

# Walks Programme 2009

The Walks Programme offers a variety of opportunities to discover and explore the rocks of central Scotland in short, informal day walks. The pace is slow, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the rocks, the landscape and wildlife.

Most walks last for 4-5 hours, including a lunch stop. Walks at the beginning and end of the programme are "Short Walks", which last 2-3 hours. More information about each walk is given below.

Please visit the Geowalks website for general information, including more details about how the walks are graded. Advance booking is advised as numbers are limited for safety reasons. Further information about each walk is available about 10 days in advance from the website, and is sent to everyone who has booked.

Hope to see you 'on the rocks' sometime soon!

**Angus Miller, Geowalks**

## Draft Programme for 2009

Final programme will be published here in January, and is unlikely to change significantly. (last updated 23 December 2009)

Sun 22 Feb 11am [Blackford Hill, Edinburgh](#)  
Sat 28 Feb 10am [Seacliff, East Lothian](#)  
Sat 7 Mar 10 am [Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh](#)  
Sun 15 Mar 11 am [Aberlady, East Lothian](#)  
Sat 21 Mar 10am [St Abbs Head, Borders](#)  
Sun 29 Mar 11am [Kirkcaldy-East Wemyss, Fife](#)  
13-18 Apr [Edinburgh Int. Science Festival](#)  
Sun 19 Apr 11am [Bathgate Hills](#)  
Sun 10 May 11am [East Lomond Hill, Fife](#)  
Sat 23 May 10am [Barns Ness, East Lothian](#)  
Sun 14 Jun 11am [North Berwick, East Lothian](#)  
Sat 27 Jun 10am [Cove-Pease Bay, Borders](#)  
Sun 23 Aug 11am [Kinghorn, Fife](#)  
Sat 5 Sep 10am [Brander Coast, Borders](#)  
Sun 13 Sep 11am [Aberlady-Gullane, E Lothian](#)  
Sat 3 Oct 10am [Bavelaw, Pentlands](#)  
Sun 11 Oct 11am [St Baldreds Cradle, E Lothian](#)  
Sat 31 Oct 10am [Roslin Glen, Midlothian](#)  
Sat 7 Nov 10am [Cramond Island, Edinburgh](#)  
Sun 22 Nov 11am [South Queensferry](#)  
Sat 28 Nov 10am [Water of Leith, Edinburgh](#)

## Sun 22 Feb 11am **Blackford Hill, Edinburgh**

A gentle start to the season with a short walk exploring the volcanic rocks of Blackford Hill and the Hermitage of Braid. Discover the story of spectacular volcanic eruptions 400 million years ago that created the southern hills of Edinburgh.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



## Sat 28 Feb 10am **Seacliff, East Lothian**

The red and green cliffs near Tantallon Castle are the remains of volcanic activity which shaped East Lothian. Now in quieter times we can appreciate the long history that produced this lovely bay and its surrounding islands.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



## Sat 7 Mar 10 am **Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh**

Discover the quiet side of Scotland's most famous volcano, where oozing piles of lava built up on the slopes of the volcanic cone. From the centre of the volcano at Dunsapie we will walk through the volcanic vent and over the lava flows of Whinny Hill.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



## Sun 15 Mar 11 am **Aberlady, East Lothian**

A short walk along the rocky coastline to the north of Aberlady, where a range of sedimentary rock layers are found. These layers formed during the Carboniferous Period, when this part of Scotland was influenced by changing conditions, sometimes under warm shallow seas and at other times buried under the detritus carried from the mountains by huge rivers.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



## Sat 21 Mar 10am **St Abbs Head, Borders**

St Abbs is a unique part of the Borders coast, jutting out into the North Sea because of its special rocks, formed from lava flows of an ancient volcano. This is very different rock from the Iapetus Ocean greywacke sedimentary rocks that are found to the north and south and are common across the Southern Uplands. The lava flows of St Abbs form gently sloping ledges, ideal nesting sites for seabirds.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



## Sun 29 Mar 11am **Kirkcaldy-East Wemyss, Fife**

A varied section of the Fife Coastal Path that takes in castles, harbours, pit heads and the Wemyss caves. Along the way we'll find layers of sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous Coal Measures and explore the many links between rocks and the history of the local area.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



## EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL 6-18 April 2009

Tickets for these events must be booked in advance from the Science Festival box office, [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk) or phone 0131 524 9830.

### Exploring Dunbar's Volcanoes

**Mon 13, Wed 15, Fri 17 April, 2pm** duration 2.5 hr  
Tickets (Full price/Concession): £8.00 / £4.00

Explore the rocky headland of Dunbar, and discover how the shape of the land and the coastline is related to different kinds of rock, all formed millions of years ago. In this family exploration along the beaches and cliffs we'll find the remains of volcanoes and layers of sandstone. The volcanoes of Dunbar left behind hard igneous rocks that have withstood erosion better than the surrounding sedimentary rocks, creating the headland of Dunbar and the shape of the surrounding coast. This has given a good defensive position for Dunbar Castle, and a sheltered anchorage; crucial components of the history of the town.

