

TGO Challenge East 2026



Terms and Conditions

About TGO Challenge East (“TGO East”)

- The inaugural TGO East will be held between Thursday 14th and Friday 22nd May 2026.
- TGO East is a self-supported backpacking walk from one of 8 starting points along or near the A9 trunk road to a finish point on the east coast. It is a sister event to the TGO Challenge which crosses Scotland coast-to-coast from west to east, starting one week earlier and ending on the same date.
- All TGO East routes are preset, with most start points having more than one route option, offering different difficulty levels, terrain and durations. At least 15 route options will be available, which are graded into four levels of difficulty.
- Participants will have the opportunity to state three preferred routes and, subject to availability, will be allocated one of their preferred routes.
- Routes are 6-8 days in duration. Depending on the duration of the allocated route, Participants may start between Thursday 14th and Sunday 17th May.
- Comprehensive details about TGO East will be made available to all successful applicants.
- Participants must ‘sign out’ from their chosen start point by phone call, text message or WhatsApp.
- The minimum age for entering is 18. There is no maximum age, though older Participants are strongly recommended to seek medical advice before entering, ensuring that their medical professional is aware of the nature of the Event. Participants should also obtain specific medical advice if suffering from any long-term condition(s) or if unsure as to their physical ability to take part.
- Participants can take part solo or in groups of up to four people. Groups will walk the same route, however, each group member must complete their own entry form and all team members (as well as group leaders and solo participants) must have the required skills stated in the “TGO East” section at www.tgochallenge.com.
- Dogs are not allowed on TGO East.

Application Process

- TGO East 2026 will open for general applications at noon GMT on Saturday 29 November 2025. The link to the entry form will be posted in the TGO East section of the TGO Challenge website: www.tgochallenge.com.
- Places will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be subject to experience requirements being met. We will either accept your application, offer you a place on the reserve list if no places are available, request more information (usually related to your skills or experience) or reject your application (reasons will be given). If accepted, we will ask you to make payment within 7 days and to submit your route preferences within 14 days, during which periods your place will be reserved. Once you have made payment and submitted your route preferences within the time periods stated, your place will be allocated.
- The first entry form received in respect of a group will, subject to available places, reserve places for the named members of the group for a period of 48 hours. If you are a member of a group and have not submitted your entry form within 48 hours of submission of the group’s first entry form, then your place is not guaranteed and will be subject to availability.
- The entry fee for 2026 will be £80 per person.

Your responsibilities and commitments

- By completing the application form you agree: to abide by the rules, conditions and spirit of the Event, as summarised in this document; to read the Event Details and Final Details, when published; and that you accept the inherent risk of mountain walking.
- You agree not to share your Route Information Pack outside of your group, and not to use it for any purpose other than for your participation in the Event.
- Your participation in the Event is at your own risk. We will provide a Route Information Pack for the route allocated to you, but you should rely solely on your own wits, your own judgement of the terrain and carry out your own evaluation and mitigation of risks encountered during the Event. Neither we nor the Event’s sponsors accept any liability for any damage, loss or injury, illness, mishap or death which might arise from your participation in the Event, however caused, other than to the extent caused as a result of our negligence.
- You will at all times during the Event abide by all aspects of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and you acknowledge, as stated in the code, that: “There is a longstanding legal principle called ‘volenti non fit injuria’ which means that a person taking access will generally be held to have accepted any obvious risks or risks which are inherent in the activities they are

undertaking.”

