

Mad Seat FAQs

You're here either because you've signed up to Mad Seat or are thinking of but it want to know more. Look no further! We've put together our most frequently asked questions to give you the key information you need to know about the big day.

If your question isn't covered please [get in touch](#) and we'd be happy to help.

Where can I get a ticket?

Look no further! [Tickets available here.](#)

What's the route?

Our base camp is located off Queen's Drive on the southside of Arthur's Seat (Commonwealth Pool and Pollock Halls side). Starting from the base camp, participants take the zig-zag steps track up the eastern face of Arthur's Seat and curve around the south side, before taking a left up to the plateau. From there, participants turn right and have a final short climb to the top of Crow Hill (238m) before returning to camp using the same route. Participants must stay to this route and are not permitted to use another route due to our agreement with Holyrood Park rangers and insurance company. A volunteer will guide you along the route for the first climb and look out for our colourful flag at the top!

Why doesn't the route go to the main summit of Arthur's Seat?

No large events are permitted to use the main summit in order to prevent further erosion on the hill so we use the slightly shorter Crow Hill as the peak of the route.

What time does the event start?

- 24 hours: Mad Master starts at 8 pm on Friday 29 May.
- 12 hours: Mad Mover starts at 8 am on Saturday 30 May.
- 6 hours: Mad Starter start at 2 pm on Saturday 30 May.

Please arrive at least 45 minutes before your start time as there is a pre-event safety briefing. We stagger start times so everyone finishes together on Saturday evening at 8pm, when we have a finish line celebration (drinks provided!). If you'd like to take part but need an alternative start or end time due to personal circumstances then [get in touch](#) and we'd be happy to discuss.

If I'm doing the 24 hour event can I pitch a tent?

Unfortunately not. We work closely with the Holyrood Park rangers to put on Mad Seat and as the park is a protected area there are restrictions on the number of structures we are allowed to have on site.

What's the record?

Mad Seat isn't about setting records; it's about creating a community of people who want to get outside and connect with nature. We encourage everyone to set their own goals of what they want to achieve and our team and fellow participants will help you get there. That being said, we have a couple of impressive records that are up for challenge every year.

- 24 hours: 61 ascents set in 2019 by Lewis Breen (yes you read that correctly!)
- 12 hours: 33 ascents set in 2019 by Alex Luetchford
- 6 hours: 16 ascents set in 2018 by Conor McGourt

What facilities are provided?

Our base camp is the real hub of Mad Seat where volunteers are on hand to help all 24 hours. Here you'll find bathroom (okay portaloos!) facilities, communal food, free hot drinks and water refill stations, 1st aid support and importantly a comfy seat! People taking part in the 24 hour event are welcome to sleep in the marquee and participants can leave bags here though please note this is at your own risk.

Is there parking available?

The nearest available parking to the base camp is next to Holyrood Palace and Dynamic Earth. Parking on Queen's Drive (alongside the base camp) is reserved for event organisers only through pre-arranged passes. If you are taking part or coming along to support and have specific accessibility requirements you'd like to discuss then please [get in touch](#).

What's the event like?

In three words - friendly, inclusive and authentic. Mad Seat isn't a large event run by professional event organisers and we believe that's a good thing. We're a [small team](#) of volunteers who create Mad Seat annually because we care about connecting people with nature (and each other) and building a sense of community. Whether you've never climbed Arthur's Seat before or running marathons is your thing, there's a place for you at Mad Seat. Through small touches like a gigantic leaderboard we update by hand and



proper coffee made on site, we want to give participants a unique experience unlike any other event they've taken part in.

But don't take our word for it, [hear from people who've done it before.](#)

Is it child friendly?

Absolutely! Bring your friends, family, children and even pets along to support. We offer free tickets to children under 12 but ask that you register little ones so we know how many people to expect. Nursing parents are welcome and there is space available in the base camp for baby changing.

Where do I go on the day?

Head to the base camp where a friendly volunteer will register you. Please arrive at least 45 minutes before your start time as there is an important pre event safety briefing we ask everyone to attend.

Can I enter with friends as a team?

We don't offer a relay option but you're very welcome to attend with a group of friends or colleagues and complete the challenge together - whether that's walking together or chilling out in our base camp. In past years we've seen awesome matching t-shirts from pals taking part which we strongly encourage!

What are entry fees spent on?

We're a voluntary, not-for-profit organisation and none of our team benefit financially from Mad Seat. We create these events because we love to – and because we believe they can help make a real difference to people and the environment. All we ask for is enough so we can cover our costs, which cost £30 per head. This is spent on event insurance, hiring a marquee and portaloos, and food & drink. Any profit will be put straight back in to making more great events.

I would like to attend but the entry fee is a barrier to taking part. Do you offer discounted tickets?

We want our events to be open to everyone, regardless of circumstances. If you cannot pay, just get in touch and we'll arrange a discounted ticket, no questions asked.

What are the pledges I am meant to gather for taking part?



Mad Challenges uses a different kind of sponsorship - Do Nation - an online platform that allows people to pledge action, not money. The pledges, called [Do Actions](#), are cost-free commitments of small but significant changes in habit. They're designed to be good for your environment, your health and your pocket. Part of the deal in taking part in Mad Seat is that you gather some pledges. Your target is getting 25 people to pledge one or more actions – you can even sponsor yourself.

I can no longer attend. What's the refund policy?

We know things come up and plans change. If you need to cancel your ticket, we will give you a 100% refund up to 1 month before the event. Up to 2 weeks before we will give you a 50% refund. Unfortunately no refunds will be offered less than 2 weeks before.

Does the event go ahead in bad weather?

Our priority is your safety and as much as we'd love to, we can't predict the Scottish weather. We always plan for Mad Seat to go ahead but monitor weather conditions closely in the lead up and will cancel if conditions are unsafe to proceed. As is standard policy with many similar events, we do not offer refunds if the event is cancelled due to bad weather.

What kit do I need to bring with me?

Please bring a water bottle, reusable mug, food to fuel your challenge, spare shoes and personal 1st aid needs or any medication you use (you are responsible for this throughout the event). If you are taking part in the 24 hour challenge please also bring a head torch, sleeping bag and sleeping matt. Tea, coffee and water are provided free of charge.

We also encourage people to bring food to share (we'll have a communal table setup which is always a good place to strike up conversations). In line with our sustainability ethos, we borrow rather than buy as much kit as possible for Mad Seat so please also consider bringing blankets, camping chairs or lanterns (24 hour challenge) to share with others. And of course supporters!

What mobility and fitness level do I need to take part?

We welcome all levels of fitness and ability but this is an outdoor event with a set route that involves steep steps so please think about your experience before selecting a level



of difficulty. We want Mad Seat to be fun but safe, so we reserve the right to ask any participants to withdraw if we feel their health, wellbeing, or safety is under threat.