & PERSONAL CARE | | |
| <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 • Uncle Bill's Sliver Gripper Tweezers | |
| <p>GOOD INSECT REPELLENT</p> <p>There have been ticks encountered on our course sites & a good repellent is the first and best line of defense against them.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyramid Trek Repellent • Wilma's Nordic Summer | |

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| TOOLS | | |
| <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 Ray Mears Wilderness Axe • Gransfors Bruks Small Forest Axe • Gransfors Bruks Wildlife Hatchet | |
| OTHER ITEMS | | |
| <p>DAY SACK</p> <p>We will be static for the day so you will only have to carry your kit to and from the course site at the beginning and end of the day.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fjallraven Singi 28 Backpack • Karrimor SF Magni 25 Litre Rucksack • Savotta Jääkäri S 18 - 22 litre Daypack | |
| <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 • Rite in the Rain Waterproof Notebook 146 | |
| <p>KNEE PADS</p> <p>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 | |

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

Or visit our physical shop at:

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