

+Adventure 11-14: Residential Course Options at Castle Head

As leaders in fieldwork and outdoor learning, Field Studies Council brings our unique depth of knowledge and experience to our +Adventure programmes.

Our approach

We approach adventure in the same way we approach fieldwork: thoughtfully designed, expertly delivered, and rooted in what young people need to thrive.

Our +Adventure programmes are active, engaging and great fun - but always with intent. Young people scramble, paddle, climb and explore, while building confidence, resilience and stronger relationships with each other. Challenge is carefully balanced with support, so every young person can take part, take pride and feel successful.

Because our adventure learning is led by experienced educators, sessions go beyond simply “having a go”. Our team knows how to create the right atmosphere, read a group, and use moments of challenge to build trust, teamwork and self-belief. Reflection happens naturally, without feeling forced, helping participants make sense of what they’ve achieved-.

Adventure is also shaped by our strong connection to the natural world. Set in inspiring outdoor environments, residentials give young people the chance to unplug, spend time outside and develop a deeper appreciation for nature - all while enjoying shared experiences they’ll remember long after the trip ends.

Your +Adventure programme

Your Adventure course programme will be produced by our expert staff based on the challenges, objectives and outcomes you have identified for your group. They will also build in adaptations to meet the needs of all your young people.

We may need to make final adjustments on the day based on weather conditions etc, but the programme will remain focused on the objectives you have agreed.

Example +Adventure programme at Castle Head

This is just one example of what +Adventure can look like for your school. The activities we will select for your group will be based around the outcomes you want to achieve. You can select the number of nights you want to stay.

2-night programme focused on developing academic resilience and communication skills.

		Morning	Afternoon		Evening
Day 1		Midday arrival. Eat packed lunch and welcome to the centre.	Develop co-operative communication skills through fun teambuilding games. Check into rooms and make beds.	Evening dinner	Wilderness bushcraft. In small groups or a large team learn how to light a fire without matches, build a shelter and maybe boil a kettle for a hot drink.
Day 2`	Breakfast and packed lunch prep	Develop canoe paddling skills and experience nature. Managing canoes requires learners to work with each other and communicate effectively.	High Ropes courses are made up of different elements to develop many skills - notably trust in oneself and others and an exploration of personal and team resilience	Evening dinner	An evening campfire provides a memorable experience and a chance to reflect on what students have learned.
Day 3	Breakfast and packed lunch prep	Explore a new place whilst using navigation skills in a fun orienteering session.	After a packed lunch on-site return home.		

Our standard courses run from 13:00 on arrival day to 12:00 on departure day.

Typical timings:	First Day – afternoon/evening	Full Days + evening	Last Day - morning
Evening session may adjust around dinner	13:00-17:00 / 19:00-20:00	09:15-17:00 / 19:00-20:00	09:15 -12:00

Pricing

+Adventure trip prices include a specified number of adventure activities, the activities listed below are included in the programme at no additional cost.

Transport

Your +Adventure trip price includes transport to any activities delivered off-site.

All our courses are underpinned by our **Outcomes Framework**.

Field Studies Council delivers courses and experiences to create a shift in knowledge, understanding and behaviour. Our courses are like a system of cogs; small, immediate changes turn into long term impact. Our approach to learning is guided by three long term outcomes:

Nature and landscape

Through all our delivery we aim to build connection to and understanding of nature and landscape.

Personal and social

Participants gain valuable personal and interpersonal skills through the experiences we facilitate.

Active learning

Our courses promote learning through physical activity in the outdoors. The three core skills are built by seven Experience Outcomes that underpin all our delivery across the organisation. These are the direct effects participants experience during and immediately after engaging in Field Studies Council experiences.





- Environmental understanding
- Nature connection
- Environmental responsibility
- Working well with others
- Health and wellbeing
- Resilience
- Curiosity

These outcomes rely on educators who understand the potential of outdoor learning and who can help every young person explore and learn from the natural world.

+Adventure activity summary at Castle Head

Your programme will be designed around the outcomes you have requested and will include some of the following activities.

Activities	Transport required	Full day/half day
Canoeing	No	Half day
Ghyll scramble	Yes	Half day
High ropes	No	Half day
Low ropes	No	Half day
Obstacle course	No	Half day
Crate stack	No	Half day
Raft building	Yes	Half day
Sea level traverse	TBC	Full day
Rock climbing		
Mountain day		
Teambuilding games	No	Half day or evening
Bushcraft: Fire lighting and shelter building	No	Half day
Orienteering	No	Half day or evening
Campfire	No	Evening
Night Trail	No	Evening
Ecosystems – mammals	No	Evening

