

# Peak District Challenge

## Pre Entry information



**Event date: 19-20 August 2016**

The Peak District Challenge is a team trekking challenge that offers four levels of difficulty for hill walkers and runners: 25km, 50km, 75km or 100km- Copper, Bronze, Silver or Gold Ultra. It's organised by Wilderness Development, an established outdoor activity company based in the Peak District.

It's a race against the clock to see if you can navigate yourself around the Copper Challenge in 9 hours, the Bronze challenge in 12 hours or the Silver or Gold challenge within 24 hours.

The routes all start at Hathersage and are loops, heading anticlockwise.



The **Copper** challenge follows the blue then red lines from Hathersage to Baslow and back.

The **Bronze** challenge follows the bronze then blue routes to Castleton then Bakewell and back.

The **Silver** challenge takes the silver, then blue, then red routes shown, covering large distances over relatively less hilly terrain.

The **Gold Ultra** challenge follows the longest, outermost route, following gold, blue then red routes between checkpoints. It's the longest and steepest route.

Visit <http://goo.gl/maps/r6uLJ> for a closer look at the broad routes. Specific details of checkpoints, including grid references are emailed to registered entrants 7 days before the event.

On the way round, checkpoint volunteers monitor teams' safety and provide drinks and snacks along with motivation and encouragement! All the refreshments along with a stew supper on Saturday evening are included in the price of your entry.

## Copper route

25km (16 miles). 9 hours at less than 3kph. Starting at 9.30am on Sat 20 August 2016.

Leaving Hathersage following the blue route south, you will follow the river Derwent and wind your way past Grindleford, along beside the river and through woodland to Baslow.



From here, join the red route and climb up to Curbar and Frogatt edges enjoying some lovely views down into the valley.

Next you will wander through idyllic Padley Gorge, over Burbage bridge and finally find yourself back in Hathersage again.

You'll need basic navigation skills for the copper and bronze challenges, or you can join a led group. Fancy dress is optional.



**You can see more Peak District Challenge photos at <http://www.facebook.com/PeakDistrictChallenge>**

## Bronze route

Copper and blue lines, 50km (32 miles), 12 hours at just over 4kph. The walk has a total ascent of 1200m and has a maximum elevation of 462m. The Bronze challenge starts at 8.30am on Saturday morning, 20 August 2016.

You will leave Hathersage in the Hope valley and walk past Hope and Bamford until you reach Castleton. From here, you will turn south to join the Limestone Way past Peveril Castle and trek through the valley nature reserve of Hay Dale.

Next you will join the Monsal trail at Wormhill and walk along a flat section along disused railway lines, through Victorian railway tunnels and get fantastic views of Monsal Dale on your way to picturesque Bakewell.

You pass through the estate and deer park of Chatsworth country house, from where you will rejoin the southern end of the Derwent Valley heritage trail, and follow the course of the river back north to Grindleford and home to Hathersage.

## Silver route

75km (47 miles) with a 24 hour target and 2000m of ascent, the Silver Challenge is shown with silver then blue lines on the map above. Not to be underestimated, this route follows the easiest and flattest routes between 8 refreshment checkpoints, but still covers a huge mileage. Night navigation experience is essential.



Departing the Hope valley at 9pm on the night of 19 August 2016, you trek north following the river Derwent to an initial easy flat section around Ladybower reservoirs where the WWII Dambusters trained for their bombing missions.

Skirting the lakes, you will walk through forests, Woodlands valley and the route of the Roman road.

As dawn breaks you re-enter the western end of the Hope valley and head to beautiful Castleton, from where you will join the Limestone Way past Peveril Castle and enjoy the valley nature reserves at Hay Dale and Monks Dale.

Then you will join the Monsall trail at Millersdale and walk a flat section along disused railway lines, through Victorian railway tunnels and have fantastic views of Monsal Dale on your way to picturesque Bakewell.



From Bakewell, we head to Rowsley then the estate and deer park of Chatsworth country house. You'll rejoin the southern end of the Derwent Valley heritage trail, and follow the course of the river back north to Baslow.

As dusk arrives, head up the final climb over Frogatt and Curbar Edges. The final summit is Higger Tor, before descending in to Hathersage, aiming to finish by 9pm on Saturday 20 August 2016.



## Gold Ultra route

Indicated by gold, then blue, then red lines on the map above, the Gold Ultra challenge is 100km (62 miles) and 3000m of total ascent. You have a 24 hour target at an average of 4kph.



The Gold Ultra route is the ultimate Peak District challenge, and should be attempted by teams of fit and experienced hillwalkers who want to see the best that the Peak District has to offer. You'll visit high points and viewpoints on your way between checkpoints, and there is a lot of climbing involved. You'll leave Hathersage at 9pm on the night of 19 August 2016. Night navigation experience is essential.

