

Three Peaks Challenge 2007

Drivers Information

Support Team & Driver Information

The following information is provided for advice only. This information sheet was updated 1st June 2007. You are free to use whichever route you choose, but the route shown avoids some known blackspots.

Three Peaks Challenge & Adventure Activities
Transport, logistics, mountain guiding, to full event arrangement

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Support Team & Driver Information.

This driver information is provided by Merseyventure for teams planning a Three Peaks Challenge using the Wasdale approach to Scafell Pike.

We STRONGLY recommend each vehicle has at least one dedicated driver, not taking any part in the walking element of this challenge..!

You are free to print off or forward this information sheet, but please do not simply remove our header and pass it off as your own work..! Thanks.

The last update to this information sheet is shown by the date in the box above. Bear in mind that there are various improvements underway to certain road sections, and you should check traffic websites and the radio for any changes, roadworks, traffic accidents or diversions.

Also remember to check for updates on the Three Peaks Challenge Forum at:

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/threepaks/>

Here Goes...

Drivers will need to get teams to the right place at the right time, and collect them at the end of each walk. They will need to know the route and find drop-off locations, parking places and finish locations. They will need change handy for bridges, tolls, or tunnels and they will need to know where and when to refuel vehicles en-route. They should be able to offer an estimated time of arrival to walkers, and wake them up 30 minutes or so before arriving at the next mountain to allow walkers to kit up.

Support teams should assist drivers with food, drinks and navigation, and then organise food and drinks for the walkers whilst the driver gets some sleep.

Itinerary

Drop your team at Glen Nevis Visitor Centre car park, then don't hang around as the Scottish midges may eat you alive during summer months. We suggest that for the next 3 – 4 hours you return to Fort William, or head up Glen Nevis for a coffee. Your team should return in around 5-7 hours. Limited mobile phone access is available on some networks here.

Stage 1:

When your team returns, you have around 6 hours of travelling before arriving at Wasdale. Most route planners will show a journey time of around 5 hours 45 minutes via A82 Tarbet. However, we strongly recommend an alternative route via A84 Callander which avoids some narrow twisty roads and accident blackspots

You will have plenty of time for comfort, coffee and fuel breaks, and we suggest that small teams with one driver have a 30 minute break after 3 hours driving at around Happendon (J11 M74), and teams with two drivers swap drivers every two hours, stopping for fuel or coffee at Gretna Services (after J21 M74). Wasdale is about 2 hours from here, and 24 hour fuel/toilets may be difficult to find. Teams should make use of this car park for lighting to sort out equipment, dry clothing, maps and kit for Scafell Pike.

As you travel through Carlisle, remember many local clubs and bars will have just closed. The police also have a lot of patrol cars in the area, and there are a number of **30mph and 40mph speed cameras** on the main roads/A595.

At Gosforth you will leave the main road and follow minor, single track roads into Wasdale Head. Take extra care, drive carefully – watch out for **sheep** that often sleep on the tarmac, potholes below surface water, cattle grids, minibuses coming the opposite way.... Please slow down and dip headlights when approaching farmsteads and houses, and give way to any other traffic.

As you arrive at Wasdale Head, please follow any visitor signs, don't block farm entrances or park on grass verges, turn off engine and headlights as soon as possible. Keep all noise to an absolute minimum – there are locals, holiday-makers and campers – as well as other event drivers - trying to sleep nearby. Your team should be ready to start walking as you arrive, and should set off for the summit straight away. You should now try to get some sleep – allow around 4 – 5 hours before your team return. No mobile phone reception here.

Stage 2:

Your team should return early morning, between around 5am and 8am. Arrange some breakfast if possible, then get back on the road. First available toilets are at Holmrook Service Station from 7am – take your own toilet paper! First hot food is in about 1 hour, on the M6. You will be driving into the morning sun, so have sunglasses handy.

