

Hagg Farm Activity Summary for Visit Leaders

The list below outlines the activities available for groups staying at Hagg Farm either in the main centre or the John Hunt Base. Some of the activities can be self led by visiting staff using the session plans and resources that we provide whilst others are instructor led only.

ABSEILING (off site) – instructor led



Abseiling is a great way to challenge yourself with a controlled descent from a crag, bridge or even our climbing tower. We choose from a range of great abseil venues. The height of the abseil can vary from relatively small to a monster 30 metres at Millers Dale Bridge. Each person will usually get a couple of descents and tandem abseils are possible which offer the chance for more nervous abseilers to descend with a member of staff or a more confident friend. Abseiling can also be combined with rock climbing or the climbing tower.

ANIMAL TRAIL (on site) - usually self led



The Animal Trail is an introductory orienteering activity that is popular with younger primary school groups and sometimes special schools bringing students with learning difficulties. Students use a simple map to find a set of carved wooden animals along the tarmac drive and into the woods on a good track. Can be combined with environmental art. The Animal Trail is accessible to sturdy wheelchairs and begins just outside the centre buildings.

CANOEING (off site) – instructor led



Open canoes at Hagg Farm offer groups the opportunity to get-afloat and have lots of fun whilst developing co-operation and learning new skills. Boats will carry two or three paddlers and can be rafted up. Expect to be playing plenty of games, learn how to control the boat and possibly get wet!

Done as a half or full day activity.

CAVING (off site) – instructor led



Derbyshire has some fantastic limestone caves and abandoned lead mines that can be explored as part of your visit to Hagg Farm. Caves like Carlswark Cavern at Stoney Middleton and Giants Hole near Castleton offer a great opportunity to descend into the darkness to learn about the cave environment and possibly try some tricky squeezes (which are optional!). We will choose a cave trip that is appropriate for the group. Some caves offer mainly walking passage without any need for crawling, squeezes etc. For anyone nervous about caving there are bound to be others in the party who will lend a helping hand and caving can be a really fun and enjoyable half day or full day activity.

Some special schools want to give students the experience of caving in a more accessible environment and tours can be organised to excellent show caves in the area. The landowners who own two of the caves that we sometimes visit charge a trespass fee (£2 or £3 per person) and this would need to be paid by the group. There is no charge for Carlswark Cavern which is the most commonly used cave.



CLIMBING TOWER (on site) – instructor led

The Climbing Tower is in the woods adjacent to Hagg Farm and is a great place to learn the ropes with climbing and belaying. There are four faces ranging from easier to overhanging and a number of different routes to climb. Careful belaying is an important part of climbing and groups are typically taught to belay and will belay each other with supervision. Often combined with the indoor climbing wall as a half day climbing activity.



CONSERVATION (on or off site) - usually self led (leader will need First Aid qualification if off site)

Various conservation activities are possible at Hagg Farm and are often based in our nature garden behind the centre buildings. The nature garden provides a variety of habitats and typical activities include building habitat piles, nest boxes, path weeding, bracken clearing. Conservation sessions can be organised with the Peak District National Park Ranger Service who lead sessions off-site which often include rhododendron clearing in the Upper Derwent Valley.



CYCLING (off site) - usually self led (leader will need First Aid qualification)

Bikes are available for hire at the Peak District National Park Ranger Service Cycle Hire centre at Fairholmes in the Upper Derwent Valley. Some groups arrange a half day cycling around the Ladybower, Derwent and Howden reservoirs on minor road and good tracks. Important to arrange this well in advance to ensure that enough cycles are available.



ENVIRONMENTAL ART (on site) - usually self led

Art in the environment makes a really nice change as part of a packed week of activity at Hagg Farm. Making artwork with natural resources can be great fun and we have a set of resources that can be used as inspiration.

Often combined with shelter building as a half day activity.



FIRE PIT (on site) – usually self led

The fire pit and the rustic seats around it are tucked away in a quiet corner of the the nature garden. There is seating for around twenty and toasting marshmallows and popping popcorn are fantastic things to do; especially popular as an evening activity. Information is available on managing the safety of groups around the fire pit. We ask that groups either bring logs with them or forage for ground-fall timber from the woods nearby.



GEOCACHING (on site) – usually self led

Geocaching is a modern take on a treasure hunt. Geocaches are hidden around the site and teams use a GPS receiver (like a car sat nav but used by people in the outdoors) to navigate to these geocaches. Once there they answer various questions which might have a maths or a geography slant. Geocaching at Hagg Farm is done as a whole group challenge and the group have to divide the tasks up between them and everyone has to play their part for success.



INDOOR CLIMBING WALL (on site) – instructor led

The indoor climbing wall has been recently refurbished (March 2015) and is an all-weather climbing facility with a number of challenging climbing routes.

Often combined with the Climbing Tower in a half day climbing activity.



JACOBS LADDER (on site) – instructor led

Teams of four scale the six metre Jacobs Ladder at Hagg Farm. Requires co-operation, imagination, teamwork and problem-solving skills. Group members belay each other which promotes responsibility and co-operation in the group.

