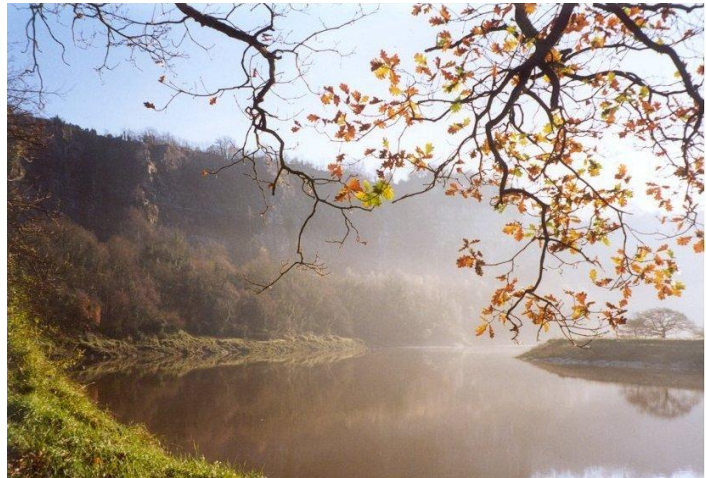


Wilderness Discovery launches 'Wye Valley and Forest Experience'

In response to much media attention on the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley recently, Wilderness Discovery has created an extraordinary 24hr experience of the area in conjunction with the Marriot hotel chain. Eden TV, Ray Mears, Kate Humble, ITV, and many others have been drawn to the area to showcase its natural beauty and diversity. Alan Cree of Wilderness Discovery has been studying wilderness skills in the area for the last 12 years and decided to create an unforgettable experience of the area which combines, falconry, canoeing, wilderness skills and luxurious food and accommodation.

The all-inclusive experience includes transport throughout the day and is designed to include some of the more famous viewpoints of the lower Wye Valley, which have inspired artists and poets such as William Turner and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. A hand drawn ferry is used to take people across the Wye for lunch at the 15th century Old Ferrie Inn during the day. "I wanted people to see what I see and experience some of what I experience," says Alan Cree. "A unique, stunningly beautiful and diverse natural ecosystem on our doorstep".



Wilderness Discovery is working with Layla Bennett of Hawksdrift falconry and Stuart Wyley of Wye Canoes. Layla secured funding from Duncan Bannaytyne on Dragons Den last year. Wye Canoes are expert guides to the river Wye that has been recently voted the public's favourite river in England and Wales. Together with Alan's skills and his intimate knowledge of the natural world, this combination of activities makes the Wye Valley and Forest Experience a unique and inspirational journey of discovery for their clients.

Karen Cree of Wilderness Discovery organises the experience for private groups and organisations of between 6 and 20 people. Karen is an expert project manager and event organiser, having planned and organized events in the UK and overseas for up to 3000 people. For organizations that wish to extend their stay to conduct some business at the Marriot St Pierre Hotel & Country Club Karen advise clients on the extensive facilities available.

Karen Cree of Wilderness Discovery says " We are very pleased to be able to offer our clients facilities at the Marriot St Pierre Hotel & Country Club. It is such a perfect location from which to host the Wye Valley and Forest Experience. Not just because of the beautiful parkland which surrounds the historic hotel and 11th century church, but because of its conference, spa and golf facilities."

For further information go to www.wildernessdiscovery.me.uk.

Notes to editor

Alan Cree acted as an advisor and activity provider to Eden TV on their “Base Camp Eden” experience in September 2010 featuring Ben Fogle.

“I’ve lived in the forest all my life and thought I was good at building hides for wildlife photography, but Alan taught us all how to build the perfect shelter, how to light fires without matches and how to survive if you have no food and water. It was a pleasure to meet and learn from this extraordinary man and if there is anyone who would like to learn survival skills, I would recommend him to everyone.” Quote from Rob Ward, wildlife photographer and Eden TV competition winner.

About Alan Cree

Alan originally trained to be an electrician in a Clydeside engineering company. He then trained to become an architectural draughtsman. As a young man Alan emigrated to South Africa to work in architecture. He later moved to London and became an applications engineer for a computer aided design company. He became Head of Planning for one of the world’s largest banks and was responsible for the design of buildings around the world.

Alan’s interest in sustainability led him to study climate change and he started working for environmental groups.

He began studying bushcraft and outdoor leadership in 1997 and is qualified in a range of outdoor skills and accelerated learning techniques.

About Wilderness Discovery

Wilderness Discovery is based in the Forest of Dean & offers a range of nature-based learning experiences using wilderness skills and bushcraft. Our key objective is to enable people to explore and experience the natural world with greater awareness and understanding.

Experiences typically include developing practical skills in navigation, campcraft, shelter designs, fire management, cooking, edible foods and medicinal herbs.

We develop peoples’ skills in understanding human nature and interaction with others by developing their sense of identity, belonging, security and competence.