

Pathfinder: A Duke of Edinburgh Journey

“Find your way. Lift your team. Face the wild.”

An overnight adventure of learning, skill and spirited challenge.

What is it?

During this Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey, students will take on a series of exciting outdoor challenges, working in teams and building confidence along the way. Based at a central campsite, they'll develop practical skills in navigation, bushcraft, and survival, while also strengthening their leadership, teamwork, and self-reflection through hands-on experience.

Who is this for?

This Place-Based Adventurous Journey is for students who:

- Want to complete their Bronze DoE Practice & Qualifying Journeys
- Want to experience the magic of the outdoors without the pressure of long strenuous hikes
- Want to discover ways of connecting with nature, supported by expert outdoor leaders
- Want to learn a range of bush and survival skills in a fun, game-based format
- Enjoy the challenge of friendly competition, while still being part of an overall inclusive team
- Are new to spending extended time outdoors and want to gain foundational knowledge, skills and experience from a central home/camp base

Outcomes

Students will:

- Learn fundamental skills for camping and safely spending time outdoors
- Learn the basics of specialised skills including navigation, river safety, camping and bushcraft
- Develop and practice group and self-management, leadership skills and teamwork
- Set and pursue the team goal, together with fellow participants
- Practice reflection and debrief techniques for solo and group benefit
- Strengthen their experience of connection with nature as a source of inspiration and wellbeing
- Develop basic skills in identifying native flora and fauna
- Gain personal skills and awareness that they can take home to their everyday lives

Costs

Our Pathfinder Programme is currently running as a **pilot**, which means we're testing and refining the experience to make it the best it can be. As part of this, we're offering a **discounted rate** to participants who are interested in joining our pilot **Practice & Qualifying** journeys.

We ask that participants **provide us detailed feedback** on their experience, and with your permission, we'll **use photos** from the events for future promotion. Your feedback and the photos will be invaluable in shaping the Pathfinder Programme for future participants!

17 - 18 January 2026 Practice Journey @ Karamatura Valley (2 day 1 night) \$250

Basic description: This journey is all about applying your training in a real-world, place-based setting. Activities around camp - like cooking, setting up shelters, and team challenges - help to further develop the skills you'll need to feel well-prepared and excited for your qualifying journey. You'll learn by doing, with guidance from instructors, while enjoying and exploring a local outdoor environment.

Booking link: <https://awms.online/pz/myEventBookingRequest.aspx?id=1954>

24 - 25 January 2026 Qualifying Journey @ Whatipu Lodge (2 day 1 night) \$250

Basic description: The qualifying journey lets you bring everything together in a fully supported expedition. Working as a team, you'll navigate tasks and challenges around camp that build your independence, decision-making, and resilience. This experience tests and strengthens the skills you've practiced, while allowing you to engage fully with the natural environment.

Booking link: <https://awms.online/pz/myEventBookingRequest.aspx?id=1950>