

**2013 Adventure Conference**

***Being there*: slow, fast, traditional, wild, urban, natural…**

**Call for Papers**

**Dates: 21st-23rd May 2013**

**Venue: Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye, Scotland**

Following the success of the inaugural Adventure Conference in February this year, the Centre for Recreation and Tourism Research, at the School of Adventure Studies, West Highland College UHI (<http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/research>), in collaboration with SportScotland, is pleased to announce a call for papers for the *2013 Adventure Conference*.

From late-modern ideas of thrilling, commodified ‘fast’ adventure, to rediscovering the outdoors via challenging journeys in remote, wild and nature-rich places in ‘slow’ adventure activities, outdoor leisure and tourism continues to be lionised as the sustainable exemplar for tourism development. Adventure tourism showcases the environmentally and socially responsible experiences that can form a model for tourism and destination development worldwide. As the Secretary-General of the UNWTO recently stated:

“adventure tourism is what tourism should be today and definitely what tourism will be tomorrow” (ATTA, 2012).

This conference will bring together leading academics, educators, entrepreneurs and practitioners working in adventure tourism to present and critically assess these and other ideas. The ultimate aim is to determine ways in which educators, tour guides, businesses and participants can drive forward this impactful experiential recreation and tourism sector responsibly, so that the arenas in which it operates remain and are enhanced for the generations of adventurers who will follow in our footsteps. We will also consider the democratisation of outdoor leisure, and ways in which this ideal might be realised.

Staged during the ‘Year of Natural Scotland’, this event will take place on the 21st-23rd May 2012 at ‘Sabhal Mòr Ostaig’ ([www.uhi.smo.ac.uk/en](http://www.uhi.smo.ac.uk/en)), a dramatic building located in a peerless coastal environment on the world-famous Isle of Skye. Just off the west coast of Scotland, delegates will be confronted with jaw-dropping ‘gazes’ into the heart of Knoydart, the most remote part of mainland Britain (<http://www.knoydart-ferry.co.uk/>, <http://www.theoldforge.co.uk/>).

A selection of pre-adventures will be arranged for the first day, ranging from sea-kayaking off Skye to more sedentary tours of this iconic destination (whiskey tasting, nature walks, folk dancing, island visits etc.). Weather / whales permitting, some delegates might even be able to enjoy a kayak to Knoydart, a beer, and a paddle back!

**Submission of papers**

The conference aims to address the challenges and trends facing the industry through a number of interrelated themes, and abstracts are invited accordingly:

**Celebrating natural capital** *-* covering issues of ecosophy, back-to-basics adventure, *being* and not necessarily *doing*, traditional adventure, friluftsliv and making the most of our natural capital.

**Inclusive adventure** *-* exploring the issue of accessibility to outdoor sport, leisure and tourism (in any of its guises) which pertain to adventure, including: who are the missing populations in the adventure world (eg. genders, ages, races, mobilities, socio-economic status)? How might they be enabled to experience the outdoors?

**Supporting the adventure****experience: infrastructure and integration** *-* investigations intothe supporting elements that go to make the holistic adventure experience, from food, accommodation (in whatever form these may take) service quality, transportation, the promotion and marketing of experiences and strategies for stretching the season.

**Adventure responsibilities** -is outdoor leisure and tourism really such a light-touch, groovy phenomenon? What is the real legacy of the ‘taming’ of adventure?

**Creating / branding adventure destinations and sports venues** *-* encompassing a range of elements such as resort development, product and destination management and marketing.

**Open Strand** -There will also be an opportunity to present interesting sessions and papers which may not fit any of the above themes but are related to the themes of the conference.

The abstract will be used by the reviewers as the basis for acceptance of the paper for presentation. An abstract of up to 600 words for peer review should therefore clearly state the objective of the presentation, the findings and their significance to the proceedings, and how they help advance our understanding of outdoor adventure. It should be submitted as a *Word* document (Arial 11 point font, 1.5 line spacing). It should include: *title, keywords, Introduction, method, findings/discussion, conclusion.*

**Abstracts for papers for inclusion in the programme should be made to** [**steve.taylor@whc.uhi.ac.uk**](mailto:steve.taylor@whc.uhi.ac.uk) **by 18th January 2013.** Authors will be notified by mid-February.

Note: All accepted abstracts will be published in the conference proceedings, and will be available on the conference web page. There is also the possibility for some papers to be considered for a post-conference publication. Many of the papers from the last conference are being published by Routledge in a 2013 book.

A draft programme will be published early 2013.

**For further information please contact: Dr Steve Taylor**

**01397 874217 |** [**www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/research**](http://www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/research) **|** [**steve.taylor@whc.uhi.ac.uk**](mailto:steve.taylor@whc.uhi.ac.uk)