

ROUTE PLANNING CHECKLIST

Objectives	Type	Hillwalk / trail walk etc	
	Area	Any particular mountain?	
	Duration	How many hours? (note approximate time of darkness)	
	Grade	How challenging? (easy / moderate / hard)	
	Format	Loop / linear etc	
Research	Route information	Sources include your previous experience, maps, books, magazines, internet, club, friends etc	
	Attractions	Include good views and points of interest, choose natural lines such as ridges, avoid long stretches on road	
	Access	Is access available, in particular consider start and finish?	
	Parking	Is there parking space or can you use other transport?	
	Terrain underfoot	May affect time required, consider group and current ground conditions	
	Hazards	River crossings, steep ground etc	
	Options	Escape routes and bad weather alternatives?	
	Recce	Can you check route out beforehand?	
Abilities	You	Is proposed route within your skills, fitness and equipment?	
	Group	Is route within ability, fitness and equipment of all group members? Any medical conditions?	
On the day	Weather	How will weather forecast affect walk - wind, river levels, visibility?	
	Route plan	Leave route plan with somebody (route card or copy of map with route highlighted, including your contact details)	
	Flexibility	Expect the unexpected - be prepared to adapt route at start and /or during the day	
	Report	Let person with route plan know you have returned	
	Log walk	Note key points to aid future planning	