

#FINDYOURADVENTURE



FIND YOUR

ADVENTURE

Could a Club be part
of your next step



IT'S TIME TO FIND YOUR ADVENTURE

Imagine watching the sun set from the top of a sea cliff after a day's climbing, the view from the summit of a mountain you've worked hard to reach, or making your morning coffee in the first rays of sunlight at a secluded camp spot.

Every adventure starts with the first step, but the great news is that once you get going on your hiking, camping, bouldering, climbing (or even mountaineering) journey then there's a whole planet and a lifetime's worth of experiences to explore.

To help you find your next adventure, we've put together a series of tips and advice. From getting started, ideas about what to do, how to find people to do it with and what to expect along the way, we're here to guide you through.

And if you're wondering how to progress to the next level then a club could be the answer. It's a way for like-minded people to share their adventures, with regular get togethers close to home and further afield.



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

FIND A CLUB



YOUR FIRST VISIT

Fancy a few routes after work? Or a day out walking in the hills? Clubs are the very best way to meet friendly, like-minded people who are up for the same kind of adventures as you, and with regular planned meets you'll never have to wonder what to do or who to do it with. The next step is to go along and find out what it's all about!

WHAT HAPPENS ON MY FIRST VISIT?

Once you've found a club, choose which 'meet' you'd like to go to. Each club will publish a list of dates, locations and times, and who to contact. On the day, everyone meets at an agreed time and place, then activities commence! If you're a climber, you'll pair up with someone who'd like to climb at a similar grade to you, and expect to swap partners during the meet. Clubs

are an informal way for members to have fun practicing, they're not coaching sessions or lessons, and a little experience is usually expected. If you're keen to climb outside but you've never climbed at all, consider joining an indoor meet first to get a handle on the basics. Climbing walls may even run free induction sessions to teach you everything you need to know to get started.

If you're new, you won't be expected to have all the equipment straight away, but most new climbers will need a harness, helmet, and climbing shoes. Walkers will need suitable boots or shoes, and a backpack with the essentials. You'll need to bring clothing suitable to the environment, bearing in mind you could be outside until sunset, or all day whatever the weather brings. Make sure you pack warm layers, a waterproof jacket, gloves and a headtorch. Experienced club members will help you work out what you need, [and there's more guidance here](#). Being outside for hours uses a fair bit of energy, so bring snacks and plenty of water. Some of the group might go for a quick drink or a bite to eat at the end of the day. Every meet and club is different, but for an idea of what to expect, [watch this short video](#) of The Rucksack Club's annual trip to the sea cliff climbing paradise of Gogarath, topped off with a huge beach BBQ.

WATCH



If you'd like to come along with a friend, no problem. Club meets are social occasions, and everyone is welcome, so remember to mix and mingle so you can get to know new friends too. Clubs are run by volunteers for like-minded people to enjoy spending their free time together, and no one is entitled to anything, like lifts or teaching. We all get out what we put in, so come along expecting to get involved, help out and pitch in. Depending on the meet there are all kinds of opportunities to give something back, like giving someone without transport a lift, carrying heavy gear, or cooking or washing up for the group as well as leading routes.

If you're visiting a new group on your own it's natural to feel nervous about whether people will talk to you, but don't worry. Most clubs have a new members officer - it's their role to chat to newcomers, find out a bit about you, and introduce you to the others. It's a good idea to drop the club a message in advance so they know to look out for you when you arrive, and remember to introduce yourself when you get there. Once you've spent time together hiking, or climbed a couple of routes, you'll soon have adventures in common and new experiences to chat about.

MY CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE ALSO INCLUDES ALL THE BENEFITS OF BEING IN THE BMC, SO IT'S GREAT VALUE!



PHOTO: THE RUCKSACK CLUB



PHOTO: LMC COLLECTION

FIND A COURSE





FIND A CLUB



PHOTO: JETHRO KIERNAN.

