



Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre.



General Information

Haven Banks Outdoor Education Centre is part of Devon Youth Service. The Centre is non residential and is situated in the city of Exeter by the River Exe and Exeter Canal.

The Centre has purpose converted waterfront premises, with heated changing rooms, toilets, showers, a classroom, and extensive stores and outside areas. It has a large stock of equipment to suit all ages and abilities, with over **60 canoes and kayaks, 21 sailing boats, 6 windsurfers, safety boats, climbing kit for 24, caving kit for 18, a permanent orienteering course on the adjacent country park, an on site climbing wall, environmental studies equipment and 2 x 8 seat Mini Buses.** The ancillary equipment of wetsuits, buoyancy aids, cags etc. are all of good standard, and of course all equipment complies with the relevant safety regulations and National Governing Bodies.

The Centre takes up to **11 groups of students** at any one time, working in **maximum group sizes of 12.** Not all of these groups will be at the Centre in Exeter, some will be at an off site location caving, climbing, walking, sailing, windsurfing, or undertaking environmental studies. Programmes of study and/or activity can be designed for single groups on a regular weekly basis, one off activities or days, through to large groups on a one week multi activity residential breaks.

The water base used for most groups is the River Exe and canal in the city centre. It is sheltered, with no dangers. The local weirs can be used all year around for progressive courses and more advanced groups. The Centre also uses the upper Exe, River Barle and the various stretches of the River Dart. Intermediate sailing and windsurfing groups use the Exe Estuary, where the Centre has a sail and windsurf base at Starcross Yacht Club. Climbing and caving groups travel to Ashburton and onto Dartmoor, as well as the crags of Chudleigh, Torbay and the Dewerstone. **Transport to off-site venues can be arranged, as the Centre has 2 8 seat Transit vans & can gain access to larger minibuses and fully qualified DCC or PCV drivers are available.**

Haven Banks has a continued commitment towards every aspect of outdoor and adventurous activities delivery, including health & safety. Therefore, **the Centre holds an A.A.L.S. Licence (Adventurous Activities Licensing Service), as well as being a British Canoe Union (BCU) approved Centre, and a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) recognised teaching establishment** for dinghy sailing, windsurfing and power-boating.

The Centre primarily **serves local Devon schools** supporting the national requirements for Outdoor and Adventurous activities. In addition, schools use Haven Banks as part of the wider curriculum, within school time and after school, at weekends and in the holidays. Many schools come to Haven Banks for activity provision during residential breaks, and the Centre provides instructors and equipment for sessions all over Devon. Haven Banks staff will visit schools both before and after their activities at the Centre.

As well as this work with schools, **Haven Banks provides outdoor services to many other sectors of education: Further Education colleges for the GNVQ, BTEC, City and Guilds, Recreation, and other groups; Special Schools and social services to enrich their students; private and grant maintained schools; and community education groups of all types.**

Many other groups use the Centre for training and recreation, including Scouts, Round Table groups, youth clubs, charity fund raising events, such as sponsored abseils or get wet days, social groups for adventure days, parties and children's treats; a number of business groups doing some introductory team challenge and group development exercises.

Finally, **the Centre runs an extensive range of courses which are aimed directly at the General public. There are several evening, weekday and weekend courses available to adults, in all activities and for all abilities, from beginner to instructor assessment levels. In the Summer Holidays, Spring, Summer and Autumn Half Terms Haven Banks runs an extensive activity scheme for children, and also provides outdoor services to other private schemes run in Devon.**

All instructors at Haven Banks are employed through Devon County Council, and have to work within the Devon County Council Safety in Outdoor Education document. All instructors are fully trained and qualified and vetted by the County Council.

The Centre is managed on a daily basis by the Manager, supported by an Advisory Group, and a Team Leader (Devon Youth Service). There is a comprehensive Staff Handbook, Operating Procedures and Risk Assessments for all activities and regular inspection and monitoring of all aspects of Centre operations.

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