

# ADVENTURE CREATES POSITIVE CHANGE

Unforgettable outdoor  
learning for schools

Day trips and residential  
experiences in North Devon



**SKERN**  
ADVENTURE

# Welcome to Skern Adventure

At Skern Adventure, we believe adventure creates positive change.

The word Skern means safe harbour — and that idea underpins everything we do. Our centres are places where children and young people feel seen, supported and encouraged to venture beyond the familiar, take positive risks and grow through experience.

We help children and young people learn through carefully designed school trips and residential programmes that create something lasting — the kind of growth that endures long after the bags are unpacked and the photos are shared. Through adventure, students build confidence, resilience and a stronger sense of self that they carry back into school, home and life.

Our programmes blend outdoor learning, adventurous activities and personal development, connecting students to the natural world, to each other and to meaningful learning beyond the classroom.

This is adventure in its truest sense: in touch with nature, fully present, fully alive.

Taste the salt. Feel the mud. Tangible experiences, real challenge and real excitement help young people explore, make decisions, work together and discover what they're capable of.

92%

of teachers say pupils are more engaged when learning outdoors

85%

see improved behaviour, showing the impact reaches far beyond the classroom.



Built on over fifty years of heritage, Skern Adventure has a long history of delivering positive, life-changing experiences through adventure. That history shapes how we design every programme and how we show up for every group.

Our care is what schools feel from the moment they arrive. Qualified, committed staff lead with warmth and professionalism, delivering industry-leading programmes in an environment where every child is supported, encouraged and able to thrive.

- Just 2–5 days away can significantly boost young people's confidence and friendships
- Residential outdoor experiences increase social confidence and connection to others.
- The benefits last long after the bags are unpacked
- Outdoor residentials deliver lasting gains in confidence, independence, communication and teamwork.

# Our centres

## Skern Adventure, Appledore – Coastal outdoor learning



**Location: Appledore, Bideford, Devon, EX39 1NG**

Set on 22 acres overlooking the Taw and Torridge Estuary, within the UNESCO North Devon Biosphere Reserve, Skern Appledore offers a truly varied and inspiring outdoor learning environment.

Our Appledore centre is warm, welcoming and supportive – a place where young people are encouraged to try new things and grow through experience. Carefully guided challenge helps students build confidence and courage to try, to fail, to reflect and to try again.

“We have had a wonderful visit. The feedback from the children has been incredibly positive and we know that they will remember their residential experience for many years! Thank you so much, Skern really is a special place.”

“We love coming to Skern and every visit just feels like we are catching up with old friends. We appreciate your high standards and the consistency of service you’ve maintained over the years.”

### Facilities, accommodation and food

- Four separate accommodation buildings with central heating, drying rooms, showers and made-up beds
- Fresh, nourishing meals to fuel active days, support wellbeing, and cater for all dietary requirements.
- Classrooms, meeting rooms and social spaces for learning, reflection and group time
- Heated outdoor pool for confidence-building sessions and activity warm-ups
- Wi-Fi, and fieldwork equipment for data collection and reporting

### Activities:

River kayaking, surfing, bodyboarding, rafting, cycling, high ropes, coastal exploration, climbing, archery, assault course, orienteering, tunnel challenges, problem-solving activities, pool games and more.

### Location benefits:

Skern Lodge sits on the edge of the Taw-Torridge Estuary in North Devon, offering immediate access to beaches, rocky shores and beautiful natural scenery. This gives groups the rare combination of sea, estuary and countryside all in one place.



# Our centres

## Skern Adventure, Abbotsham Countryside adventure & learning



**Location: Abbotsham Road,  
Bideford, EX39 5AP**

Set within 35+ acres of green space; Skern Abbotsham offers a purpose-built countryside environment for school residentials focused on teamwork, resilience, confidence and personal growth, alongside academic development.

With space to explore and shared challenges that bring groups together, Skern Abbotsham is an environment designed to build confidence and courage, helping young people embrace new opportunities, support one another and grow in self-belief through adventure.

“It is the best residential I have experienced! The water-based activities give many of the pupils first time experiences, the accommodation is comfortable and the food delicious and plenty - which means the children are well rested and energised for the day. The on-site staff and instructors engage brilliantly with the children, making their week very memorable.”

### Facilities, accommodation and food

- Several unique dormitory areas, allowing for groups to feel their own sense of community
- Multi-bed rooms crafted for all ages, with options including dormitories and twin/ensuite staff rooms within the same accommodation blocks
- Spacious social and common areas for group gatherings, reflection and evening activities
- Fresh, nourishing meals fuel active days and are enjoyed together in our large dining room, catering for all dietary requirements.
- On-site café and tuck shop for snacks and downtime
- Free Wi-Fi, toilets and changing facilities

### Activities:

High ropes, assault course (land and water), mountain boarding, archery, nightline and bushcraft. Raft building, kayaking and paddleboarding on our onsite lake, plus coasteering and surfing at local coastal locations.