LEARNING & SKILLS

Get prepared to tackle new challenges! You don't need to worry about whether you're 'good enough' to go to a club meet, they're set up to welcome new members and they cater for all abilities. At some point though, you might want to improve your skills in a more formal way, or learn totally new ones that will enable your next adventure, as well as translating into useful talents in other areas of life.

HOW WILL I LEARN NEW SKILLS?

No one starts out as an expert, and the more experience you get the more you'll realise that there's always more to learn! Over time you might like to work on your winter skills, navigation or climbing self-rescue. Club meets are an informal way for members to have fun practicing, not coaching sessions or lessons, but there's a wealth of knowledge to tap into as you learn new skills. Being around others and having encouragement from a

group can really help you stretch your comfort zone, and a club is the place to find friends who are at a similar level of ability. Likewise, if you've already got a fair bit of experience under your belt, it can be really rewarding to pass on the hard-earned knowledge and help develop the next generation. Club members learn together, and when you're part of the group you'll have the opportunity to give or seek advice.



PHOTO: HARRY PADLEY

“AS A NEW MEMBER I DOUBT THAT I’D HAVE MADE THE STEPS TO CLIMB OUTSIDE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE CLUB.”

FIND A COURSE



If you’re ready to do some more formal training, it’s a great idea to go on a course then put your new-found skills into action at club meets. Some clubs offer skills development sessions, like how to start climbing outdoors, learning to lead, or mountain navigation. They might also be able to negotiate discounted rates that you couldn’t get on your own, or have access to subsidised training courses. There are a whole range of courses available, from the basics of rock skills, placing gear and learning to lead, to outdoor first aid and hill and mountain skills. You might even decide that you’d like to become a leader or instructor so you can help other people learn. There’s also the option to go with a guide, who can lead the way in locations you’re not familiar with, and help build confidence to go it alone next time. The more you practice the better you get.

It’s always good to have back-up options in case of bad weather! With around 300 BMC affiliated climbing, hill walking and mountaineering clubs in England and Wales, the variety of meets available means there are plenty of opportunities to branch out into new activities beyond climbing and walking. Some clubs also arrange

caving, mountain biking, or paddling and kayaking. It means you can dip your toe in the water in related activities with people who know what they are doing, or give something back by passing on your knowledge. If you do decide to branch out, there’s often someone in the club who has been to your next destination, or attempted your planned challenge, who will be happy to give you all the inside information to help you prepare to tackle new challenges.



PHOTO: TAYLOR COLLECTION



HEADING TO THE MOUNTAINS

If you're ready to head to the mountains, but you're not sure the idea of staying in a 'hut' sounds very inviting, think again. Imagine a place that's close to the best hills and crags in the area. A place to get clean and warm after a long day outdoors. To cook, sleep, and chat about the events of the day with people who are into the same adventures as you. Sounds pretty good, right?

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO STAY IN A CLUB HUT?

Mountaineering 'huts' aren't really huts at all, they're usually converted farmhouses or cottages that club members use as a base for long weekends in the mountains. They each have unique characters, like an old miner's cottage in the Llanberis Pass, Wales, or the Don Whillans hut built into a buttress at the Roaches

in the Peak District. Climbing and mountaineering clubs have huts in locations across the UK including the Lake District, Yorkshire, the Peak District, North and Mid Wales and the South West of England. If your club owns a hut, lucky you! It's likely that many weekend meets will be based there, plus a range of trips elsewhere.

PHOTO: JETHRO KIERNAN



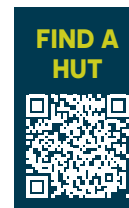
PHOTO: RAY GROVER.

Huts aren't just a place to stay, they're a place to socialise. They are communal places, with beds or bunks in dorm type rooms, so you'll need to bring a sleeping bag or blanket, and possibly a pillow. You can expect to find separate men's and women's bathrooms. Depending on the size of the place there might be several rooms to sleep in, and depending on the mix of people attending, rooms might be allocated for men, women, couples, families and/or visitors. Often it's just down to individuals to grab their preferred space on arrival - this is usually down to the meet organiser to coordinate, so just ask if you'd like to know more.

