

Geowalks: Luing & the Argyll Islands, Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 June 2019

The beautiful and varied Atlantic islands of Luing, Kerrera, Seil, Easdale, Scarba and the Garvellachs have a rich geological history, with fantastic coastal exposures of some of the best of the Dalradian metamorphic rocks and overlying conglomerate, sandstone and lava. The metamorphic rocks contain plenty of clues to what was happening on the floor of a long-lost ocean when the original rocks formed. We'll see slate, limestone and internationally-famous tillite layers within the Dalradian rocks. The structural trend of the rocks creates the grain of the coastline and islands, and the whole lot is shot through by a set of much younger dykes from later volcanic activity on Mull.

These islands also have an interesting human history, which intersects with the geology in the many abandoned and flooded slate quarries. Based on Luing, we will experience geology's influence on the tides, anchorages and the narrow passageways such as the Corrievrekan.

Outline Programme

Tuesday Meet mid-afternoon at the Cuan Ferry on Seil, travel over to Luing, settle in, take a short walk to explore the slate quarries and visit the Atlantic Islands Centre.

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday Three day excursions to different islands:

Luing walk along the high spine of the island, made of metamorphosed igneous rock, and explore the varied coastline with slate, igneous intrusions and abandoned quarries.

Kerrera Drive to Oban and take the short ferry ride across to Kerrera for a day walk, exploring this lovely island, the Dalradian metamorphic rock, and the unconformable junction with the over-lying sandstone, conglomerate and lava layers.

Garvellachs We'll take a leisurely small boat journey out to the Garvellachs, with time ashore on Eileach a Naoimh (Holy Isle) for some remarkable geology and archaeology. If the weather permits, we will swing past Scarba and through the Gulf of Corrievrekan.

Saturday Pack up and depart, with options for a short geology walk in the morning on Seil or Easdale.

Details

Cost & Accommodation

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

Alternatively you can organise your own accommodation and food on Luing or Seil, which reduces the cost to £200 (includes all ferries and boat trip).

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; public transport is also possible. Once you get to Cuan on Seil (accessible by bridge), we will only need to take short car journeys to visit the other islands.

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.

Level of fitness required

The trip will involve short walks on paths, tracks, beaches and rough ground. There will be some flexibility in the programme, with the longest walk option being about 8 miles. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground. It may be wet or slippery underfoot.

Recommended Reading

Alan McKirdy 2017 Argyll & the Islands: Landscapes in Stone, Birlinn 9781780274669



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