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What a wonderful experience Ingram Farm Safari is.

As someone who is disabled by Chronic Ideopathic Lung disease, causing low blood oxygen, low energy levels and muscle weakness affecting my mobility and general day to day abilities, and which necessitates me taking immuno-suppressants and using ambulatory oxygen carried on my back in a rucksack... I thought my days of experiencing the beauty, nature and wildness of the Cheviots were over....

Until my husband discovered Ingram Farm Safari..and booked as an anniversary gift...

... and for one truly blissful afternoon I was back up on the top of the hills looking down over the wondrous Northumberland countryside and coastline. Surrounded by the songs of skylarks, the wind in my hair, sun on my face, the cotton grass and heather a patchwork at my feet....and it made my heart sing.

From the moment we were met at the rendezvous point, Rebecca, Micheal (our shepherd guide) and everyone we met at Ingram Farm were so friendly, warm and welcoming. Immediately, I felt at ease with none of the anxieties that usually go hand in hand with new experiences, people and locations, when you have a disability.

Rebecca has really tried to think of everything thing possible to ensure all visitors have a great experience. Providing dry-robies in event of damp chilly weather, a cool box of water bottles for the warm ones, a step stool for getting in and out of the Trackster, if needed, a folding camping chair just in case I couldn't stand for long when looking at the views. Plus, the picnic was made lactose free for me...thanks to Rebecca and the lovely ladies at the super café in the valley.

The Trackster itself was very comfortable, easy to get in and out of , plenty of leg room for me and my oxygen cylinder (my 6'6" long legged husband

commented on how much leg room he had too). The load area at the back of the Trackster was able to hold my walking poles, spare oxygen cylinder and my rucksack of medical essentials without difficulty.

The ride on the Trackster was comfortable even over rough terrain. Having open sides I did not have to worry about cross-infection from others , as there was always plenty of fresh air. The seat belts were comfortable and easy to use.

The Trackster was able to get us close to all the Neolithic sites, and I was able to manage the very, very short walks to see them up close with my sticks and oxygen. If I had not been able to manage the walk on that day I would still have been close enough to see most of everything from the vehicle. Indeed a lot of the tour is fully experienced from the comfort of the Trackster.

Michael was a great guide with a wealth of shepherding/farming stories from Ingram Valley and the Cheviots. Back down on the farm we were able to get up close to El-Nino and his pals, along with Cuthbert the stag all from the safety of the Trackster.

Rebecca rendezvoused and checked in with us at various points of the afternoon, always making sure that I was comfortable. Which I certainly was.....

I could write so much more about the great time we had and I really cannot sing Rebecca and the Ingram Teams praises highly enough.

So if like me you thought your 'high up in the hills' time were over then think again...Ingram Farm Safari may just get you there for your own blissful few hours.

As for me, I'm hoping to stay well enough for a few more wedding anniversaries...as think one of their star gazing evening trips might be next!

Claire P (aged 53)

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