

# Activities at Kandersteg International Scout Centre



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**0845 300 1818**

Kandersteg International Scout Centre (KISC) is one of the most popular international destinations for UK Scouts. KISC and the UK Scout Association have been working together to ensure that your Alpine activities are conducted under the stipulations of UK activity rules. The purpose of this factsheet is to clearly inform you of the procedure for activities while staying at KISC.

## **What is the situation for UK groups in Kandersteg?**

- When you arrive in Kandersteg, a leader will have to sign a 'Guest Declaration Form' on behalf of the whole group. This named leader is then responsible for all the actions while here.
- Members of staff in Kandersteg, who come from many countries, are trained and assessed in leading mountain activities based on KISC operating procedures and standards. The UK Scout Association have consulted with Kandersteg and observed their staff training, and are happy that these standards are at least as high as those required of UK leaders. UK groups can therefore be confident that using KISC led activities fulfil the requirements of the UK Scout Association. The KISC staff will work closely with all groups prior to activities to ensure that they are fully prepared.

## **What is the situation for UK groups taking part in activities led by KISC Staff?**

- When taking part in activities overseas the rules of the UK Scout Association allow for host country Scout leaders to lead activities for UK Scouts following the rules of the host country. This includes Kandersteg staff leading activities following the KISC rules and operating

procedures. UK groups therefore do not need to follow UK activity specific rules (such as group sizes) when taking part in KISC led activities.

- For all activities a leader from the Scout Association (UK) must be present and be prepared to halt the activity if they have any safety concerns
- Activities forbidden by the Scout Association remain forbidden even if offered with a KISC Staff member or through an external partner of KISC. These activities include Paintball, Bungee Jumping and Banana Boating.

## **What is the situation for UK groups doing activities on their own?**

- KISC has a large international team led by the Deputy Director for Programme who can offer advice and help you plan your activities. We urge you to use their knowledge and expertise as much as possible.
- It is up to you as a group to check that you are following all the relevant regulations of the Scout Association (UK), especially with regard to necessary 'Hill Walking' permits.
- All groups staying at KISC must complete a Route Card and leave it with the Staff. It is your responsibility to ensure that your planning comes within the rules of The Scout Association (UK)

## **Further notes**

- Plan your programme thoroughly and contact the KISC Programme Office to discuss what you would like to do. Please follow the booking procedure as stipulated in the Kandersteg Active brochure and/or the General Terms & Conditions.

**The Scout Information Centre**

Gilwell Park Chingford London E4 7QW Tel + 44 (0)20 8433 7100 Fax + 44 (0)20 8433 7103 email [info.centre@scout.org.uk](mailto:info.centre@scout.org.uk) [www.scoutbase.org.uk](http://www.scoutbase.org.uk)

- Walking maps of the area around Kandersteg are available – aim to buy and use these. KISC can send you one in advance if you wish and put the cost on your bill.
- If you are still not clear about the current UK rules, contact your ACC Activities or The UK Scout Association at Gilwell Park.

### **Terrain definitions in Kandersteg**

The purpose of the information below is to clarify the situation with regard to UK led hiking in the area around Kandersteg International Scout Centre. It is specifically to give detailed information to allow UK groups to relate and compare, using the UK terminology, the situation in Kandersteg with that of the United Kingdom. KISC led hikes follow KISC rules and operating procedures as detailed before. These terrain classifications are for unguided / self-guided activities only.

### **Terrain Zero**

The following areas are deemed to be Terrain Zero:

- 1 The Kander valley north from the Centre up to 200 meters above the valley floor.
- 2 The Gastern valley as far as Seldon, limited to paths and roads in the valley.
- 3 Up to the Lake Oeschinen when walking up the road.
- 4 Up to the Ueschinen valley as far as the Lohner restaurant at GR 6154 1468 on the 1:25,000 'Kandersteg wanderkarte' map.
- 5 In general, up to 200 meters above any valley floor, provided that the valley is inhabited and is traversed by a metalled road.

If a path is marked on the map as a Bergweg then it is a Bergweg regardless of location.

Terrain Zero routes going out of the valley (e.g.: Nordrampe) cease being terrain zero and become whatever classification is marked on the map.

### **Terrain Zero (with extra requirements) / Wanderwegs**

Provided that they are marked on the map and on the ground, Wanderwegs are considered to be Terrain Zero as long as the rules below are followed. For parties following a Wanderweg, the following apply:

- 1 The UK leader must carry out, possibly with guidance and assistance from KISC staff, a risk Assessment of the proposed route, especially taking into account weather forecasts.
- 2 The party size is strictly limited to 8 people (1 designated leader, up to 6 young people and any number of adults up to the maximum group size of 8).
- 3 One person in this party must be designated as the leader of the party.
- 4 A completed Route Card must be left with the KISC Staff.

### **Terrain 1 / Bergwegs**

Provided that they are marked on the map and on the ground, Bergwegs are deemed to be in Terrain One. For parties following a Bergweg, the following apply:

- 1 The leader must have a permit for the area in which they are walking. This will be at the same technical level as 'Terrain one England and Wales', but any restrictions need to include the Kandersteg area being walked.
- 2 When there are winter conditions, including when there is snow on the route, the permit needs to be for 'Winter Conditions'. KISC staff will be able to help in assessing the condition of the route.
- 3 The party size is strictly limited to 8 people (1 permit holder, up to 6 young people and any number of adults up to the maximum group size of 8).
- 4 A completed Route Card must be left with the KISC staff.
- 5 The hike over the Lötchenpass via the Lötchen Glacier is deemed an Alpinweg – see below.

## **Terrain 2 / Alpinwegs**

UK parties proposing to traverse Alpinwegs must have been granted a suitable hillwalking permit by the appropriate Commissioner in the United Kingdom. This needs to include assessment of any required skills, such as walking on glaciers.