- You are entirely responsible for ensuring you have a suitable level of health and fitness to take part in the Event. In both submitting your entry form and in starting the Event, you are confirming this. The submission of your Medical Statement, in Spring 2026, is for use in potential emergency situations only and does not imply any responsibility on us in ascertaining your fitness to take part.
- You must ensure that you have the relevant skills and experience (detailed on the TGO Challenge website/Event Details) to complete a 6-8 day backpacking walk, involving challenging, and sometimes pathless, terrain. Further, you commit to carrying, and having the relevant skills to use: appropriate topographical maps of at least 1:50000 scale (downloaded digital maps and/or paper maps); and equipment appropriate for backpacking in potentially cold, wet, windy, snowy or hot and sunny conditions. All members of a group must be competent backpackers capable of continuing independently if other group members suffer an injury or have to retire.
- You confirm that you have completed the Experience Form truthfully and without exaggeration.
- You commit to carrying a mobile phone on the Event and knowing how to use it.
- We recommend that all Participants obtain travel, personal accident and health insurance appropriate to their circumstances to cover any costs incurred due to any illness or injury before or during the Event that may affect participation. International participants – please note you may incur charges if you require treatment by the UK National Health Service.
- You commit to being self-sufficient as you walk across Scotland. You may use paid accommodation when it is available, buy supplies enroute and/or post supplies to accommodation providers. Family and friends may visit and/or join you for a few days but they must not act as a back-up crew and must not accompany you for your entire route unless they also have either a TGOC26 or TGOC East 2026 place.
- Successful completion of the Event requires you to walk every step of your route from your start point to the east coast, with the exception of permitted ferry journeys. Travel away from your route is permitted, but not encouraged, if essential to access supplies or accommodation. Should you leave your route by any form of transport you must return to where you left it for your participation to be valid.
- In Spring 2026 you will be asked to complete an online In Case of Emergency form including:
 - a medical statement. You commit to providing details of all significant or long-term medical condition(s), illness(es) and/or injury(ies) (if any) and to provide a further update to the Coordinators if there is any relevant change to your health in between submission of your initial medical statement and the start of the Event.
 - the number of the mobile phone you will carry on the Event and the contact details of at least one emergency contact. You must ensure that the emergency contact: a) consents to be your emergency contact; b) knows that you are participating in TGOC East and are not themselves a participant of either TGOC26 or TGOC East 2026; c) will be available by telephone during the Event and is comfortable conversing in English; d) has details of your outer clothing colour, tent make/colour etc.; e) has a photo of you that can be passed to the emergency services; and f) holds contact details for anyone else who should know if there are concerns about you.

If you fail to provide any of the requested information, you (but not other members of your group) will be deemed to have withdrawn from the Event.

- You commit to contacting Challenge Control via phone, text message or WhatsApp on each of your pre-arranged phone in days. If due to lack of access to communication networks you are prevented from phoning on the pre-arranged day, you must make contact at the earliest possible opportunity. Note that it is the date, not the location that is important for checking in with Challenge Control. Failure to comply with your obligations as stated in this paragraph may result in an unnecessary call to your Emergency Contact(s) and to the emergency services.
- Groups must designate a group leader who will be responsible for communicating route preferences and details of prebooked accommodation to the Coordinators on behalf of the group, and for disseminating information to their group members.
- Following TGOC East 2026 you may be requested to take part in a risk assessment activity. Participation is not mandatory, but information gained will be fed into our regular risk assessments and is important to ensure the continuation of the Challenge in future years.
- You agree to Scotia Challenge Ltd and the Coordinators holding the data you provide to them, including on the entry form, route sheet, medical form and any other administrative form.
- Participants’ names, ages and hometown will be published in a list that will be sent by email to all participants of both TGOC26 and TGOC East 2026. These lists will not appear on the website. If you do not want your name published, you must inform us when you submit your entry form.

Our responsibilities and commitments

- We reserve the right to decline an application at our discretion. This will usually be on the grounds of insufficient experience, previous unacceptable behaviour, or concerns about your ability to complete the Event.

- We will send all correspondence by email.
- We will acknowledge email correspondence, usually within 4 days; if you have not heard from us within 6 days you should check your spam folder and then contact us by email or phone. Entry forms and payments will result in automatically generated acknowledgement emails; if you have not received any of these within 24 hours you should check your spam folder then contact us by email or phone.
- We commit to keeping your data securely and to abide by GDPR regulations. Medical/emergency contact data will be deleted as soon as reasonably practical after the Event. Contact details may intermittently be used to inform you of TGO Challenge news. At your request, we will delete your data. If this is done before you complete TGO East 2026 you will be deemed to have withdrawn.
- We will provide comprehensive details of TGO East prior to the Event, via the Event Details, the Final Details and occasional news emails. We will also be available by email/phone if additional advice is needed.
- We will provide a Route Information Pack for your allocated route. This is not designed to provide the detail of a guide book, but to replicate the level of information provided in the TGO Challenge route planning and vetting process. We have designed all routes ourselves, based on paths, tracks and terrain for which we have recent knowledge. However, it must be noted that changes may have occurred of which we are not aware e.g. gates may get locked, bridges may be washed away by winter storms, landslips may obscure paths, and new tracks and fences may be constructed, plus conditions on the day may make usually easy-going ground become difficult. The route information we provide does not imply any responsibility on us as to your safe execution of the route.
- We will perform regular risk assessments and inform Participants of any specific actions needed.
- During the Event we will ensure Challenge Control is staffed by suitably experienced volunteers in order to monitor your progress and offer support when needed. They will work to agreed procedures/protocols as per the TGO Challenge's Safety Management Plan.

