

Hiring means you can sit outside a brand new van



WORDS AND PICTURES Paul Burgess

Easy rent

If you want to explore an area that's a long way from home, renting is a real option, as Paul found out when he travelled from London to the Yorkshire Dales

STANDING AT THE TOP OF one of the highest peaks in Yorkshire I was shattered - and half ready to give up. But when you take on a challenge like the Yorkshire Three Peaks, giving up is not an option if you're going to cross the finish line.

Climbing the second peak was a much harder slog than I'd imagined and, once accomplished, there was a long walk down to the bottom that seemed to go on forever, but I knew every step meant I was closer to that final 26th mile.

It was then that I knew I'd made the right decision by hiring a motorhome for

the weekend. As I was going to exert so much energy over the challenge, and was travelling from south London and back in a weekend, I decided to hire a motorhome and leave ours behind. Hiring meant I could leave work early on Friday, jump on the train and be full of beans for my 26-mile walk over three of Yorkshire's highest peaks. I miss travelling on trains too. There's nothing better than relaxing with a good book as the train chugs by.

Back when I enrolled for the challenge with the British Heart Foundation, Seekers Motorhome Hire, just on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales had been recommended to me. Owners Gill and Paul were really friendly when I called them up to book. They told me that although the majority of their business comes from people new to motor caravanning, an increasing number of calls are from people who have been touring for years.

In fact, nearby dealership Barrons often directs customers to Seekers Motorhome Hire so they can try certain makes and models before they buy.

5 REASONS TO HIRE

- 1 Save travelling time
- 2 Try before you buy
- 3 Free transfers
- 4 Reasonable costs
- 5 Less wear & tear



Smiles after a 26-mile walk



Hired Moncayo was the perfect weekend base



Pets are often welcome in hired vans

Hiring motorhomes



Seekers Motorhome Hire has a fleet of Chaussons



Paul and Gill set up Seekers hire company

Seekers Motorhome Hire has models from Chausson and Moncayo, but you can find companies all over the country with motor caravans to hire from lots of other manufacturers. So trying before you buy is a real option.

Costs are reasonable too. For example, in low season, Seekers Motorhome Hire has a low day rate of around £70, whether you're hiring for one day or 10. Depending on how often you use your motorhome, it may even work out better value to hire rather than buy.

Free transfers mean hiring is hassle-free too. I'd arranged for Gill and Paul to pick me up from the train station, a service they provide free of charge, which made my life easy and meant I was pitched up at Bainbridge Ings camp site in no time. The motorhome was fully equipped with bedding, kitchen utensils, toilet fluid, a

TV/DVD and even satnav so I'd travelled light. Most importantly hiring meant I didn't have to drive all the way home with a body that ached all over after my marathon walk.

Hiring is a real option for all of us if we're travelling a long way from home. It's a great way to reduce the mileage and general wear and tear on our own motorhomes too. For me, I had a long distance to travel in a short space of time and wanted to feel fresh and alert when I got there – and have the luxury of falling asleep on the way home.

You might want to tour round the Highlands for a fortnight, or live on the south coast and need to reach the Lakes quickly. Or like me, miss other modes of transport. Perhaps you want to introduce friends to your favourite hobby and share a motorhome and the driving. Hiring

enables you to find a van big enough for all of you to share. And of course, that halves the hiring costs as well. Whatever your reasons, hiring a motorhome allows you more time and energy to explore your final destination. □

HIRE YOUR MOTORHOME

Seekers Motorhome Hire

☎ 0845 324 3181

🌐 www.seekersmotorhomes.co.uk

See page 124 for *Motor Caravan's* Hire Directory

The next Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge will take place on Saturday 16 June 2007

☎ To register call 0113 234 7474

Download an entry form from

🌐 www.heartresearch.org.uk/three_peaks.htm

WIN! A WEEKEND'S MOTORHOME HIRE!

We've teamed up with Saxons Motorhomes in Kent and are giving you the chance to win a weekend's motor caravan hire, worth £295. You'll be able to tour around the garden of England in a swish CI Carioca 656.



Pick up the motorhome on Friday afternoon and drop it back on Monday morning, giving you the whole weekend to explore. Saxons Motorhomes is a family business and part of the national company Practical Car and Van Rental.

The Carioca will have all the essentials you need including crockery, cutlery, pans, cooking utensils, chopping board, and full gas cylinder. The motorhome has power assisted steering, a radio/CD player, economic diesel engine, cycle rack, ducted blown air heating, washroom with electric flush cassette toilet and separate shower cubicle, fridge with freezer compartment, dual fuel three burner hob with electric hot plate, grill and oven, plus 12V and 240V colour TV and DVD.

All you just need to do is jump on the train and get down to Saxons and they'll have you on your way in no time.

COMPETITION QUESTION

Where is Saxons Motorhomes based?

✉ Saxons Motohomes competition, Motor Caravan, IPC Media, Leon House, 233 High Street, Croydon CR9 1HZ

@ prizes@ipcmedia.com with 'Saxons' in the subject line

Entries must arrive by 31 December 2006.

The prize must be taken between January and March 2007 and you can choose the weekend. Standard terms of rental apply, and all fuel and damages must be paid by the winner. Credit card deposit required before departure.

SAXONS

Saxons Motorhomes

☎ 01959 541511

🌐 www.saxonsmotorhomes.co.uk

COMPETITION ENTRY DETAILS *Motor Caravan*, published by IPC Media Ltd (IPC), will collect your personal information to process your entry. If you would like to receive emails from *Motor Caravan* and IPC containing news, special offers and product and service information and take part in our magazine research, please write "Yes, email" with your email address on the postcard. *Motor Caravan* and IPC would like to contact you by post or telephone to promote and ask your opinion on our magazines and services. Please write "No Motor Caravan" if you prefer not to hear from us. IPC may occasionally pass your details to carefully selected organisations so they can contact you by telephone or post with regards to promoting and researching their products and services. Please write "No other companies" if you prefer not to be contacted.