

Isle of Arran ~ Thursday 4 to Sunday 7 October 2018

Welcome to the best geology in Scotland! Arran's rocks tell a story stretching over almost one billion years. There are igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks, representing periods of mountain building, tropical seas, hot deserts, volcanoes and underground cauldrons of magma – it's all here, and Arran is justly famous as an ideal introduction to the study of rocks, and a place to appreciate the link between the rocks and the shape of the land at different scales.

We'll visit the ancient Highland rocks in the north of Arran, the site of James Hutton's unconformity near Lochranza, and the desert sandstones of the south. There will be time to explore all aspects of the island and appreciate the scenery, wildlife and a peaceful atmosphere. We will take a series of short walks to explore places of interest.

Outline Programme

Thursday travel to Arran. Meet in Brodick mid-afternoon for a short introductory walk.

Friday Short walk from Lochranza along the coast to Hutton's Unconformity and towards the Cock of Arran, discovering a range of rocks formed in different geological periods. In the afternoon we will travel south to enjoy the granite scenery of Glen Sannox or the varied rocks along the shore at Corrie.

Saturday Drive by the west coast to Blackwaterfoot, and walk northwards along the coast to the Kings Cave to explore desert sandstones and the raised beach. Visit the collections of standing stones on Machrie Moor.

Sunday Explore the south east coast, investigating a dyke swarm at Kildonan and some of the other intrusions that create the scenery of the area around Whiting Bay and Holy Isle. Depart Brodick mid-afternoon.



Details

Cost £220 including guide, accommodation & food, but not including travel to or on Arran; or £120 if you prefer to arrange your own accommodation.

Accommodation & Food We will be based at Shore Lodge in the grounds of Brodick Castle, in small rooms (2-4 people). All food is included: self-service breakfasts, packed lunches and communal evening meals (including a meal out).

Travel This is a self-drive trip, but to minimise ferry costs it makes sense to car-share, splitting the ferry and petrol costs between passengers. I'll put you in touch with other participants to arrange this.

Level of Fitness Required You will need to be reasonably fit and used to walking, comfortable on muddy paths and steps, but the pace will be moderate with plenty of stops.

Booking Conditions To book, please send a deposit of £50 per person cheque payable to Geowalks or bank transfer to Geowalks: Sort code 09-06-66 Account number 40260854. Final payment is due four weeks in advance – programme and reminder will be sent in advance of this.

If you cancel your booking, refunds will be at my discretion and will usually only be available if someone else takes your place. Travel insurance is recommended. In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.



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