

Activity Risk Assessment: Abseiling

Adventure Hunter recognises that using suitably qualified and experienced Instructors reduces the risks of the activity. We always use instructors who are suitably trained and qualified and who are aware of the relevant emergency procedures. We also work within industry-recognised instructor-to-participant ratios for the activity.

- Instructors must hold the following qualification as a minimum requirement:
Rock Climbing Instructor (formally Single Pitch Award)
Outdoor First Aid (2-day)
- Participants must be 18+ unless accompanied by a parent/carer
- Maximum Instructor to Participant Ratio: 1:12

| Identified Hazard | Who it effects | Unmanaged Risk | Control Measures | Managed Risk |
|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Instructor falling from the top of abseil | Group & Instructors | Possible Fatal High (6) | Instructors must protect themselves with the rope or other 'industry standard' recognised means when working at height. Moving around unprotected must be avoided at all times. | Unlikely Fatal Medium (3) |
| Participant falling from the top of the abseil | Group & Instructors | Possible Fatal High (6) | Group must be allocated a safe place to wait and secured if necessary. A good clear briefing must be given and participants approaching the top of the abseil must be safeguarded and a safety rope attached. | Unlikely Fatal Medium (3) |
| Rope burns | Group & Instructors | Possible Serious Medium (4) | Descent speed must be well controlled by belayers and monitored by instructors. Climbers must be instructed not to hold moving ropes when in descent. | Unlikely Minor Low (1) |
| Injury from falling objects | Group, Instructors & Third Parties | Possible Fatal High (6) | Suitable venues must be chosen, and helmets must be worn throughout the duration of the activity. Care must be taken and alternative venues considered during or after adverse weather and if venues are excessively busy. Instructors must carry an appropriate first aid kit and mobile phone. | Unlikely Fatal Medium (3) |

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| Other major injuries or incidents | Group & Instructors | Possible Fatal High (6) | Instructors must also be aware of any pre-existing medical conditions within the group and management strategies. Instructors must have valid first aid training and carry a first aid kit and mobile phone at all times. | Unlikely Serious Low (2) |
| Entanglement / Entrapment | Group & Instructors | Possible Serious Medium (4) | Long hair should be tied back, and jewellery/loose clothing must be removed/taped over. Instructors brief must include correct position and technique. | Unlikely Serious Low (2) |
| Injury from ill fitting equipment | Group & Instructors | Possible Serious Medium (4) | Instructor must check and allocate the correct size equipment and ensure it fits properly for all participants before the activity starts. | Unlikely Serious Low (2) |
| Equipment Failure | Group & Instructors | Possible Fatal High (6) | Equipment must be checked for wear at regular intervals. Excessively worn equipment must be retired. Rope protectors should be used if necessary and rigging positioned to avoid any foreseeable damage. | Unlikely Fatal Medium (3) |
| Exposure related: Hypothermia/ Hyperthermia/ Sunstroke/ Dehydration | Group & Instructors | Possible Fatal High (6) | Groups must be suitably clothed and equipped. Instructors must be suitably trained and able to recognise and deal with signs of exposure. Carry spare warm clothing/group shelter for cold and wet conditions and plenty of water, and sun cream on hot and sunny days. | Unlikely Serious Low (2) |
| Minor trips, slips & falls | Group & Instructors | Probable Serious High (6) | Venues with suitable approaches and friendly top/base areas should be chosen by the instructors. Craggs with unsupervised drops at the top and/or base should not be used with groups. | Possible Minor Low (2) |
| Other Users | Group, Instructors & Third Parties | Possible Serious Medium (4) | Instructors must assess the venue on arrival. If too busy or there is reason for concern, another venue should be considered. Helmets must be worn. | Unlikely Serious Low (2) |

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