

Wester Ross: Monday 20 to Saturday 25 May 2019



The unforgettable scenery of the Wester Ross National Scenic Area is derived directly from an amazing array of geology that is superbly exposed on coastline and mountain-side. This includes ancient Lewisian gneiss, ground down to create the lumpy scenery towards the coast; the ancient Torridonian sandstone, formed on the fringe of a continent over a billion years ago, which gives the mountains their hue and structure; and layers of sparkling quartzite and other, younger rocks. To the east lies a vast slab of metamorphic rock, pushed into place along the Moine Thrust, and moving and crumpling some of the underlying layers. The story is laid out clearly for us to see, with mountain-scale faults and disruptions that make the immense geological forces almost understandable ...

From our base at Kinlochewe we'll explore the coast and the lower slopes of the mountains, walking 5-10 miles each day on mountain paths and rough ground. Although this is rough terrain, the focus is on exploring the best and most accessible parts of the geological story rather than conquering the peaks!

The trip will include a variety of walks along the coast near Gairloch, the Beinn Eige Nature Reserve, and an exploration of a little known area near Kishorn (the best place to explore the complex deformation found beneath the Moine Thrust, with mountainsides of bare rock cut by thrusts and folds).

Details

Cost & Accommodation

The cost will be £400 per person, which includes five nights in basic self-catering accommodation in shared twin/double rooms, and all food. Single rooms may be available for a supplement. The cost does not include transport (see below).

Alternatively you can organise your own accommodation and food in the Kinlochewe area, which reduces the cost to £150.

Transport

The trip is organised on a self-drive basis. Car sharing is encouraged, so don't worry if you don't have a car, it should be possible to link you up and to share costs.

Level of fitness required

You will need to be reasonably fit and used to rough walking, but the pace will be moderate with many stops.

Booking Conditions

Booking Conditions To confirm your booking, please pay a deposit of £50 per person – ask for details to make a bank transfer, or send a cheque payable to Geowalks. 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 usually only be available if someone else takes your place. In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.

Recommended Reading

A good general introduction to the area:
Northwest Highlands, Scottish Natural Heritage (Landscape fashioned by Geology Series), 2001. ISBN 1-85397-139-1. Available as a free download from www.scottishgeology.com/find-out-more/publications/



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