

## AVEBURY TO STONEHENGE TREKATHON

### United Kingdom – Wiltshire

*This is an Open Trekathon; you can take part on the date shown and raise money for a charity of your choice. Itineraries for bespoke trips (run for sole charities) may differ slightly, and will have different dates and pricing schedules.*

**Duration:** 1 day

**Trip Grade:** Tough

**Date:** Saturday 2 July 2011

<b>Cost:</b>	<b>2011</b>
Trip Cost	£49
Suggested Minimum Fundraising Target for your chosen charity*	£100

\*Choosing to do the Trekathon as a fundraising challenge is entirely at your discretion. We have recommended a fundraising target but you are free to raise any amount. This is to be sent direct to your chosen charity; we do not handle sponsorship monies.

**A diverse trek over marathon distance, going back through 6000 years of British history!**

**The magnificent prehistoric stone circles of Avebury and Stonehenge need little introduction. We start in atmospheric Avebury, where we can get up close to the ancient stones before heading towards the famous ancient landmark of Silbury Hill.**

**We cross spectacular chalk downs dotted with ancient earth-works, burial mounds and enigmatic white horses carved into the chalk. Our route takes in the highest point in Wiltshire (295m) and goes**



**through the most active crop circle area in the world, so keep your eyes peeled!**

**Crossing into MOD land, we walk through beautiful areas little-used by the general public and a haven for wildlife and plants. After a long day of beautiful views and leg-stretching hills, we reach our destination: Stonehenge, the most famous stone circle in the world!**

**This is a tough event over the high chalk downs and ridgeways of Wiltshire and Salisbury Plain. At 26 miles, it forms an enormous challenge for walkers; you can run or jog if you prefer. There is also a half-distance option.**

**There will be full support throughout the challenge with marshals and water stops along the route.**

### ITINERARY

Our challenging day starts at Avebury, which lies at the centre of one of the greatest surviving concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in Western Europe. It is a unique landscape of stone circles, barrows and ancient avenues.

An early start is essential to complete the distance; we'll enjoy Avebury's magic in the quiet of the early morning before heading over the hill towards the mysterious landmark of Silbury Hill. Silbury is the tallest man-made mound in Europe and is a very impressive sight; its purpose however is still unknown.

Skirting a prehistoric long-barrow, we climb steeply up onto a ridge and follow this through beautiful countryside.

We'll get up close to one of the white horses that make this area of chalk downland famous, but in clear weather you are able to see more as views of other valleys open up to us. This area is also acknowledged by enthusiasts as the world centre of crop circle activity; looking out for them will take your mind off your leg muscles as we traverse the hills and ridges!

Dropping down into the village of Alton Barnes, we follow the Kennet & Avon canal east on a welcome section of flat land dotted with farms and hedgerows. Heading south, it's not long before we reach our half-way point close to the River Avon.

From here we head south and join the White Horse trail to the Pewsey White Horse from where we have fabulous views of the surrounding chalk landscape.

We continue south along good tracks with the Avon Valley to our east and the large expanse of the MOD training area to our west. We have permission to cross this land which is a great experience and quite unique. This region of Salisbury Plain is used very little by walkers, and we can enjoy the flora and fauna that has been protected for decades from traffic and development.



Our route continues to undulate but the main hills are behind us and we start to anticipate the finish line at the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge! A short section of quiet road is a sign that we are nearing civilisation, and before long the world-renowned ancient circle of stones looms on the horizon before us.

There is time to celebrate with your fellow participants before returning home.

**Total distance: 26 miles / 42 km**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Tour Cost includes:

- Experienced Discover Adventure leaders and support staff throughout to manage the event safely and enjoyably
- Marshalling stops with water and snacks
- Optional transfer from Stonehenge to start point

### It does not include:

- personal insurance (optional)
- any parking fees or transport costs
- accommodation if required
- packed lunch & water-bottles

Approx. £50 is recommended for personal expenses. We strongly recommend you carry a credit card in case of personal emergency.

A coach transfer will take us from Stonehenge – where you can park – to the start at Avebury. Public transport to the start / finish points is limited.

## WALKING INFORMATION & TRAINING

Groups may set off at staggered intervals (depending on numbers) but you can go at your own pace.

The full 26-mile walk should take approximately 8-9 hours for fit and strong walkers; others should allow longer. It may take some walkers up to 12 hours.

There is a half-distance option, starting in the village of Charlton St Peter (transfers to this start point also available from Stonehenge). Walking from the half-way point should take approx 4-6 hours (again dependent on your fitness).

This is not a competitive event! You can go at your own pace, but if we are concerned about you being able to finish the distance safely, we will recommend you stop early.

Further information will be sent once you have registered on the event.

### Terrain

We trek mainly on grass paths or dirt tracks but there are some tarmac or stony sections. Some sections may be muddy. There are some steep ascents and descents.

The environment we walk through needs the respect of all its users to be preserved. Please walk on the path surface rather than on the vegetation growing beside it, don't

remove stones from the paths and don't take short-cuts. You are expected to adhere to the Countryside Code and must keep to the designated paths on MOD land for your own safety.

## Weather

Average temperatures and rainfall for Wiltshire June-Sept:

11 – 25°C; 33mm

Be prepared for any weather! This may only be a one-day event, but you still need appropriate, good quality footwear and clothing to cope with the weather conditions, terrain and distance.



## Clothing & Equipment

We provide you with a detailed packing kit-list on registration, as well as details on useful discounts you are entitled to as a Discover Adventure customer. We are always available if you need advice.

Each person should bring a small daypack to carry lunch, camera, waterproofs, sun cream, a warm fleece and any other items needed during the day.

## Training

This is a long and tough one-day walk and it is consequently vital that you train sufficiently for it. We will supply you with a thorough training guide once you have registered. The more training that you do the more you will enjoy the experience!

## Trip Safety

Your safety, and that of the rest of the group, is our highest priority. Our trips are designed and planned with safety in mind. Your crew will be equipped with radios and emergency mobile phones, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary. They always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up. Our leaders are responsible for safety on the trip, and will make any changes to the itinerary they deem necessary should local conditions dictate.

Pre-trip administration – such as compulsory medical questionnaires – is all done with your safety in mind.

## WORLDWIDE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Long before Responsible or Sustainable Tourism became a recognised phrase, we designed and ran our trips to ensure they made minimum impact on the environment and a positive impact on the local communities we pass through. AITO, our Trade Association, has recognised the work we do in this area and has awarded us 4 stars as a Responsible Tour Operator.

## Discover Adventure Projects

We are supporting a tree-planting project in Peru and a children's home in Tanzania on a long-term basis. If you would like to 'give something back' please consider donating £5 to our projects when you sign up. Please see our website for more details.

## Carbon Offsetting

We encourage all our customers to offset emissions connected with their trip. You can offset at any time in the lead-up to departure by visiting Climate Care via our website and making a donation to a worthwhile project supported by them. Alternatively, if you wish to take more practical action in the UK you can volunteer for a day with BTCV and work on an environmental project local to you. Work may include construction footpaths, dry stone walling, creating wildlife habitats or planting trees in your community. Make your volunteer pledge by going to [www.btcv.org/dapledge](http://www.btcv.org/dapledge)



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