Your challenge begins with a walk up to popular climbing venues and on to the Dark Peak moors. You will cross Stanage edge, site of Robin Hood's cave, before descending to Ladybower Inn and an easy flat section around Ladybower reservoirs where the Dambusters trained for their bombing missions in WW II.

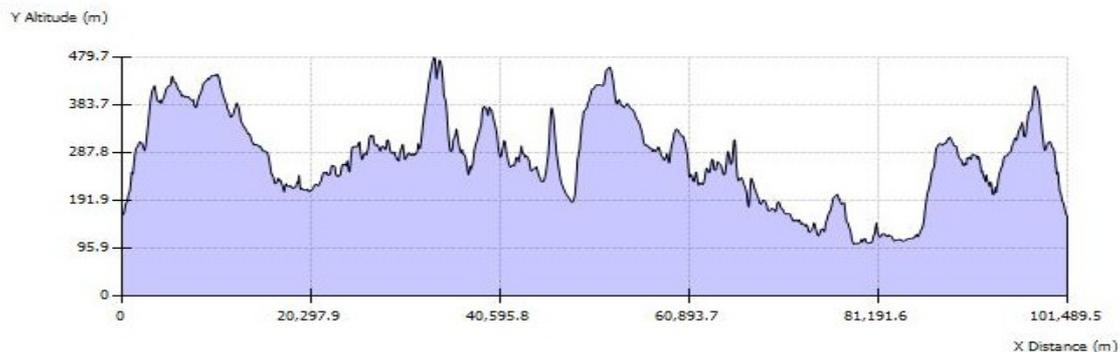


As dawn breaks, you will climb to the geological oddity of Alport Castle, before descending in to Edale and the next climb to Hollins Cross giving stunning views over the Hope valley. Next you will descend into Castleton and join the Limestone Way past Peveril Castle, and onwards to the valley nature reserve of Hay Dale.

Joining the Monsal trail at Millarsdale, it's a flat section along disused railway lines and through Victorian railway tunnels. You'll enjoy fantastic views of Monsal Dale on your way to picturesque Bakewell, then on to the

gem of Rowsley. Turning north to manicured Edensor, you will pick up the Derwent Valley heritage trail, leading you through the estate and deer park of Chatsworth country house as the sun sets.

The final climb of the challenge takes you across Curbar and Froggatt edges, with dusky views back down over the river Derwent and Grindleford. It's a final push to Higger Tor and the start of your descent in to Hathersage, hopefully within your 24 hour target.



## When and where

All routes finish at Hathersage on Saturday evening, 20 August 2016.

The Copper Challenge starts at 9.30am on Saturday, so the 9 hour finishing target is 6.30pm.

The Bronze challenge starts at 8.30am on Saturday, so the 12 hour finishing target is at 8.30pm.

The Silver and Gold routes start at 9.00pm on Friday evening, 19 August 2016, so their 24 hour finishing target is 9.00pm on Saturday 20 August 2016.

In past years, the last trains home from Hathersage on Saturday evening are at 22:41 to Manchester, 23.15 to Sheffield (and we expect they will be at similar times again in 2016!)

Unlike other charity challenges, where a big proportion of your "minimum sponsorship" is used to pay for the running costs of the event, the entry fee is an honest £40-65 per person (depending on distance chosen). Then 100% of any sponsorship you would like to raise goes directly to your chosen charity, or if you prefer the Peak District Challenge's chosen charity, SALVE International.

You are encouraged to enter is a team of 3-5 people, however solo or duo competitors are allowed if they can show they have extensive navigation and fell running experience or are willing to attend a navigation training course in advance of the event.

## Your entry fee covers:

- Fully qualified, professional Mountain Leaders supervising your safety.
- Drinks and snacks from our friendly volunteer checkpoints on the way round.
- A goodie bag at the end including an event t-shirt.
- A stew supper on arrival back in Hathersage on Saturday evening.
- [Kit guidance and advice](#), a fundraising guide and sponsor forms if you choose to be sponsored.
- A pre-walk registration and briefing, along with detailed route plans.
- A scenic and challenging route, and all pre-event planning.
- Photos of you participating in the event.
- A unique certificate to celebrate your achievement and your time.
- A cash discount voucher to spend with the event organiser, [Wilderness Development](#). This can even be redeemed in advance on any [navigation training](#) or [walking courses](#) that you take to prepare for the event.

## What kit do I need?

You should expect to carry with you everything that you need to keep safe and comfortable during the event (with the exception of water, food, and a "half way" bag). There are no indoor or undercover resting areas during the event, (only at the start and finish), so you need to **prepare to be outdoors for the entire event**. We can help with this, and [a compulsory kit list](#) is provided.

**For lots more information and to join 180 other entrants, just visit**  
[www.Peak-District-challenge.com](http://www.Peak-District-challenge.com)

