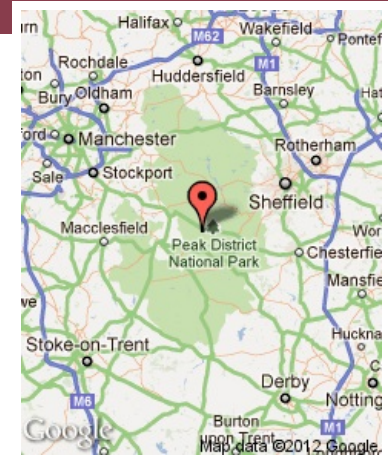


Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level



Highlights

A great Peak District tour for those interested in navigation, map and compass training. Tired of guide books with sloppy route notes and cryptic maps? Fancy being able to plot your own course o'er vales and hills? This map and compass training course in the Peak District will introduce you to the basic skills needed for safe and effective independent navigation.

The Peak District is the second most-visited National Park in the world (Japan's Mount Fuji National Park is the first), and for good reason. With rolling, rounded hills, densely wooded valleys and patchwork farmlands, this is a quintessentially British landscape. Yet look closer and you'll discover the true diversity of the Peaks; gritstone escarpments, heather moorland, blanket peat bogs and lead rakes are just some of the unusual topographies. Scattered across the region are many iconic human-made embellishments, from Iron Age forts to towering viaducts, limestone cottages to ancient churches. All this makes for some fantastic walking, not to mention cycling, climbing, caving, canoeing, etc..!

This three-day map and compass training course, run in accordance with the National Navigation Award Scheme, is an ideal introduction to the art of navigation. Based in the pretty village of Tideswell with its famous Church of St John the Baptist (the "Cathedral of the Peak"), training is divided between 'theory' sessions at The Anchor Inn, a 15th century coach house with roaring fire, wood panelling, cockle-warming menu and so on, and practical exercises out in the hills. The former cover basic map and compass skills, such as understanding scale, calculating grid references, locating the three norths and deciphering the various OS symbols (how else will you know the difference between a windmill and a wind generator?!) Once you've got to grip with those, it's out into the field(s) to practise what you've learnt. Working in small groups, you'll try your hand at linear and point-to-point navigation, which will make use of your newfound talents in 'setting the map' (orienting it with the compass and landscape features), taking bearings and gauging distances. These genuinely fun (and sometimes hilarious) practical sessions will soon have you looking afresh at the landscape as a realm of myriad possibilities and endless adventure. Not bad for a weekend away! We sent journalist Dixie Wills on the course, read his [detailed review here](#).

Is it for me?

These courses are aimed primarily at walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts who have outgrown guide books and are after a greater degree of freedom in their walking. You don't need to have had any prior experience to take part as everything will be explained from scratch, be it gauging distances, taking bearings or reading contours. As long as you're fairly attentive, have a genuine interest in learning about navigation and are fit and healthy there's no reason why you won't really enjoy this course. And once you've completed Bronze, there's always Silver and Gold to try! As they say, "a journey of a thousand miles..."

Accommodation

Food and accommodation aren't included on this map and compass training course, but Tideswell and the surrounding area abound with choices for both. In Tideswell itself there's the four-star Jaret House Bed and Breakfast and the friendly George Hotel with its cosy bar and decent pub food, while on the outskirts of the village near Little Hucklow there's a campsite. There's also an excellent youth hostel nearby; YHA Ravenstor is

Prices from

115 GBP (2 days) per person

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a National Trust Property set in 70 acres of beautiful grounds - possibly the most picturesque hostel in Britain!
On the food front there are plenty of options, from no nonsense pub fare to fine dining at some of the more upmarket hotels. While you're in the region be sure to try some of the local specialities like Bakewell pudding, Stilton and various ciders and ales.

[Visit Tideswell Website](#)

Ashleigh Bed & Breakfast

Contact: Linda Brown

Ashleigh, Litton, Nr Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8QU

T: 01298 873135

E: peterbrown459@hotmail.com

W: No website

Cottage with private facilities, separate entrance and off road parking.

Poppies Bed and Breakfast

Contact: David & Val Pinnegar

Bank Square, Tideswell, Buxton, SK17 8LA.

T: 01298 871083

E: david.pinnegar@hotmail.com

W: www.poppiesbandb.co.uk

Comfortable friendly accommodation. Homemade and/or locally sourced food served

Greystones Bed & Breakfast

Contact: Julia & Ray Walker

Sunny Bank Lane, Tideswell, Derbyshire, SK17 8JY

T: 01298 871591

E: none

W: No website

Comfortable accommodation, tea/coffee plus TV in bedrooms. Close to Amenities

Bankfield Stable Bed & Breakfast

Contact: Diane Stevens

Buxton Road, Tideswell, Derbyshire, SK17 8PG

T: 01298 872656

E: bankfieldstable@tiscali.co.uk

W: www.bankfieldstable.co.uk

New build with all modern amenities. Separate from main house. Double bed accommodation only

Rockingham Lodge Bed and Breakfast

Contact: Nick & Gill Brelsford

Market Square, Tideswell, SK17 8LQ.

