

Christmas cracker ride, Yat Rock, Gloucestershire, Tuesday 28th December 2021

Ride information.

1. Welcome to Offa's Dyke 2021 Christmas cracker social ride. We hope you have a lovely ride. Please check Offa's Dyke webpage and facebook page the evening before the ride as weather is unpredictable at this time of year and for any changes to the COVID regulations.

PLEASE NOTE:

1. CAR PARKING CHARGE
2. EARLY START
3. ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING FOR RIDE PARTICIPANTS
4. ALL HORSE MUST HAVE UP TO DATE FLU VACCINATIONS. PASSPORTS WILL BE CHECKED ON ARRIVAL AT THE VENUE

2. The venue is Yat Rock Car park map ref SO564160 postcode for Yat Rock visitor attraction is GL16 7NY: the car park is a little walk away. Please make sure you arrive from the Coleford (south) side and do not try to access it from the Huntsham (north) side as the road here is very narrow, single track, and you may well get stuck!

Riders can leave any time between 9.30 and 11.00 hrs.

Do not arrive before 09.00 am as we will not be ready.

3. Directions:

From the West:

From the A449 Monmouth traffic lights take the A 4136 towards Coleford. After about 5 miles go left at a crossroads towards Christchurch and Symonds Yat East.

After 1 km turn oblique left onto Ross Road towards Yat Rock and Symonds Yat East. After another 3km the venue is on your left. If you go under a footbridge you have just missed it (and will struggle to turn round as it gets exceedingly narrow beyond this point)

From the East:

Take the A4136 towards Staunton. Just past a garage on your right is a cross roads. Turn right towards Christchurch and Symonds Yat East ... and follow the directions as above.

4. Covid-19

There are currently no travel restrictions between England and Wales, but please check Offa's Dyke facebook page the night before the ride as things might change.

Please do not attend if you, or anyone in your household has tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 10 days or if they or you have any symptoms of Covid-19. Please do not congregate or hang around when you have finished your ride.

This ride is being run under EGB rules and EGB website states "EGB All attendees should bring with them a face mask and hand sanitiser. Riders should carry a face mask, hand sanitiser and disposable gloves in their bum bag in case they have to offer support to another rider on the trail. All attendees should avoid close contact with people who they do not normally meet, where possible. Attendees should be encouraged to keep their hands and faces as clean as possible, and to wash their hands with soap and water or use sanitiser regularly. Attendees should wear their face mask where they are likely to come into close contact with other people (for example when visiting the secretary, or when visiting the vet or farrier) If an attendee displays symptoms of Covid 19 whilst at the event, they must be asked to put on their face mask and asked to leave immediately."

These apply even if you have been fully vaccinated and had your booster.

5. Parking and the venue

We will have separate parking from the general parking for health and safety reasons and as Yat Rock is a popular visitor attraction it is expected to be busy. For this reason we are limiting the number of vehicles to 35, and no larger than 7.5 tonnes. Our vehicles will need to be parked in one area only, under supervision from

parking assistants. **Please wait to be directed by the parking stewards.** If you are hiring transport please ensure your driver complies with the parking steward's directions.

It is a great car park with loos, a cafe and a one-way system. There is an OK-ish phone signal at the venue (but poor in the forest) and visitor attractions for chauffeurs. You will need to pay for car parking. (£2 up to 2 hours, £4 up to 4 hours, £5 all day) The machine will only accept coins, but you can pay on line in advance with RingGo. Ensure you download the app to your phone before you visit as the phone signal may not be enough to download it at the venue. According to their website 'You can also use RingGo by pre-booking online or calling 0203 046 0063 with location code 31043 (cars) or 31044 (minibus or motorhome). There is a small convenience charge for using this service. See RingGo online for full terms and conditions and VAT receipts.'

Emergency number for the day is: Charlie: 07495 352885

5. On arrival please collect your own number bib from the ride office, and leave in the designated bin after your ride. You must adhere to covid guidelines in place on the day. As this is a social ride there will be no vet or farrier present and no trot up or heart rate check. There will be first aid and toilets.

6. Forest rules:

Remove all horse droppings from the car park and leave the area clean and tidy.

Forestry operations will be active and riders must stay away from timber stacks and respect safety signs.

Show courtesy and consideration to other users of the forest

Keep dogs on leads or under tight control at all times

No smoking or lighting of fires in the forest

7. Hazards

There is a steep, narrow uphill section on all routes towards the end of the ride with a drop on the left hand side. You may wish to lead your horse up here.

Wild boar are active in the forest and it is possible that you might see them.

Mountain bikers use this area

Horse and rider combinations should be sufficiently experienced to cope with these and other typical outdoor hazards. It is recommended that you wear a suitable body protector.

8. The route

Please use the main Symonds Yat entrance drive as the route through the site, not the main path through the hill fort or the public footpath between the staff/ disabled car park into the main car park.

There are 12km, 20km and 26 km options. The 26km is a 'figure of 8' as the route rides best this way. The 12 km is the first loop of the 26km route. For 20km use a little cut through on the 2nd loop. All routes go along the river, nearly to Symonds Yat where there is a steep, narrow uphill climb and a road section of about 200m just before returning to the venue. The road will have stewards. Please ensure you carry a map of the route, mobile phone and emergency numbers. The route will be marked clearly with sawdust blobs every 0.5 km or so ON THE LEFT (except that a right turn will be marked by 3 markers on the right). 3 blobs on the left means turn left. It is mostly all-weather forestry tracks. The forestry commission says that there should be no trotting or cantering on soft rides. Walkers and cyclists use the forest too, and riders should walk past them.

9. Loading your horse after the ride. The organisers are unable to take responsibility for this. It is essential that you are able to load your horse efficiently after the ride as it will be dark by 4pm and the forestry will expect us to lock the barriers by nightfall. If your horse can be difficult to load this may not be a suitable ride for you.

10. Disclaimer

This ride is run under Endurance GB Rules. Save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Organisers or anyone for whom they are in law responsible, neither the Organisers of any event to which these rules apply, nor the Endurance GB, nor any agent, employee or representative of these bodies accepts any liability for any accident, loss, damage, injury or illness to horses, owners, riders, spectators, land or any other person or property whatsoever whether caused by their negligence, breach of contract or any other way whatsoever. The Organiser has the right to cancel the ride, alter the advertised times; refuse any entry.