

Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is advised to take out holiday insurance. This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included with many credit cards.

Booking

Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £250.00 per person or the full payment and a completed booking form. The balance will be payable not later than December 31st 2011. The tour will run if there are 10 bookings by December 31st. 2011.

Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these courses are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with EU Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

If you have any questions or queries after reading this brochure, please contact Chris Darmon.

Email:
downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Geology Field Course to Skye, Raasay & Applecross March 28 - April 4 2012



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An introduction to the course...

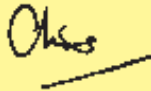
I've been leading field courses to this area for more than 30 years, mostly based on the Island of Raasay. Following a major fire at Raasay House in 2009, the only hotel on the island is busy accommodating young people, so I've had to look elsewhere if we are to run a course to this great area.

I've settled on the beautiful village of Plockton, just to the East of Kyle of Lochalsh and the Haven Hotel. Plockton is a stop on the railway from Inverness and from here we can easily get to superb places on Skye, Raasay and the Applecross area of the mainland.

There's so much that we can do, I hardly know where to start! Within a radius of 30 miles or so we can see Lewisian Gneiss, Torridonian Sandstone, Moine metamorphics, Triassic and Jurassic sediments and the vast array of Tertiary volcanic rocks of the Skye igneous complex.

There will be an opportunities for you to examine the Moine Thrust as it crosses Skye, study some very strange 'volcanic vents' and the Lewisian/Torridonian unconformity on Raasay and get to grips with a large river delta on Applecross. In short, whatever your geological interest, this course has something for you!

We anticipate high levels of interest in this course - so book up early to avoid disappointment



Chris Darmon BSc
Course Organiser/Leader

The Geology

This course almost offers a 'first to last' experience with rocks ranging in age from Precambrian to the Tertiary. Considering the geology in order of age, we commence with the Lewisian Gneisses that outcrop extensively in North Raasay allowing us to see the classic scenery this rock produces. This is overlain by the thick sequence of Torridonian rocks from the late Precambrian - outcropping extensively on Applecross. Thanks to complex tectonics we can examine the Moine Schists around Kyle of Lochalsh. Cambro-Ordovician limestone will be seen on Skye. Triassic and Jurassic sediments form large parts of Raasay, the latter often fossiliferous.

A wide variety of Tertiary igneous rocks will be seen on Skye and Raasay. Near Broadford, we'll examine marbles formed by a nearby granitic intrusion. The Moine Thrust passes through the SE part of Skye and is well worth the effort to see!

Getting There

Plockton is on the Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh railway line. It's possible to reach Inverness by sleeper train or by flights from many parts of the UK. By road, Kyle of Lochalsh is on a very good road from Fort William. Accommodation in the Inverness area can be arranged if you need it.

Getting Around

We hope to be able to run this course using shared cars, but if not a hired minibus will be used.

Walking

Whilst some of the terrain is rough, we do not intend doing anything particularly difficult or daunting. We'll get you as close as possible to the relevant sites and will, in almost every case, involve minimal walking distances. Everything therefore should be within the capabilities of all the party. We'll also take it at a leisurely pace.

However, if at any time you wish to 'opt out' that will be fully acceptable and understood. In view of the uncertainties of the weather you are strongly advised to bring waterproofs and walking boots – particularly as you may be walking over rough ground.

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our courses and we work hard to bring you the best local accommodation. We are lucky that Plockton boasts several good hostels and fine dining. We have chosen the well appointed Haven Hotel as our base, somewhere that I have personally visited and recommend. En suite facilities will come as standard. A hearty breakfast, 3-course evening meal and packed lunch for each field day, come as standard. Single accommodation is available, but is limited and subject to a modest supplement. We are happy to help anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room – simply indicate on the booking form.

Itinerary

Although not fixed in stone, the following is a guide to what we should be able to see and do:

- Lewisian and Torridonian rocks of North Raasay
- Torridonian rocks of the Applecross Peninsula
- Moine rocks of the Kyle of Lochalsh area
- Mesozoic sediments of Raasay
- Moine Thrust and sediments of SE Skye
- Granites and marbles of the Broadford area
- Optional mapping exercise on Raasay

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £895.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £995.00 per person.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon as tutor who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Plockton and return
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses
- Lunchtime food on the final day

Why not make a circle of it?

If you've come up by train, why not travel back by way of Mallaig and Fort William - sleeper available to London? For an additional £120 per person you can add in an exciting extra day that takes you by train to Kyle of Lochalsh, then bus to Armadale via Broadford and a trip aboard the CalMac ferry across to Mallaig. You then enjoy an overnight stay at the nearby luxury West Highland Hotel, complete with 3-course dinner and a Highland breakfast. We've stayed at the West Highland Hotel twice in 2011 and recommend it highly.

Things to bring

To get the most out of this course, it would be useful to bring along the following items: field notebook, pencil and pen and a x10 magnifier. In addition, you will find a camera essential to record the stunning views!