Huts have a shared living area with a kitchen, a fireplace or heaters, and a sitting and dining area so that club members can cook together and socialise at the end of each day. You'll need to bear in mind there might not be a shop nearby, and bring your own food and drinks. If cooking is your thing, you might like to get involved in making a meal for the group, or organising a BBQ. This is a big part of keeping costs so low - it's often as cheap as camping (but less impacted by the weather). Since huts are shared, everyone is responsible for keeping the place clean and tidy, so pitch in with things like tidying and washing up to keep it as you'd like to find it.

If you can't get enough of being outside, you might prefer to camp or stay in your van at the hut while taking advantage of the facilities indoors. That's usually possible, but do check. Depending on the location, space in and around a hut might be limited, so it's usually best to book when signing up for the meet. Maybe you're not sure about the whole idea of the hut, and you'd like to book a b&b, guesthouse or hotel instead? You can always stay close to the location and meet up with club members to climb or walk, but you might miss out on some of the social aspects of being in a club, and it will most likely be much more expensive. The meet might also visit a remote location that doesn't have alternative accommodation- that's why the huts are such a benefit for members.

Huts are quirky, unique, and excellent value (usually between £5-£15 per night). Some are very modern and full of all the latest gadgets, others are pretty basic. They are all warm and cosy, and offer cheap but quality accommodation so you can have an amazing weekend away without breaking the bank. They also tend to contain information like maps and guidebooks that you can borrow while you're there to make the most of your visit to the area. Many clubs have their own huts, and BMC affiliated clubs are able to hire out huts from each other, allowing its members to explore more of the UK. So while you're there you can expect to meet people from your own club, or others.



“IT'S MORE FUN SPENDING YOUR DAY OUT WITH OTHERS. AND THEY CAN GET GREAT PHOTOS OF YOU AND YOUR PARTNER ON CLIMBS TOO.”



START YOUR ADVENTURE

There's a whole world of crags, mountains, ridges and trails to discover, and club members across the country are already planning meets with like-minded, friendly people. All you have to do is find a meet and join in.

WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET TO A LIFE OF ADVENTURE?

There really is no secret. If you're craving a little more adventure, let's make it happen! Would you be up for a BBQ on the beach after a day spent climbing on the South Coast? Do you want to explore new crags and take on new routes? How about camping on a Scottish island, and traversing ridges to bag a new summit? Or sitting round the fire in a hut in North Wales to hear tales of the day's climbing and hiking exploits?

"I DIDN'T HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO HAVE ORGANISED MY FIRST HIMALAYAN TRIP, AND COULDN'T HAVE AFFORDED A GUIDED TOUR, SO BEING ABLE TO TEAM UP WITH OTHER CLUB MEMBERS MADE MY 'TRIP OF A LIFETIME' A POSSIBILITY"

PHOTO: ANDY TOMLINSON

IT'S TIME TO START YOUR ADVENTURE

Climbing and scrambling on rock, and spending time on your feet in the hills will help you get physically fit and strong. But that's not all. Taking on new challenges, spending time in nature, and being around old and new friends is good for your mental health too. Don't just take our word for it, find out what new members had to say about their experience:

Vicky Heyes, joined the Mountaineering Club of Bury, she says: "There's plenty to get involved in – there's always someone doing something and they make you feel really welcome. Wellbeing is another thing – everyone is friendly and supportive, and doing physical activity makes you feel really healthy. It also helps build confidence; you achieve things and go places you never dreamed were possible."

We asked other club members for their **five top reasons to join a club**, and they said:

"Share activities with like-minded people both socially and out on the hills."

"If you want to go to a new venue there's bound to be someone in the club who has already been and willing to give you beta on the place"

"Knowledge transfer from more experienced members, a bit like an apprenticeship"

"Our club has a hut and it's so convenient to pop up to it for a cheap weekend of hiking or climbing"

"You can't beat sitting round the fire in our hut after a great day on the crag exchanging stories of your epic adventures!"

