

U3A Isle of Arran ~ Monday 15 to Friday 19 June 2009

Welcome to the best geology in Scotland! Arran's rocks tell a story stretching over 1000 million years. Igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks are found here, 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. This holiday is designed to be flexible, with time to explore the island and appreciate the scenery, wildlife and a peaceful atmosphere. We will take a series of short walks to explore places of interest.

The holiday is being run for the U3A by Angus Miller of Geowalks. Angus has led geological guided walks and residential trips for many years, and has organised several trips to for U3A groups. Visit www.geowalks.co.uk for further details.

Outline Programme

Monday 15 June Travel to Arran by minibus and ferry. Drive to Kilmory in the south of the island, late afternoon stroll along the beach.

Tuesday Explore the rocks of the far north of Arran, including the Highland schist near Catacol and Hutton's Unconformity near Lochranza. From Lochranza we'll walk round the coast towards the Cock of Arran and discover a range of rocks formed in different geological periods.

Wednesday Visit to Brodick and the castle grounds, before heading further north to view the northern granite and Baryte veins in lower Glen Sannox, and the varied sedimentary rocks of Corrie.

Thursday Drive to Blackwaterfoot, walk northwards along the coast to the Kings Cave and on to the collections of standing stones on Machrie Moor.

Friday Pack up and head for home.

Details

Cost The cost will be in the region of £260-300 per person. This will be finalised once numbers are known. This includes the course fee, transport including ferry, shared bunkhouse accommodation, and all meals.

Transport

We will travel from Edinburgh by 15-seater minibus and the Calmac ferry from Ardrossan. We will use the minibus every day on Arran to visit different parts of the island.

Accommodation & Catering

We will be based at Kilmory Lodge Bunkhouse, www.kilmoryhall.com, with modern accommodation in four rooms. We will have exclusive use of the bunkhouse, which sleeps up to 23 people. All food is provided: self-service breakfasts and lunches and communal evening meals. Everyone will be expected to lend a hand with cooking or clearing up, but we will also treat ourselves to a meal out!

Level of Fitness Required

You will need to be reasonably fit and used to walking, but the pace will be moderate with plenty of stops. We'll stick mostly to paths although there may be short sections of rough beach. The longest walks will be in the region of 6-8 miles.

Booking Conditions

To confirm your booking please fill in a Booking & Medical form and send it to Angus Miller with a deposit of £50 (cheques payable to Geowalks). Full payment is due four weeks in advance. If you cancel your booking, refunds will only be available if we manage to fill your place. Travel insurance is recommended – many insurers offer cheap UK-only cover.

In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.



Angus Miller, Geowalks

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