

WalkingSupport - Newsletter - January 2016

Best Wishes for the New Year

This is the time of year when many walkers start to look to the spring and summer to consider how they might get out and enjoy the countryside after what has been a wet and somewhat dismal winter. We hope that as the days start to lengthen the opportunity to get out and enjoy some of the many walking routes will become a reality.

Walking Support extends our best wishes for 2016 to all our past, present and future clients.

Special Offer

15% Reduction on our planning and booking fees for 2016 walks if your requirement is confirmed during the month of January.

Walking Support is a one stop planning and booking business for self led walks on the following long distance routes:

- Great Glen Way
- Rob Roy Way
- Catevan Trail
- West Highland Way
- Fife Coastal Path
- Forth Clyde and Union Canals
- Southern Upland Way – Sir Walter Scott Way
- Borders Abbeys Way
- St Cuthbert's Way
- St Oswald's Way
- Northumberland Coastal Path
- Hadrian's Wall Path – Roman Heritage Way
- Weardale Way
- Deeside Way

For fuller details simply link to our website home page www.walkingsupport.co.uk.

Walking Support will provide you with an outline plan and cost estimate before there is any commitment to use our services.

All packages are tailor made to the clients requirements, we do not offer standard off the shelf walking holidays*.

To visit comprehensive websites on almost all of the above walking routes simply click on www.walkingsupport.co.uk/routes.html and highlight the one that is of immediate interest.

* The only exception to this is detailed on the article below relating to the Borders Railway / Borders Abbeys Way.

New Walking Routes

Walking Support has recently been awarded a contract to scope out various sections of a developing walking route known as the Three Saints Way. www.threesaintsaway.org This developing walking route is one that is being progressed through a number of initiatives and already the majority of the route from Killin via Lochearnhead, Comrie, Crieff, Abernethy, Newburgh and on to St Andrews is in place. It is our plan to have the preferred paths between Comrie and Newburgh defined by mid spring 2016 offering the more experienced walker an opportunity to enjoy this walk over the summer and autumn months.

Another route that Walking Support is actively involved in developing (along with other organisations and individuals) is the Whithorn Way. www.whithornway.org This route was first walked as part of the Paisley Abbey 850 celebrations but it is now being refined and made more accessible to the walking community. Many of the sections are already mapped and walking instructions are available to download. Further sections will be added over the spring and summer. Keep up to date with progress on the above detailed website.

Guided walk to Old Melrose

Walking Support has developed and delivered several one day guided walks that link Melrose with the historic Old Melrose site. This is a walk of some 8 miles which starts from Melrose Abbey and passes through the Roman Fort site of Trimontium before arriving at Old Melrose the site of the 7th century monastery and pilgrim chapel to St Cuthbert. The return walk to Melrose is via the Monks Trail and the Rhymers Stone.

The plan for 2016 is to offer this 6 hour guided walk (which includes stops for refreshments and lunch) on a weekly basis during the summer months. For more details on the route and to know when this will commence keep a watch on www.walkingsupport.co.uk/pilgrimage.html

Border Railway helps accessibility to the Borders Abbeys Way

In the Autumn of 2015 the Borders Railway was re-established linking Edinburgh with Galashiels and Tweedbank. This has opened up a railway that was last operational in 1969 and makes travel by public transport to locations such as Galashiels and Melrose much easier and quicker. With long distance walking routes of the Southern Upland Way, Sir Walter Scott Way, St Cuthbert's Way and the Borders Abbeys Way all passing within a matter of less than 2 Km from the stations this will hopefully provide travel to or from some of these LDR easier.

We believe the greatest impact on any of these routes will be on the Borders Abbeys Way (www.bordersabbeyway.com) and as we offer the only bespoke baggage transfer service on this circular route as well as providing a full planning and booking service we hope this new ½ hourly train service will help to increase walker numbers.

Walking Support has provided a new package deal supporting those arriving and leaving by train and this can be viewed on the following link.

www.bordersabbesway.com/border%20railway%20bags.pdf

We also continue to set up tailor made packages for this route regardless of how you travel to the route or where you select your start and end location.

Encouraging dialogue via Social Media

Walking Support has had its Facebook site www.facebook.com/WalkingSupport for some time and we are keen to see this develop further with much more postings and hopefully more dialogue between ourselves and the social media viewers. We would like to encourage as many of you that are on Facebook to link with this Facebook site, the more that do the more active the site will become and the better the content that will result. We are always interested in comments on the any long distance walking routes and with your help add data on the routes present condition, on any temporary diversions or suggestions on great place or things to see on the walks.

To encourage more individuals and related business to formally “LIKE” our Facebook presence we will offer individuals a **15% reduction on our planning and booking fees for 2016 walks** booked throughout the year provided this is for groups of between 1 and 8 persons. This offer cannot be taken alongside the January promotion and can only be offered once we have proof of one in that group having become a new “LIKED” person.

Finally, if you are a service provider to any of the northern UK long distance walking routes and are looking to boost business through promotional offers, why not contact us at this newsletter and it may be possible to add your promotion to a future Newsletter. Equally any long distance walker with an interesting experience that they would like to share, please let us know and we again might be able to publish.

Walking Support
4th January 2016