+Adventure activity details at Castle Head

Canoeing	Canoeing is an exciting, adventurous, competitive, and recreational activity from which much of the enjoyment and adventure come from the natural environment around you. We use open canoes because they seat 2 to 3 children and so promote teamwork. They provide an exciting opportunity for young people to recognise the importance of good communication and patience. With one of our qualified instructors, you will make a journey upstream or downstream on the River Winster from the Centre or on Coniston Water. To ensure safety we may need to make changes to this activity based on weather and river conditions, e.g. change of venue or alternative activity.
Ghyll scramble	A very popular activity that takes place at various locations including Church Beck in the famous Lakeland village of Coniston. You will find yourself in a dramatic setting, working your way upstream against the current. Success requires effective teamwork and determination; during this activity children can learn about the characteristics of the upper course of a river and the unique habitat which they are journeying in. Not available in the winter due to low water temperatures.
High ropes	With multiple sections, individuals and teams can develop communication skills, balance and belaying skills as well as personal confidence. As well as a vertical challenge, participants can try the Jacob's ladder, climbing wall and high all aboard courses.
Low ropes	Castle Head has a purpose-built Low Ropes Course which is designed to encourage the children to work as a team to overcome the obstacles which they are faced with. The group must work together to get everybody around the whole course without touching the ground. It is often combined with a series of problem-solving exercises to give a structured progression of teambuilding tasks. The low ropes course includes balance beams, rope bridges, zip wire and scramble nets.
Obstacle course	Based in the woods in the Centre grounds the obstacle course consists of a series of challenges of varying degrees of difficulty. This can be a timed event for either teams or individuals or completed as a whole team challenge. It is often combined with a series of problem-solving exercises and/or the Low Ropes Course to give a structured progression of teambuilding tasks and individual challenges. The obstacle course consists of tunnels, balance beams and cargo nets.

Crate stack	Students work in pairs to build a tower of crates whilst standing on top of the tower. How high will they get? The rest of the team help by belaying, keeping the climbers safe using ropes, and by passing the climbers more crates.
Raft building	Rafting has a long-standing tradition at Castle Head. We supply a selection of 45-gallon drums, wooden spars, and ropes for lashing and after a discussion on buoyancy, stability and steering, the group then set about building a raft to their own design. This activity has a strong teamwork element, and the success of the raft will depend on the whole team's ability to work together. Not available in the winter due to low water temperature.
Sea level traverse	An exciting adventurous activity that is held at a famous local beauty spot called Humphrey Head. This is an impressive outcrop of limestone that is surrounded on three sides by sea or sand depending on the tides when you arrive. Children are provided with a first-hand opportunity to explore and discover this unique habitat. Children venture to the top of the headland scramble along, around and over rocky obstacles at the foot of the cliffs, hunting for fossils, looking for crabs or shrimps and learning about the history of Morecambe Bay.
Rock climbing	An activity that usually takes place at our local, beginner friendly crag in Lindale. Participants will be asked to take on some responsibility for their own and other peoples' safety. This approach enables young people to acquire new skills and face personal challenges whilst learning to work together and support each other.
Mountain day	Castle Head's location between coast and mountains provides a tremendous variety of venues for walking. These can vary in length and activity depending on the group's abilities, experience and the prevailing weather conditions. An experienced tutor or qualified mountain leader, depending on the walk being undertaken, will accompany the group. Walks can be designed with a particular theme such as natural history or purely as a physical challenge with fun in mind.
Teambuilding games	These fun activities can focus on problem-solving, communication skills or building connections, depending on your outcome objectives.
Bushcraft: Fire lighting and shelter building	A survival session on site at Castle Head. After a briefing on some key points of building natural shelters, students get the freedom to plan, design and build their own structures. Students can work in small groups or as one large team. Learn how to light a fire without the use of matches! This on-site activity can be adapted in many ways: students can learn how to use steel strikers or very challenging friction-fire lighting techniques using a bow drill. Demonstrations and key safety points are shared before students can give it a go themselves.

	Once the fire is lit, the team can also be tasked to boil a kettle of water on the fire for everyone to enjoy a hot drink at the end of the session.
Orienteering	Castle Head has an orienteering course, set up by one of the North West's top coaches. The activity begins with the basics of map work and navigation using a few simple games and route-finding techniques. This leads individuals, taking part, through a variety of courses of increasing difficulty. At the heart of the activity is scope for individual progression and achievement.
Campfire	Students can reflect on the learning experiences of the day and enjoy the warmth of a fire as the light fades. As well as enjoying a toasted marshmallow we will introduce a game or encourage a song.
Night Trail	We have a purpose-built Night Line Challenge, which is designed to encourage the children to work together to build trust and communication. The whole group work together to lead around a rope course whilst blindfolded. Children will use their investigation skills to identify the nocturnal animals at Castle Head by their footprints, as well as discovering more about how animals navigate at night.
Eco-systems - mammals	Depending on the weather and time of year students could learn how to set humane mammal or moth traps, find owl pellets, use bat detectors or camera traps. The next morning, we check to see what we have found or filmed, dissect owl pellets and learn how to use ID keys to identify the species.

Your +Adventure Outcomes

To help our experienced tutor team build your programme we need to understand the outcomes you want to achieve. We will set up a telephone or Teams meeting to discuss this when you make your booking. If time doesn't allow, we can also take information from you via email.

- What is the age range of the group you plan to bring?
- What are your top 3 learning outcomes for the group?
- Are there any other short-term or long-term benefits you want to develop from the trip?
- What previous experience does the group have of outdoor physical activity and challenge?
- What learning points do teachers want learners to transfer back to classroom environments?
- Are there any specific Adventure-Learning sessions would you most like us to include in your programme?