

Shrewsbury Ramblers – Coach Trip Guidelines

Background.

The recent walk leaders event revealed an appetite for more coach trips to be organized. In order to encourage existing walk leaders to contribute to walks in other areas, it is felt that a set of guidelines for the planning and execution of these events would encourage more walk leaders to come forward.

Planning Principles.

When planning a coach trip, leaders need basically to consider the length and grade of the walk which in turn will determine the departure and return times.

The aim of organising a coach is to offer members an opportunity to walk in areas that are deemed too far for normal car travel and to do linear walks.

In order to meet the cost of travel the walk on offer needs to appeal to enough members and thereby keep fares to a reasonable level. Whilst the aim is for each trip to be self-sufficient, where there is a surplus or deficit arising from a single trip, this will be carried forward into the Group's Self-funding Account to be deployed accordingly in subsequent events.

Proposed Guidelines to be Adopted.

1. It is assumed that only the existing established walk leaders will have the required skill-set to lead a walk outside the normal walking territory.
2. It is recommended that the *maximum* walking grade will be moderate +, with the longest walk taking about 5 hrs to complete and with a maximum distance of around 10miles. These recommendations are made in order to ensure a viable number of Ramblers going on a coach trip.
3. It is recommended that the minimum travel distance to justify a coach trip shall be circa 45 miles whilst the maximum travel distance is approx. 2hrs or circa 72 miles radius (to avoid arriving back after 6:30pm)
4. The standard departure time will be 8:00am whilst the latest planned arrival time back in Shrewsbury will normally be circa 6:30pm.
5. It is assumed that a calculation will be made taking into account walking time and travel time to give walkers an idea of the approximate time of return to Shrewsbury. (see example overleaf)
6. Technical support for route planning for the walk leader will be provided by the Tuesday walk co-ordinator if required. Logistical assistance with coach arrangements will also be available from the events co-ordinator.
7. Up to two Ramblers will be allowed free coach travel as recompense for costs incurred during the walk recce. It is assumed that this payment will go to the walk leader and the backmarker. It is expected that the backmarker will also be familiar with the walk route.
8. The cost per head calculation based on coach price is the responsibility of events co-ordinator and treasurer. If the coach is not full with one month to go, the trip may be offered to other groups within Shropshire. This process is the responsibility of the events co-ordinator

Useful Information

- A rough guide to coach/minibus travel time can be achieved by dividing the distance to the start of the location by 1.91 minutes per mile – (Average coach speed)
- For planning purposes, it is assumed that an average sustainable walking speed will be 2.5 miles per hour. It is also assumed that 10 minutes will be added for every 100 metres of ascent.

Detailed Planning Example.

Walk from Castleton, Derbyshire 9.5 miles Moderate + 600m of ascent

Distance to Castleton = 71 miles x 1.91 minutes per mile (approx. coach travel speed) = 2hrs 15 mins

Walk Time based on recce 5hrs 20 mins (including 30 mins coffee stop and lunch)

Based on the depart time of 8:00 am from Shrewsbury, the arrival time at the destination will be around. 10:15am.

Allowing for embarking coach and putting boots on etc, the walk would commence at approx. 10:30am

Based on the recce, the walk would finish at 3:50pm (10:30am plus 5hrs 20mins)

Allowing for getting boots off and loading coach, we could assume the coach sets off around 4:05pm.

Based on the departure time, the arrival time back at Shrewsbury would be circa 6:20pm (4:05pm plus 2hrs 15mins travel time)

Using this example, the walk leader would give an estimated arrival time back at Shrewsbury of 6:30pm

NB: The above example is simply for illustration. Actual coach trips will vary according to location, mileage, grade, terrain and travel distance from Shrewsbury.