Expect to be on the road for around 4½ to 5 hours. The M6 and A55 Coast Road both have plenty of service stations for food, comfort and fuel breaks. Route planning websites or satnav may suggest some other route options, but again we highly recommend our own detailed driving route which has proven to offer the quickest and safest approach to Pen-y-Pass in Snowdonia for Three Peaks teams.

As you approach Bangor on the A55, wake up your team and let them know they are within 30 minutes of Mt Snowdon. They *MUST* be ready to get out of the vehicle at the turning area at Pen-y-Pass car park. We suggest you stop at Nant Peris Car Park on the pass, for your team to get ready. The car park is free and has toilets. If you stop at Pen-Y-Pass for too long you may well get a parking fine. And the private car park owner here is only too happy to hand them out. *BE WARNED..!*

Once you have dropped your team off, return down the pass into Llanberis.

Team vehicles should find the Quality Victoria Hotel in Llanberis (opposite the Mountain Railway Station) and park in the adjacent car park (£4), then perhaps get a cold drink in the bar whilst awaiting their teams arrival or visit Pete's Eats in Llanberis High Street (recommended).

Some teams will opt to stay overnight in north Wales, whilst others may travel home on the Sunday evening.

Please take plenty of breaks on the way home, and change drivers every hour.

Route and Sat Nav Information.

Below is our recommended route for Stage 1 and Stage 2. You are free to use any route that you prefer. To use our recommended route via your satnav, you should ask it to visit '*Callander*' on Stage 1, and '*Llanfairfechan*' on Stage 2.

Start : Glen Nevis Visitor Centre : PH33 6PF

Scafell Pike Start/Finish : Wasdale Head : CA20 1EX

Snowdon Start : Pen-y-Pass : LL55 4NY

Snowdon Finish Car Park: LL55 4TY

Quality Victoria Hotel : LL55 4TY

The total drive distance is around 450 miles. We recommend you fuel up first at the Morrisons Petrol Station in Fort William (a 24 hour petrol station is available 2 miles north of Fort William on the A82), and then again at Gretna Motorway Services on the M74. This should get you to Llanberis, however, there are plenty of 24 hour fuel stops available on the M6 and A55 if needed.

Recommended Driving Route – Stage 1

Leave the visitor centre at Glen Nevis and head back to Fort William. Reach the mini roundabout and head straight over, onto the A82 heading south. At the next roundabout, turn left onto the dual carriageway. Continue to the next small roundabout, follow the A82, well signposted.

Pass the Corran Ferry, cross the Ballachulish bridge to another traffic island, take 2nd left and head up past Glencoe and across Rannoch Moor, still on the A82. Pass Bridge of Orchy and descend carefully to a junction where the A82 changes to the A85 at Tyndrum, and the Green Welly Stop.

Now follow the A85 through Crainlarich, here ignoring the right-hand turn signposted "A82, Glasgow". Continue on A85 to Lochearnhead, where you will bear straight-ahead onto A84, ignoring the A85 which goes left.

Follow A84 through Queen Elizabeth Forest Park, Callander, Doune and Blair Drummond Safari Park to eventually reach a roundabout over the M9, just before Stirling. The 3rd exit will put you onto the M9 heading south. If you require motorway services, you should follow the signs at the next motorway junction. Otherwise, follow overhead signs for "M80, Glasgow and The South"

M80 turns to dual carriageway as A80 for a short while. Straight over at Cumbernauld roundabout, then follow signs for M73 and the South. Stay in left lane and join M74 south. You now have around 2 hours on the motorway, and various 24 hours services. We recommend all teams stop at the last services, Gretna, to get changed and ready for Scafell Pike, which is around 2 hours away. This will be the last time you see toilets, hot drinks or have any floodlit area for some time..!

Rejoin M74 south, which becomes A74. At J44, exit onto A7 toward Carlisle. Note the 30mph speed limits. In Carlisle centre, turn right at large roundabout, and follow signs for A595, toward Whitehaven. At Thursby roundabout, take second left to continue on A595 through Mealsgate and Bothel, to meet A66 outside of Cockermouth. Turn right onto A66 for a short time, before following signs again for A595 toward Whitehaven.