Did we mention that when you join a BMC affiliated climbing or mountaineering club, you also become a member of the BMC? Which means you'll have access to discounts with some of the best outdoor gear retailers in the UK, access to BMC travel insurance, and third party liability cover to protect you in case you're involved in a mountain accident.



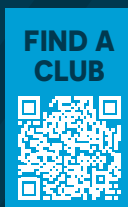
PHOTO: STEVE SMITH.

START YOUR ADVENTURE!

If you haven't already, it's time to take the next step and join a club! Clubs have a calendar of regular planned meets, so you can always see what's going on, and with around 300 BMC affiliated climbing, hill walking and mountaineering clubs in England and Wales, there's sure to be something to suit your interests. There are two easy ways to find a club near you- use our map to search by postcode or town, or go to our searchable list of BMC-affiliated clubs.



CLUB LIST



WELCOME TO THE LIST OF CLUBS WORKING WITH US ON #FINDYOURADVENTURE.

There are around 300 BMC affiliated clubs covering every part of the country and to suit all tastes; many taking novices, some focussing on specific specialisms or interests, and others with a multi-activity breadth. Some of these have a national membership of over 500, with access to a number of mountain huts; whilst others focus on a local area with a few dozen members. There's bound to be one to suit your needs so check out this Club Finder www.thebmc.co.uk/find-your-adventure-club-list

A number of these clubs who are most keen to encourage new members are working with us on #FINDYOURADVENTURE



YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS' CLUB

National Club with our heart in Yorkshire and Cumbria

Warm Yorkshire welcome for new members.

Mountaineering, hillwalking, trekking, caving and more since 1892. Wide range of active meets at home and overseas.

Huts in the Dales and Lakes.

www.yrc.org.uk/about/introduction-to-the-club/



WARMINSTER ADVENTURE SPORTS CLUB

Wiltshire & North East Somerset

Our club is a tribe of outdoor enthusiasts and we hold weekly meets, social events, and trips all over the UK and abroad in all seasons of the year.

www.thewasc.org



TUNBRIDGE WELLS MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Kent, Sussex, Surrey

We're a friendly group that welcomes adult climbers of all abilities, we often run New Members events. Our main activity is roped rock climbing on sandstone and trad & sport weekends.

www.thetwmc.co.uk



THE GRITSTONE CLUB

Yorkshire, Leeds

We are a mountaineering, rock climbing, hill walking, potholing and skiing club based in Yorkshire. We have weekly walking and climbing meets plus trips around the UK and overseas.

www.gritstoneclub.org.uk



THE GENTIAN MOUNTAINEERING & HILL WALKING CLUB

National, Midlands, North West

Friendly, national club runs hill walking and mountaineering trips all over the UK and abroad. Complete beginners to experienced mountaineers welcome.

