



Issue 7 – August 2023

The countdown is almost over! Welcome to the final edition of KIX+ before we arrive in Switzerland with important information for before and during the expedition. If you haven't already been doing so, please ensure you share the newsletters with your Scouts (and their grown-ups) so that they're also aware of this information. All the newsletters are available on the Surrey Scouts website at surrey-scouts.org.uk/KIX

The core team are very busy finalising the programme. All the food has been ordered from KISC as well as the 'local' cash and carry (still a one-hour drive from the centre) and we are getting all the equipment ready that we need to take out to Switzerland.

This newsletter contains important information about the journey and contact information while at KISC. A separate newsletter detailing who is on each coach has been emailed to group contacts. This will **not** be published on the website.

Health Forms and Travel Documents

If anyone in your party (including you) have not yet provided this information it must be done immediately. We are required to supply this information to the coach and ferry companies in advance. Failure to provide this information will delay your departure and worst-case scenario mean you will be unable to travel.

Departure



Everyone must arrive at Cobham Services on Friday 18 August between 17:45 and 18:15. Those attending KIX must be wearing their KIX uniform and have all their personal kit in one holdall-type bag.

They must also have a small day sack which should contain all they need for the journey to KISC. The day sack **must** include their:

- Passport
- European or Global Health Insurance Card (EHIC / GHIC)
- Money (Euro and Swiss francs)
- Food and drink (we recommend bottles not cans) for the journey remembering the first meal provided by KIX will be on Saturday evening

They may also wish to bring small books or games.

Directions

Cobham Services are on the M25 between junctions 9 and 10 with access from both carriageways. If you're using GPS enter the postcode KT11 3DB.

Look for the Bakers Dolphin coaches. Once **all** your Scouts have arrived, please report to Hils Harris or Miriam Chapman. Do not board your coach until advised to do so by your coach leader.



What if I'm late?

Parents and carers should contact their child's own leader if they are going to be late, but we implore you to arrive on time. You will understand we are on a very strict schedule in order to catch the ferry so the coaches must leave Cobham on time and we will not be able to wait for you.

The journey

The journey to KISC takes around 15 hours which includes regular stops to give you a chance to stretch your legs, use the toilets and/or buy food. Don't forget you need Euro to spend in France and Swiss francs for Switzerland. Remember the first meal provided by KIX will be on Saturday evening. The coaches have DVD players, please bring DVDs (rated U or PG only). Hot water is available, but you need to provide your own tea, coffee and/or milk. Hot drinks must be in cups with lids. If you experience travel sickness remember to take medication and bring enough for the journeys during KIX and the way home too.



Return

We'll return to Cobham Services on Sunday 27 August with the first coaches due back around 07:30. Make sure you have enough money (Euro) for food and drink on the way home or make enough sandwiches for the journey before we leave KISC.

Medication



Leaders are asked to collect all medication from their Scouts at Cobham. It must be clearly marked with the person's name, troop and dosage required. We would recommend that leaders are also issued spare EpiPens, inhalers and similar in case any are lost.

Kit

The Expedition Handbook issued to all participants contains important information that all attendees will need. Please make sure that you bring your copy to KIX. It's also available to download at surrey-scouts.org.uk/KIX (it's been optimised to print in colour as a double-sided booklet).

Please remember the keyword for camping is lightweight - particularly with regard to tentage!

Catering Update

The catering team are busy preparing for KIXs ensuring we have enough food for everyone. Please remember we are catering for 700 people so we have kept it simple to cover the majority.

The menu is nut free, most meals are prepared from scratch. The main option will be a meat meal, with a vegetarian alternative both of which will be gluten and dairy free.

There will be gluten-free pasta / bread and various 'milk' options available, but we need to know if you require these options to ensure we have enough for all those who need alternatives. These will be available to those who have requested them.

If you are veggie, gluten or dairy intolerant and haven't let us know please can you do so, we will need to know whether to buy one litre of oat milk or 5!

If you responded to the spreadsheet questionnaire you should have received an email reply about your needs, or an emailing outlining that your needs are covered. If you haven't please email the catering email below.

I do appreciate that you may have put information on the health form but this is not so easy to extract so a direct email would greatly help even if it is then to access your health form. It is better to have told us twice than not at all.

If you haven't let us know about any allergies, intolerances or food issues please email kix-catering@surrey-scouts.org.uk giving as much detail as you can so we can ensure that we can accommodate you needs. Please bear in mind that not everything available in the UK is available in Switzerland so it can be challenging to find certain foods and we may ask that you provide some items.

Contacting anyone during KIX

It's very important that parents do not contact Scouts or leaders direct. In the event of an emergency parents should first contact your own group InTouch contact. Your group InTouch contact should be given the details of the main County InTouch Contact.



Parents, carers and friends at home are encouraged to keep up to date with what is going on at KIX via the website surrey-scouts.org.uk/kix and are very welcome to post suitable (non-urgent) comments / messages on the site which we can pass onto the Scouts eg "Glad to see you're having great time Jimmy from 4th Surrey love Mum and Dad". You can also email the KIX+ team at KIXplus@surrey-scouts.org.uk

One more thing...

The advance team head off to Kandersteg from Surrey on Wednesday 16 August. Please remember we might not be able to access emails to reply immediately so in an emergency please use the InTouch contact system.

On behalf of the KIX management team, we look forward to welcoming you to Kandersteg on Saturday 19 August. If you listen carefully, you'll hear the mountains calling.

Contact us

General enquiries	KIX@surrey-scouts.org.uk
Activity-related queries	KIX-activities@surrey-scouts.org.uk
KIX+ News desk	KIXplus@surrey-scouts.org.uk
Catering enquired	KIX-Catering@surrey-scouts.org.uk