As you approach Whitehaven, bear left to avoid the town centre, still on A595. Continue through Egremont, Calderbridge and Ponsonby. Now start looking for a road on your left to Gosforth, which is signposted.

Turn in toward Gosforth, then at largest junction, turn left toward Wasdale. Bear next left, and continue to junction where you will bear right, up a very steep road – Leagate Brow. Continue through Nether Wasdale and turn left at next main junction - signposted.

Wast Water will soon be on your right, and you may be able to see head torches going up Scafell. Continue over bridge and pass NT campsite on your right, to finally reach Wasdale Head and the Green..!

Recommended Driving Route – Stage 2

Exit Wasdale by heading back to Nether Wasdale. At road junction near West Water, turn left staying close to the lake. Reach Santon Bridge, and turn left for a few metres, over bridge then turn right. At next main junction, bear right onto long straight minor road to reach A595 at Holmrook. If you need fuel or toilets, turn right for 100 metres. Otherwise turn left onto A595.

Keep following A595 south until shortly past Whitbeck, where you need to turn left to stay on A595. This is well signposted, but if you are travelling too fast you will overshoot the turn. Continue on winding road, pass Foxfield and at Grizebeck, bear left on A5092. Follow to Greenodd (petrol station) where you turn left onto A590.

The A590 will now take you to the M6, but involves a number of turns and roundabouts, all well signposted. The A590 has a number of petrol stations, and the road varies between single and dual carriageway – you will make good progress from now.

Join M6 south at J36, and continue south all the way to J20. Now get into the left lane and look for the slip road at the M6/M56 intersection. Follow M56 signed "north Wales and Chester" Continue to the end of the M56.

M56 ends at a large roundabout – turn left onto the A5117. Straight over at next roundabout, staying on A5117.

At traffic lights, bear left still on dual carriageway, which now becomes A550 'Queensferry'. Continue on the main dual carriageway which becomes A494, and then A55 – following signs for Conwy or Bangor.

The A55 coast road has varying speed limits, roundabouts, tunnels, nearly always roadworks, and lots of speed traps – so be extra careful, especially if running behind schedule. Service stations are frequent and offer food and fuel.

After Conwy, follow signs for Bangor, until you reach the main A5 slip road. Turn left at roundabout toward Bethesda, then immediately right (mini roundabout), past petrol station into A4244. At next roundabout, turn left on A4244. You will be able to see Snowdon's summit from around here.

Arrive at 'T' junction with A4086 and turn left. Continue along the main road, ignoring the sign for Llanberis on the right. Note the mountain railway station on your right, and the big car park opposite, as you drive past. This is where teams will arrive at the end of their challenge.

Follow road to very top of Pen-y-Pass and turn right into turning area of car park. Drop team swiftly (as mentioned elsewhere) then return to Llanberis to park opposite the railway station and await your team's triumphant return..!

Driving Route

Stage 1 – Minimum time 6 hours

Glen Nevis
Minor road to Fort William
A82 Glencoe (*deer*)
A82 Tyndrum
A82 Crainlarich
A85 Lochearnhead
A84 Callander
A84 Doune
A84 – M9 J10
M9
M80
A80
M73
M74
A74
A74 J44
A7 – Carlisle (*police patrols*)
A595 Whitehaven (*speed cameras*)
A595 Gosforth
Minor roads to Wasdale Head (*sheep*)

Stage 2 – Estimated time 5 hours

Wasdale Head
Minor roads to Holmrook
A595 Broughton-in-Furnass
A595 Grizebeck
A5092 Greenodd
A590 Newby Bridge (*roadworks High Newton*)
A590 Levens
A590 – M6 J36
M6 – J20a
M56 – end (J16)
A5117 Queensferry (*roadworks 40mph*)
A550 Queensferry
A494 – A55
A55 St Asaph
A55 Conwy (*police patrols*)
A55 Bangor (J11)
A5 – A4244 (previously B4366)
A4244 (previously B4547)
A4086
Llanberis
Pen-y-Pass