

Riding & Polo weekend in the New Forest National Park

Purpose of the tour:

Riding through the New Forest National Park will teach our members valuable riding skills that they cannot learn in a riding school and give them an appreciation of horses in their natural habitat. The tour is also a social activity that will help to form a common club identity.

Planned activities:

The group of students will stay in lodges in the middle of the National Park for the duration of the weekend. They will ride out for a total of 6 hours, accompanied by a riding instructor and a guide of the National Park. This will not only **teach the riders valuable riding skills** that they would not be able to learn in a riding school (like controlling their horses in an open space and at a faster pace), but will also give them an **appreciation of the behavior of horses in their natural habitat** (e.g. the urge to flee when danger arises, the tendency to move as a group).

Furthermore, social activities and some more sight-seeing inside the park together (on foot) is planned for the remainder of the time. Because the usual riding lessons at our London stable are organized by rider ability, it is very difficult to get in touch with riders from different groups. This makes it almost impossible to build a common club identity that unites riders of different abilities, with especially less experienced riders feeling separated from the competing teams and more advanced riders. The tour to the New Forest would make it possible both for experienced and less experienced riders to **enjoy riding together and share their passion for horses**.

Lastly, through the visit we will gain an appreciation of the New Forest as a National Park, which will help **raise awareness** within the group for the importance of protecting the environment and ensuring that spaces like these will endure.

Date: 13-15th March

Number of students: 10 ±2 (of 46 members)