### Location benefits:

Direct Access to the Southwest Coastal Path, close to woodland, countryside and rural landscapes, providing excellent opportunities for environmental learning, teamwork challenges and immersive outdoor experiences.



# Residential trips



Skern Adventure offers a wide range of residential experiences designed to fit around your school's needs. Programmes are designed to be fully flexible, adapting in length and structure to suit the needs of each individual — whether you're looking for a day out of the classroom or a longer residential experience.

Each residential is carefully tailored to your group, balancing adventure, learning and reflection to create an experience that works for your students, your timetable and your learning outcomes.

## Why Choose Skern Adventure?

### Dedicated support, from day one

From your first enquiry to final departure, a dedicated Course Director is with you every step of the way — shaping your programme with you, guiding each day on site and making sure everything runs smoothly. Party leaders can relax knowing they're always in the right place at the right time.

### Adventure with purpose

Every programme is designed to create positive change — supporting personal growth that students carry back into school, home and life.

### A safe harbour for growth

Our centres provide a warm, supportive environment where every child is seen, encouraged and given the confidence to step outside their everyday experience, discovering new strengths and broadening their horizons along the way.

### Heritage you can trust

With over fifty years of experience delivering life-changing adventure, our history shapes how we design programmes and how we show up for every group.

### People who genuinely care

Qualified, committed staff lead with warmth and professionalism, delivering industry-leading programmes in an environment of trust and care.

### Learning that lasts

By connecting curriculum learning with tangible outdoor experience, students return home with new skills, new friendships and stories that stay with them.

### All-inclusive support

Accommodation, food, activities, equipment, bed linen, risk assessments and planning support are all taken care of — so teachers can focus on learning and outcomes.

# Sample programmes



## Appledore residential

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday</b>	Arrive 1pm	Assault Course	Night Walk & Games
<b>Tuesday</b>	Climb & Abseil	Surf & Body Board	Pool Olympics
<b>Wednesday</b>	Rafting or River Kayak	High Ropes	Scavenger Hunt
<b>Thursday</b>	Archery & Zip Line	Seashore Trail	Campfire
<b>Friday</b>	Tunnels & Night Line	Depart 12.30pm	

## Abbotsham residential

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
<b>Monday</b>	Arrive 1pm	Buggy Build & Night Line	Scavenger Hunt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Coastal Walk	Surf & Body Board	Egg Drop
<b>Wednesday</b>	Lake (Paddleboard & Kayaking)	High Ropes & Climb	Campfire
<b>Thursday</b>	Assault Course	Mountain Board & Archery	Disco
<b>Friday</b>	Campcraft	Depart 12.30pm	

# Alternative programme options

## Adventure days

Our flexible day visits provide an accessible way for schools to introduce outdoor learning through challenge, creativity and connection. Built around interpersonal skills – confidence, resilience, teamwork and positive relationships – these experiences use adventure to strengthen personal growth and celebrate achievements together. Each day can be shaped around your group’s needs and enhanced with exciting activities, delivering meaningful learning and character development in a single, memorable visit.

## Field studies

Our field studies programmes bring Geography, Biology and Environmental Science to life through immersive, curriculum-linked experiences across North Devon’s outstanding landscapes. From rivers, coasts and sand dunes to towns and rural communities, students collect real data in real environments, building enquiry skills, confidence and deeper understanding from Key Stage 1 through to A Level NEA investigations.



**“Amazing experience for my son. He did the full week of holiday club and enjoyed every day... It was a highlight of the summer for him – he’ll remember it forever.”**

**“We cannot speak highly enough of the product you offer at Skern: clear communication in advance of the visit with our tailored programme, knowledgeable and experienced tutors...”**

# Alternative programme options



## Curriculum days

Skern Adventure's curriculum days deliver high-impact learning without the need for an overnight stay. Designed to enrich any classroom topic through hands-on, real-world exploration, these days blend curriculum-aligned activities with active outdoor learning. Whether you're targeting a particular subject, topic or cross-curricular theme, our experienced tutors bring your chosen content to life through practical enquiry, discovery and memorable experiences in inspiring environments.

**"It was a lovely, thought-out, well-rounded day of adventure. It brought to life how the Vikings lived and fought in the local area... I will recommend it to anyone who will listen!"**



# Plan your trip

For children and young people of all abilities,  
we promise one thing above all:

**Unforgettable adventure.**

To learn more about our centres or to  
discuss our school programme options,  
get in touch today.

**Tel: 01237 475992**

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