

Fossil Hunting Tour - Safety Document

Understanding the following safety document is an essential part of your booking.

TIDES and WATER DANGERS

The Whitby Coast has a daily tidal range of up to six vertical metres. Your trip has been timed to coincide with the low tide when the sea is furthest from the rock platform, cliffs and beach top. It is important that the tour keeps to schedule in order to avoid being trapped by the tide in one of many 'Cut offs' that exist along the Whitby Coast. At no point should any member of your party enter the water, or take a risk of being immersed in the sea, or knocked over by waves. The itinerary that you are taken on should not be repeated at any other time except for the lowest of tides in the monthly calendar. Rescue by helicopter is an incredibly embarrassing situation

CLIFFS and FALLING ROCK DANGERS

Each year several people are killed along the British coastline from a rockfall. This is a very real danger on the North Yorkshire Coast, where soft shales underlay unstable sandstones at the bottom of some of the highest sea cliffs in England. As a general rule, the only 'safe' zone is the same distance from the cliff foot as the cliff is high. Where this is not possible, your guide will judge safety based on their expert knowledge and experience. At no point should you be walking close to the cliff edge, or search for fossils immediately at their base. If you see fresh fallen rock on the rock platform, you know that this rock was tens of metres higher than you several tides ago.

SLIPPERY ROCKS and MUD DANGERS

The greatest actual danger to you on a coastal rock platform is slips or falls upon an uneven, slippery rock platform, or slipping when negotiating between boulders or cobbles. You will avoid these risks by preparing for your trip and remembering - Shoes. Eyes. Common Sense. SHOES - Waterproof non-slip boots with ankle support are the best option. Hiking boots with a non slip sole, sturdy trainers or Wellington boots. Avoid flat plimsoles, sandals or open toe shoes. Your guide may have to change an itinerary if your shoes do not allow safe movement across rock platforms or boulders.

EYES - Be aware of patches of green algae and rock pools. Your guide will make you aware of these hazards and you must look out for them along the route, taking precautionary steps to avoid them.

COMMON SENSE - If something troubles you - speak to your guide.

If you're not comfortable - speak to your guide

If somebody else is behaving in a way that distresses you - speak to your guide

ROCK SPLITTING and EYE DANGERS

At some points along the tour your guide will use their geological hammer to open rocks.

The danger here is sharp rock chips flying into eyes. All participants are advised to step back and look away.

COVID-19

Every individual should behave as though they have the virus. Physical contact will be limited, unless required for safety. Distance should be maintained. You should NOT come on a tour if you have Covid symptoms or have had exposure to someone who has had Covid symptoms in the last 14 days

Remember - HANDS : FACE : SPACE : FRESH AIR and our 5th Element - RESPECT. Respect that others may be more sensitive than you and act accordingly.

TOILETS - FOOD - WATER

Many of the itineraries have no access to public toilets or shops. Each group is advised to bring water and snacks to fuel participants throughout their long walk.

CLOTHING & BACKPACK

Regardless of the weather forecast, assume it will rain. Always bring a waterproof and several layers of clothing to adjust for the conditions. Bring a stable, well balanced backpack rather than bags that require hands. All litter must be carried away with you.

We Look forward to giving you and your group a safe and memorable outdoor learning experience along the North Yorkshire Coast.

Mr. B. Blessed, his employees and associates at “Natural Wonders Ltd” 20 Grape Lane, Whitby, North Yorkshire, accepts no responsibility for loss, damage, injuries or pathogen transmission that may occur whilst on his guided “Whitby Fossil Hunting Trip”. Safety guidelines will be issued at the start of the tour and our “Covid-19 Secure” measures can be found on the company website at www.fossils-uk/covid-19-update/

We the undersigned agree to these terms. We accept that we attend this trip at our own risk and accept that the safety and health of my family and myself are my own, and that any accidents, loss, damage or transmission of any pathogen that occurs whilst on this trip are not the responsibility of Mr. B. Blessed; “Natural Wonders Ltd”, or any associate thereof. All safety advice issued must be adhered to at all times.

You are guided by an expert, however, your voice must be heard, should discomfort or concern take place regarding the circumstances of yourself or another party member. Common sense must prevail in all situations

Signature:-

Print Name:-

DATE:-