T: 01298 871684

E: bookings@rockinghamlodge.co.uk

W: www.rockinghamlodge.co.uk

Informal, friendly welcome in a characterful eighteenth century former inn

Beacon House Bed and Breakfast

Contact: Janet Parsons

Mires Lane, Litton, Nr Buxton, Buxton. SK17 8QP.

T: 01298 871752

E: rjp1949@hotmail.co.uk

W: www.beaconhse.co.uk

Magnificent scenery all around, overlooking Cressbrook Dale conservation area

Merman Barn Bed and Breakfast

Contact: Linda & Andrew Read

Alma Road, Tideswell, Buxton. SK17 8LS.

T: 01298 872033

M: 07974 788013

E: mermanbarn@yahoo.co.uk

W: www.mermanbarn.co.uk

Comfortable B&B with 3 en suite rooms, private lounge, garden and parking

The George Hotel

Contact: Simon & Helen Easter

Commercial Road, Tideswell, SK17.

T: 01298 871382

E: simon@tght.co.uk

W: www.tght.co.uk

Friendly welcome and great food in this characterful old coaching inn

Hall Farm House Bed & Breakfast

Contact: Annete Scott

Litton Nr Buxton, Derbyshire

T: 01298 872172

E: jfscott@waitrose.com

W: www.users.waitrose.com/~jfsco

Spacious traditional farmhouse, central village location for touring

Cressbrook Hall B&B

Contact: Bobby Hull-Bailey

Cressbrook Hall, Cressbrook, Buxton, SK17 8SY.

T: 01298 871289

E: stay@cressbrookhall.co.uk

W: www.cressbrookhall.co.uk

Idyllic location, spectacular views around the compass, elegant interiors.

Itinerary

The Bronze Navigation Course is a weekend course and will broadly follow the structure below.

Friday Evening: This first session will introduce the basic skills of map and compass work. This will set course members up for tomorrow's practical day outside. Areas you'll cover will include map scales, map symbols, rights of way, footpaths and access land, understanding contours, grid references and the three norths.

Saturday: You'll spend all day outside, in small groups, on a series of practical exercises designed to get you using your map properly. Areas that will be covered include map detail, timing, pacing, ticking off, setting maps, linear navigation etc.

Saturday Evening: After a short feedback session, you'll learn about route cards before being introduced to compasses and taking bearings.

Sunday: Another practical day consolidating the skills learnt yesterday. You'll also spend time with the compass, taking bearings on the map and following them on the ground and simple point-to-point navigation. The weekend will finish at roughly 4 pm.

Details

Getting there

Tideswell is centrally placed in the UK and accessible by rail (nearest station Hope) or road.

Price includes

Tuition included. Accommodation, meals and transfers not included.

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

Walking kit to suit the time of year, Dark and White Peak map if available and your compass, sense of humour and a willingness to enjoy yourself.

Reviews (6)

Reviews of this experience

“ An excellent introduction to map reading and using a compass which has given me the confidence to plan my own routes. ”

Christine Conboy reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level

“ We very much enjoyed the course run by Pete Hawkins. The two instructors were thorough and patient (very important in my case) and our confidence visibly grew as the weekend progressed. We were very pleased at the end to receive the bronze award and look forward to the next level. ”

Pauline reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level

“ Thanks very much. Everything was of a high standard and we really enjoyed our weekend. Peter Hawkins was a fantastic leader. ”

EmmaW reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level

“ I would rate the course 5 out of 5. We both had an excellent time and we learnt a lot, probably a bit more than we both expected. ”

First, it was an excellent walking weekend as we got to do some lovely walks in the Tideswell area. Second, we both had the opportunity to learn and then practice what we had learnt so I genuinely feel that I got my money's worth out of the course. And third, Pete was an excellent instructor.

I would thoroughly recommend it to other would be orienteers and friends. ”

EmilyJM reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level

“ The Silva bronze Navigation weekend was a wonderful opportunity to mix with like-minded strangers who had missed out on learning about map reading and navigating earlier in life. The first evening was spent at The Anchor being introduced to the basics of map reading in preparation for Saturday's 7 hour walk in the lovely Derbyshire countryside with ample opportunity to practice navigating from point to point using map and compass. After many years of cursorily scanning OS maps it was only under Pete's expert guidance that they began to release their hidden store of information to make navigating both challenging and fun. The second day proved even more of a challenge having woken up to a 6 inch covering of snow obscuring many of the features that were to be the object of Sunday's attention. Unfazed, we set off for a long snowy walk putting our new skills to the test in conditions that we will meet again unless we become fair-weather walkers, which I doubt. Throughout the weekend Pete proved to be good host and the arrangements for the evening meals at The Anchor met everyone's approval. The B&B Jaret House was comfortable and I will never forget the wonderful packed lunches provided by Pete's lovely wife. The weekend Navigation course could not be more highly recommended and is well deserving of five out of five. ”

RichardS reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level

“ The course was really good, Pete was very friendly and made it much less daunting -particularly when you go on your own. He gave lots of encouragement but also challenged you. Village and the b & b I stayed in also seemed very friendly. I liked the way we had evening sessions in the pub as you had the option of being sociable if you want and it helped the group to bond.

all in all would recommend it ”

rebecca reviewing Silva Map and Compass Courses - Bronze level