www.gentianclub.org.uk/blogs/home/

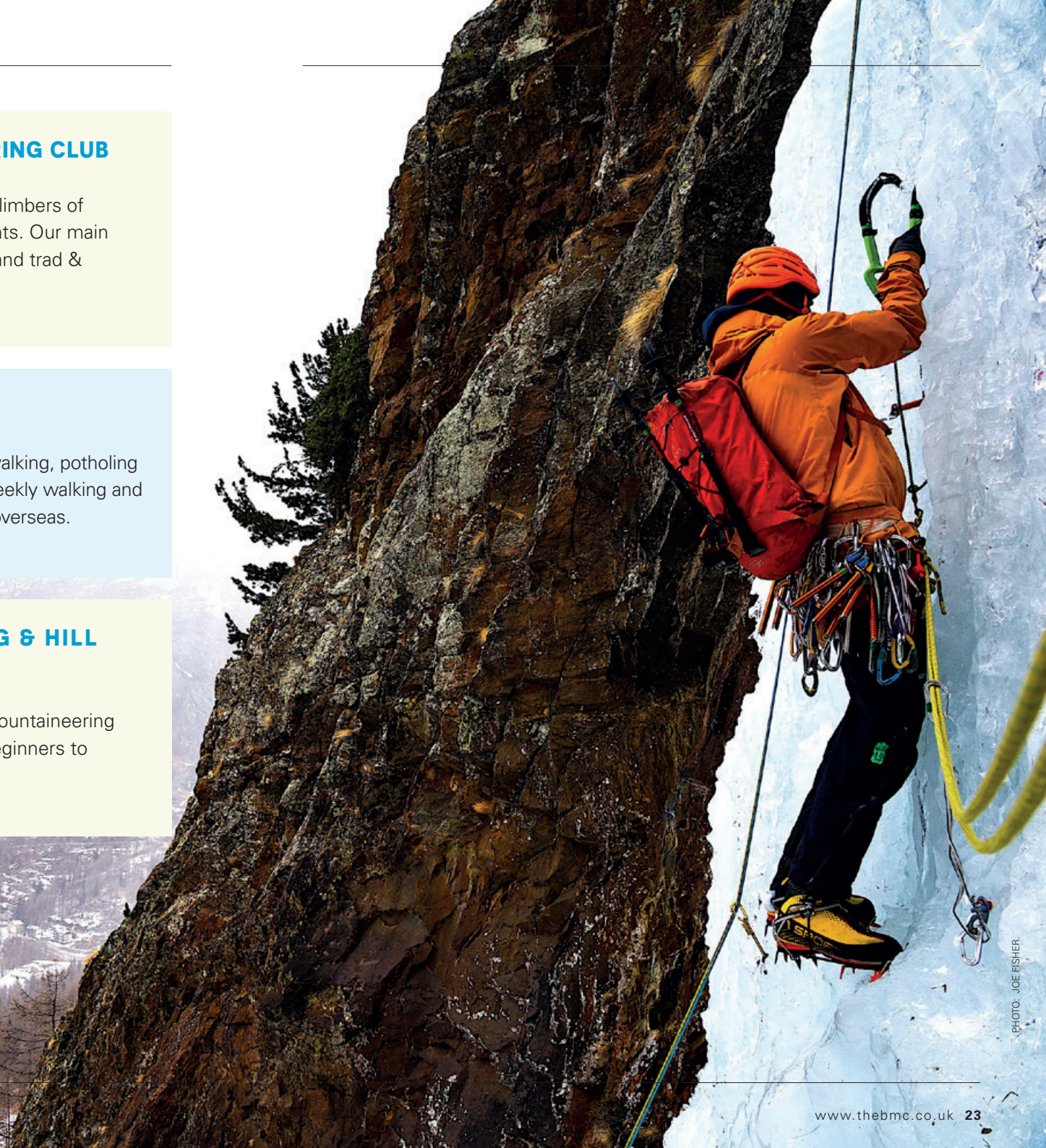


PHOTO: JOE FISHER.



THE RUCKSACK CLUB

National Club with strong focus in Manchester, North West England, Peak District and Sheffield

Our 500 members enjoy climbing, walking, mountaineering, biking and running- we are a national club with strong roots in Manchester and the Peak, and have 3 huts in Snowdonia, the Lakes and Glencoe.

<https://rucksackclub.org/findyouradventure/>



SOUTH WALES MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Cardiff, Swansea, South Wales valleys

We bring together like-minded people interested in mountaineering – activities include rock climbing, scrambling and hill walking, in the UK and abroad- catering for all level of experience including total beginners.

<https://swmc.org.uk>



SHREWSBURY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Shrewsbury and surrounding areas

<https://shrewsburymc.com>



RUGBY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Rugby and surrounding areas

www.rugbymc.uk/home



PHOTO: THE RUCKSACK CLUB



RED ROPE SOCIALIST WALKING AND CLIMBING CLUB

National club with regional groups across the country

All our regions do country walking and more ambitious hill-walking, some also offer mountaineering and climbing, plus social get-togethers. There's plenty to join in with, whether you want to really stretch yourself, or just gently explore the outdoors.

www.redrope.org.uk/join/find-your-adventure-with-red-rope/



OREAD MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Derbyshire, Peak District, Midlands

We provide opportunities for climbing and mountaineering in the UK and abroad, with huts in Derbyshire and Snowdonia, the Club is inclusive, welcoming new members to all our activities.

www.oread.co.uk/about/



GWENT MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

South East Wales

Gwent Mountaineering Club is a group of friendly mountaineering enthusiasts. We hold weekly climbing/walking events, socials and trips around the UK/abroad all year. Activities include hillwalking, scrambling, rock/ice climbing and mountaineering.