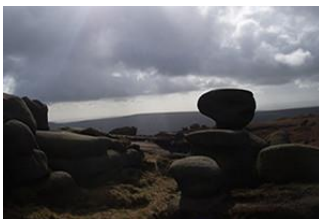
Often combined with the zipwire to give a great half day activity.



LOCAL WALK (off site) – instructor or self led (leader will need First Aid qualification if self led)

Hagg Farm's position close to the Upper Derwent Valley means that we have some great walks which head over in that direction. The two most popular walks that groups do from Hagg Farm are the Fairholmes Walk over to the visitor centre at Fairholmes (for an ice cream?) and the Rowlee Circuit walk which is shorter. Ladybower, Derwent and Howden reservoirs provide a great focus for a walk and there's plenty of history to see and discuss on the way.

Both typically done as a half day activity.



HILLWALKING (off site) – instructor led

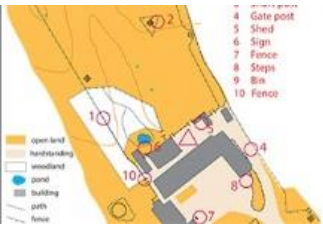
Hagg Farm is situated in the Woodlands Valley between Kinder Scout and Bleaklow. With great access to some of the best hillwalking in the High Peak our instructors are available to lead a half day or full day walk. Guests are kitted out with walking boots, waterproofs and rucksacks and we will choose a walk based on your preferences and the weather forecast. The High Peak is best known for the weird rock shapes on the high plateau and fantastic views.



NIGHTLINE (on site) – self led

The Nightline is a fun activity located in the woods adjacent to Hagg Farm. A long trail of rope stretches between trees and the task is to follow the Nightline to the end. The task is often done in pairs with one blindfolded and the other guiding them around. Often done as an evening activity and great for encouraging co-operation.

ORIENTEERING (on site) – usually self led



Orienteering is an adventurous sport that takes place in the open land and woods around Hagg Farm. An orienteering course is marked on a map and orienteers need to choose the fastest route between the points. When done as a pairs exercise participants will need to work closely together to make decisions about the fastest route and interpret the map together. Orienteering provides a great introduction to map reading for young people. We have nine different orienteering courses at Hagg Farm from basic to advanced so there is plenty of opportunity for progression.

Often combined with shelter building as a half activity for younger (e.g. primary age) groups and a full half day for older groups who will move onto the more difficult courses.

POND STUDY (on site) – usually self led



Learn about pond life by investigating the creatures to be found in the pond in the Hagg Farm nature garden. We have a comprehensive set of equipment for the study of pond life and groups often find newts, beetles and all sorts of other creatures. Identification cards are provided and offers a great way to get close up to the natural world.

PROBLEM SOLVING (on site) – usually self led



We have a range of fun and challenging problem solving/team game activities at Hagg Farm which offer a great way to explore themes of co-operation, trust and team roles. These include Stepping Stones, Rollerball, On-and-Off-the-Rails, the famously aqueous Holy Pipe. Groups often circulate around a round robin of four or five different activities on the first afternoon or can be used anywhere during your stay. Briefs and equipment available for all the problem solving activities.

ROCK CLIMBING (off site) – instructor led



The gritstone edges of the Peak District are a great place to have a go at rock climbing and places like Stanage and Burbage have a wide selection of appropriate rock climbs. They are nice and short so are good for confidence building and learning new skills like belaying. Can be done as a half day or full day session. Is weather-dependent so will usually have caving, rock hopping or stream scrambling as back-up options if raining heavily.

ROCK HOPPING (off site) – instructor led



Rock hopping is an adventure activity that combines scrambling, climbing and cave-type squeezes all above ground. We normally visit Higgarr Tor which has lovely views across the Burbage Valley and an endless set of rocky challenges. A fantastic activity for developing team work and confidence. The wide range of different challenges means that there will be something appropriate for everyone.



SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE (on site) – usually self led

The Search and Rescue exercise activity teaches young people about the mountain rescue organisations and is an opportunity for them to take part in a search around Hagg Farm. Groups are equipped with portable radios and must work together to search for an injured casualty (cuddly toy). An ex-mountain rescue stretcher is available so that the group can experience what it's like to carry an injured person off the hill.



SHELTER BUILDING (on site) – self led

Shelter building is a really popular activity that takes place in the woods adjacent to Hagg Farm. Groups typically sit down and discuss their shelter designs before getting on with constructing a (hopefully!) watertight shelter using materials found in the woods. We encourage staff to test the shelters with a bucket of water at the end of the session (with the proud, or not-so-proud, builders inside!)



SPIDER'S WEB (on site) – self led

The Spiders Web is a problem solving activity based in the woods close to Hagg Farm. The group must get everyone through the spiders web without touching it and will potentially have to carefully lift each other through. Needs plenty of team work, co-operation and a bit of planning.



STREAM SCRAMBLING (off site) – instructor led

Stream scrambling is a half day activity which involves a fun and wet trip exploring a local gorge. Cascades, pools, climbs and, depending on where we go, there might be a plunge pool to jump into at the end.