

## Going Away With PART 1

### August 2024

I've been having thoughts of doing my GAW since I became a leader a few years ago but feeling enthused by a great camp in July, and the previous leader of our Guide unit running a really successful international earlier this month, I decided that this was the year to go for it.

To sum up my feelings around the plan to do my GAW would be daunted. This is because I haven't just decided to go for a long weekend away at our local activity centre (not degrading this experience at all), but instead to take 16 girls down to London for a weekend of adventure and to connect with our guiding heritage.

I've chosen London because I am looking to run an international in 2026 and I felt planning a trip to our capital will give me some vital experience for planning a trip that requires me to be completely out of my north-Lancashire comfort zone.

### September 2024

After a very useful district meeting where I told everyone in the district what we were planning with the Guides, all the other leaders gave me lots of points I needed to consider and places I could apply for funding, suggestions for places to stay and activities we could do.

Things I need to consider:

- Accommodation
- Travel
- Food
- Activities
- Insurance
- Fundraising

Facebook is an incredible source of information. There are lots of informal groups where you can ask the 'Hive Mind' for help, and the search option is great for finding answers to questions people have already asked. It was here I found the answer to my accommodation question.

I spent about 2 weeks doing a couple of hours a night to come up with a price for the trip, trying to keep costs as low as possible but cram in as much as we could. Accepting that I was going to need to fundraise if we are going to the West End and for other paid for activities.

Accommodation quotes scared the wits out of me and I thought I had bitten off more than I could chew.

Ready to go with a price... £240 per person should cover accommodation, travel and food. Anything else will need to be fundraised for. Plans for these already swirling round my mind.

### October 2024

Time for deeper planning, I intend to get my REN in for the first time so that I can amend it where necessary and to get feedback from those who have done it before. In no particular order I need to sort out:

- Trip Team
- Risk Assessment – first draft
- Activity plan – first draft
- Home Contact

**Trip team** is easy, I am extremely blessed to have an amazing team in our unit and in our wider district – and further afield! – who I can call on for helping out with trips and activities. My immediate co-leaders at the unit are signed up and one friend I've picked up along my adult guiding journey is coming along too! I feel completely at ease with my team and I'm excited to go ahead with this adventure!

**Risk Assessment** is the part that made me want to dig a big hole and hide away from it. However, once I got started it was soothing to work through anything that might cause the trip to go south. Chatting with leaders who have run trips to cities before was a great help and highlighted points I would need to consider that I wouldn't have thought of – terrorism threat being one of them!

**Activity plan** will be very loose for the time being, we are planning to fundraise in the future to squeeze in more activities so until I know what is happening and when, more concretely, it will have to be a brief outline.

I didn't have a firm decision on **home contact** as I didn't ask anyone before I sent it in, but I have a few wonderful ladies I can ask so I am not worried.

November 2024

Okay here we go! Deposits are beginning to arrive in the account and I have provisionally booked the accommodation – The Docklands Scout Project! A moored clipper ship in Canary Wharf in London's East End. Bed, Breakfast and packed lunch for £43pppn which was the cheapest I could find, and arguably the most exciting!

Nothing to do now for a few weeks now as I take deposits and finalise numbers! Next challenge will be to get started on some fundraising!