<https://gwentmountaineeringclub.org.uk>



INNOMINATA MOUNTAIN CLUB

Stockport, Cheshire

www.innominata-mc.org.uk



PHOTO: RICHARD BREWSTER.



LANCASHIRE CLIMBING & CAVING CLUB

Lancashire and North West England

We're an active, friendly climbing and caving club. We meet midweek, evenings and daytime, most weekends, and have regular trips abroad. We have huts in the Lakes and Wales.

<https://thelccc.co.uk>



LOUGHTON MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Hertfordshire, Essex, North East London

The club aims to provide a friendly and enjoyable environment for everyone to actively participate in outdoor activities including mountaineering, hill walking, scrambling, rock climbing and mountain biking and meet others with similar interests.

www.loughtonmc.org/findyouradventure



CASTLE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Sheffield and Peak District

We're a sociable and supportive club with a lot of combined experience. Our members undertake a wide range of activities including rock climbing, walking, trekking, backpacking, ski mountaineering, ski touring and mountain biking.

<http://castlemountaineering.com>



BRECON BEACONS CLIMBING & MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Brecon Beacons Powys, Mid Wales

We meet regularly for climbing and walking throughout the UK and overseas. New members are always welcome.

<https://bbcmc.uk/find-your-adventure/>



BOWLINE CLIMBING CLUB

Leicester, Leicestershire and East Midlands

Come and share the adventure! We are an active and friendly Leicester based club with an active programme of meets and varied activities and a hut in North Wales.

www.bowlineclimbingclub.co.uk



BMSCMC

The Peak and the North, Wales and the South West

We are active, hill-walking and climbing (rock and ice). We are non-elitist. Our members are spread throughout the UK. We're very sociable... probably more so than other Clubs.

<http://bmscmc.org>



AYLESBURY CLIMBING CLUB

Aylesbury and surrounding areas

www.acc.org.uk



ALPINE CLUB

National club with regional groups including London, Bristol, Hathersage, Keswick, Edinburgh, North Wales and Chamonix.

We're the active club for all experienced and aspiring alpinists. Guests and new members are encouraged to come to our meets (UK & abroad), lectures, socials or library to meet like-minded people. www.alpine-club.org.uk

FULL BMC CLUB LIST

This club list will be added to over time as more and more clubs will be signing-up to provide you with a great place to go find your adventure. If you haven't found a club suitable for you on this page then pop back later, or try our full [club listing page](#).

If you are at university, or heading off to university later this year, you are likely to find a student mountaineering, climbing or hillwalking club there - check out our [club listing](#) to find out what BMC-affiliated clubs are available for you to choose from.



Join us

Climb walls, hills, rock, ice or mountains?

As a member of a BMC affiliated club, you can enjoy all these great benefits FOR FREE
www.thebmc.co.uk/why-join-a-club?s=1



Access to BMC Travel insurance

www.thebmc.co.uk/insurance




Four digital issues of Summit magazine per year
www.thebmc.co.uk/summit-tablets



Access to Mountain Training registration
www.mountain-training.org



Your membership allows us to continue campaigning for improved access across England and Wales, providing technical and safety advice and protecting our mountains and crags.
www.thebmc.co.uk/cats/all/access_conservation



Many other discounts at outdoor retailers across the country
www.thebmc.co.uk/get-discounts-in-shops-nationwide



15%

DISCOUNT

for BMC members
in-store ad online
at our recommended
retail partners
Cotswold Outdoor
and Snow+Rock.





W A L L S | R O C K | H I L L S | I C E | M O U N T A I N S

The British Mountaineering Council
177-179 Burton Road, Manchester M20 2BB



www.thebmc.co.uk