### Explore Edinburgh's Rocks

**Tues 14, Thu 16, Sat 18 April, 2 pm** duration 2.5 hr  
Tickets (Full price/Concession): £8.00 / £4.00

Explore the rocks of Edinburgh's city centre that tell stories of Scotland's past. In the city centre we have the remains of ancient volcanoes that dominated the landscape 350 million years ago, and formed the hard igneous rocks that dominate the landscape now. Surrounding the hills are softer layers of sedimentary rock that record tropical seas and swamps. The rocks of the city don't end with the bedrock though, as over centuries people have brought stones from elsewhere to here, for buildings, monuments, roads and sculptures. Now the diversity of Scotland's geology is represented in the city centre.

---

### Sun 19 Apr 11am Bathgate Hills

A traverse of the Bathgate Hills from Bathgate to Linlithgow, passing a host of interesting features including fossil coral reefs, silver mines, the Cairnpapple archaeological site and a unique geological viewpoint.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



---

### Sun 10 May 11am East Lomond Hill, Fife

Fife's Lomond Hills are the site of ancient volcanoes, with a thick layer of intrusive dolerite forming the high ground between them. Starting in the village of Falkland we'll climb gently through a quiet wooded valley into the open moorland and then to the summit of East Lomond.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



---

### Sat 23 May 10am Barns Ness, East Lothian

Barns Ness is well known as the best fossil site in the Lothians, packed with many interesting features in a small area, including a range of different types of sedimentary rocks. From Barns Ness we'll continue south along a seldom-visited stretch of coast to the quiet bay at Skateraw where some of the Barns Ness limestone appears again.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



---

### Sun 14 Jun 11am North Berwick, East Lothian

A walk along the coast and up North Berwick Law to discover the varied story of the local volcanoes. The rocks on the shore were formed by a series of violent volcanic eruptions, with volcanic ash showering out of the sky into a shallow sea. We can now stroll through the ancient volcanoes and view the offshore islands, each with a different story.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



---

### Sat 27 Jun 10am Cove-Pease Bay, Borders

A short, but rocky and wild stretch of coast takes us back through time. Starting at Cove Harbour we find sandstones and other rocks of Carboniferous age, and then as we walk south and around the corner we find the Old Red Sandstone of Pease Bay. Amongst the varied layers of sedimentary rock, watch out for the giant concretions!

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



---

### Sun 23 Aug 11am Kinghorn, Fife

A short stretch of the Fife Coastal Path introduces us to an amazing array of rocks. We begin on lava flows, pass through many sedimentary layers, including fossil-rich limestone, and it's all topped off with two flavours of dolerite.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



### Sat 5 Sep 10am **Brander Coast, Borders**

The wildest stretch of the Borders coast lies between Fast Castle and St Abbs Head - where steep cliffs of greywacke sandstone plunge to the North Sea, fringed by headlands and rocky beaches. From the cliff top, if the conditions are right, we can descend to a remote beach for a close-up view of the rhythmic layering formed on the floor of a long-lost ocean.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



### Sun 13 Sep 11am **Aberlady-Gullane, E Lothian**

This walk takes in the contrasting landscapes of the broad sweep of Aberlady Bay, underlain by soft sedimentary rocks, and the rocky headland of Gullane Point, formed from resistant igneous rock.

**DAY WALK** duration 4-5 hours, cost £12 (£10 conc) per person



### Sat 3 Oct 10am **Bavelaw, Pentlands**

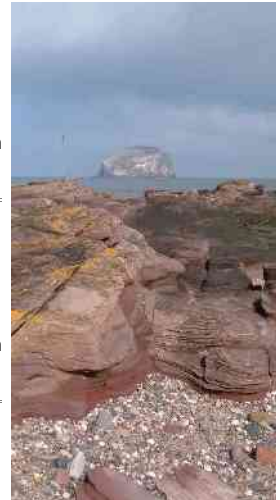
This short, low level walk in the Pentlands gives a rare glimpse of the rocks that lie deep beneath the Lothians. Here the oldest rocks in the area are exposed; sandstones and shales that have had a remarkable journey - they've been at the surface before, but were buried by nearby volcanic eruptions.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person

### Sun 11 Oct 11am **St Baldreds Cradle, E Lothian**

Explore this spectacular rocky headland beside the Tyne estuary, the remains of a volcanic plug where magma oozed through sedimentary layers.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



### Sat 31 Oct 10am **Roslin Glen, Midlothian**

Explore the geology of Rosslyn Chapel and the nearby glen, a picturesque gorge with high sandstone cliffs. The sandstone forms a thick coal-free horizon within the Midlothian coal field.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person

### Sat 7 Nov 10am **Cramond Island, Edinburgh**

Explore Cramond Island at low tide to discover its hard dolerite rock, and find out about the varied geology of the other Firth of Forth islands, formed from a variety of durable igneous rocks.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person



### Sun 22 Nov 11am **South Queensferry**

In the shadow of the Forth Rail Bridge we find a surprising mix of sedimentary and igneous rocks, samples of the diverse geology of West Lothian with many links to how people in the past have benefited from the regions geology.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person

### Sat 28 Nov 10am **Water of Leith, Edinburgh**

Edinburgh's river has a varied character, reflecting the underlying rock and dramatic episodes of erosion associated with the melting of glacial ice. This short walk explores the river between Stockbridge and the Dean Bridge.

**SHORT WALK** duration 2-3 hours, cost £8 per person