

## Grampian Coast ~ Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 October 2009

The Grampian area is a great place to appreciate the range of geology in the Highlands, and the contrast of rocks across the Highland Boundary Fault. We'll be based in Stonehaven, and explore the Highland Boundary Fault nearby and the remarkable Old Red Sandstone conglomerates at Dunnottar Castle. We'll also venture inland to appreciate the granite scenery of Deeside and the Cairngorms.

The itinerary will include easy, short coastal and inland walks, of up to 4 miles. There will be some optional scrambling over rough beaches to appreciate the finer details, but if you prefer to stick to paths and grassy slopes you'll still be able to appreciate the diverse geology of the area.

### Outline Programme

**Friday 9 October** (optional) meet up in Stonehaven in the evening.

**Saturday** We'll spend the day exploring the rocks of the Stonehaven area, from Muchalls in the north to Crawton in the south, sampling a selection of the rocks of the area, including Dalradian schist, the Highland Boundary Fault, and the mix of sandstone, conglomerate and lava that lies to the south of the fault zone.

**Sunday** From Stonehaven we head inland towards Banchory and Ballater, to explore the beautiful Highland scenery of Deeside and appreciate the contrasting rocks that form the basement to the scenery and the way in which the landscape has been modified by glacial erosion and deposition.

### Details

**Cost** course fee £65 per person: this includes your guide (Angus Miller) and course organisation; optional B&B accommodation at the Belvedere Hotel, £40 per person per night.

### Accommodation & Meals

We will be based at the Belvedere Hotel in Stonehaven - [www.belvederestonehaven.co.uk](http://www.belvederestonehaven.co.uk) - the cost above is for B&B accommodation in single (limited availability), twin or double room. Alternatively if you are free to make your own arrangements.

We will plan to have a meal out as a group on Saturday evening. You'll need to bring your own provisions for lunch, or stock up on the day.

### Transport

This trip is organised on a self-drive basis. Car sharing is encouraged, to reduce the cost and our environmental impact, and to make the trip logistically easier. Passengers are expected to contribute to costs. A rough guide for travel from Edinburgh, transport during the trip and return to Edinburgh would be £30-40 per person.

### Level of Fitness Required

You will need to be reasonably fit and used to short walks, but the pace will be moderate with plenty of stops and sections of rough terrain will be optional.

### Booking Conditions

To book for the whole holiday, send a deposit of £50 (cheques payable to 'Geowalks'). There's a 5% discount on the course fee if you book and pay a deposit before 14 February. The final payment is due four weeks in advance. If you cancel your booking, refunds will be at my discretion and will usually only be made if I find someone to fill 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.



**Angus Miller, Geowalks**

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