Cancellation, withdrawals, and retirements

- You can cancel your entry by emailing us:
 - during the cooling off period of 14 days after payment; or
 - if we tell you that we cannot offer you one of your nominated preferred routes, and you do not wish to accept any alternative route offered to you.

If you cancel your entry in accordance with this term, we will refund any entry fee paid within 10 working days.

- If you withdraw from the Event by emailing us within 10 days of us sending you the Route Information Pack for your allocated route, on the grounds that you consider the route allocated is not acceptable to you and you do not wish to consider any alternative routes we may offer, you will be entitled to either a deferred place for the following year, or a refund of the Entry Fee minus an administrative charge of £20.
- If you withdraw (whether actively or by default in accordance with these terms) more than 10 days after we send you the Route Information Pack for your allocated route, you will not be entitled to a refund.
- No transfers of places are allowed and, except as stated above, no deferrals are allowed.
- If you withdraw from the Event at any time prior to your start date, you must inform us.
- You must inform Challenge Control by telephone as soon as possible if you retire from the Event during the Event.
- We will make reasonable efforts to ensure that TGO East 2026 has the best chance of going ahead but all involved must accept there is a small risk of cancellation or postponement which cannot be insured against. In the event of cancellation we will endeavour to offer all entrants with TGO East 2026 places a place on TGO East 2027 at a discount of 50%. This is to ensure the continuation of the Event as significant costs, which cannot be recouped, will have been incurred.
- We reserve the right to remove or disqualify you from the Event if, in our reasonable opinion, you:
 - behave in a way which risks or causes offence, illness or injury to yourself, others or the environment including the use of illicit drugs or drunken behaviour;
 - fail to start on your designated day or are unable to make sufficient progress in order to finish within your allotted time;
 - fail to make suitable efforts to report to Challenge Control by phone, text or WhatsApp on pre-arranged dates;
 - are accompanied by someone who is not a TGO26 or TGO East 2026 participant for the majority of your route or by a dog; or
 - commit any other breach of the spirit or rules of the Event as outlined in this document, the Event Details and/or the Final Details.
- We strongly advise you take out travel/cancellation insurance as Scotia Challenge Ltd will not be liable for any costs incurred, whether direct (e.g. the entry fee) or indirect (e.g. travel/accommodation) in the event of any cancellation, disqualification, withdrawal or retirement.

General

- If there is any inconsistency between this document and the Event Details or Final Details, this document shall take precedence

to the extent of that inconsistency.

- The contract between us shall be governed by Scottish law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts. If any provision of this document is invalid or unenforceable, in whole or in part, the validity of the remainder shall not be affected.
- The contract created by this document is not intended to be enforceable by any person who is not party to it.
- If you are found to be in breach of any term of this document, we reserve the right to exclude you from participation in this and future events organised by Scotia Challenge Ltd.

Definitions

- "Challenge Control" – the control centre that acts as a focal communications point for participants during the Event for safety, advice and coordination
- "Challenge Control Staff" – those volunteers working at Challenge Control during the Event
- "Coordinators" – those personnel appointed by Scotia Challenge Ltd to organise, manage and deliver the Event
- "Event", "TGO Challenge East" or "TGOC East" – the TGO Challenge East event of backpacking from one of eight nominated start points along the A9 corridor in Scotland, to the east coast of Scotland on one of a selection of set routes. References to 'TGOC East 2026' refers to the Event of a specific year.
- "Event Details" and "Final Details" – the documents we make available to all Participants that provide information and advice on, amongst other items, the planning and execution of the Event
- "Participant" – those taking part in the TGO Challenge East
- "Route Information Pack" – the Route Sheet, Route Information Guide and GPX file describing your allocated route, giving the level of detail per the examples contained in the Event Details. For the avoidance of doubt, Route Information Packs do not include any maps.
- "TGO Challenge" and "TGOC26" – the TGO Challenge event of backpacking across Scotland from west coast to east coast and references to "TGOC26" refer to the Challenge of a specific year (i.e. TGOC26 = the 2026 edition of the Challenge)
- "we", "us" and "our" – refers to Scotia Challenge Ltd and the Coordinators and depending on the context may include its representatives and volunteers (such as Challenge Control Staff)
- "you" "your" – the Participant.