



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Residential field trips 2020

A welcome from your leaders...

We've been running our field trips for around 25 years and over that period more than a thousand people have enjoyed our unique mix of geological education in a relaxed, holiday environment. We believe that real earth science learning should be educational, informative and entertaining and we certainly manage all three.

For 2020, Chris will be joined on all the residential field trips by his friend and colleague Colin Schofield. Both of us get a real buzz out of sharing great places with you for the first time as well as revisiting places that we know well. It's all part of the magic that is field geology.

Colin will drive our minibus on most of the trips. He will also share with you all his enthusiasm for and knowledge of all things about the landscape and geomorphology! On our trips to Portugal, Ireland and Norway we will also have the services of a local guide. In addition, such is the style and make up of our groups that we can also rely on input from many of you, our guests.

All our trips are aimed at a wide audience including anyone with an interest in geology. No prior knowledge is expected or assumed. We start where you are, providing you with the help you need to get the most out of the trip. In essence, we'll be 'reading the rocks' - glean information about events that have taken place, often over hundreds of millions of years. You'll see the rocks, minerals, fossils and structures that provide us with clues about what has happened in the geological past.

If, after reading this information, you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Field Trip Organisers/Leaders

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We welcome all adults to join our trips, with no upper age limit. Many of our guests are retired people who continue to enjoy an active lifestyle, whilst at the same time enjoying the thrill of learning more with like minded people of all ages. Most of our groups are quite small, usually 15-20 people making it possible for everyone to get to know one another. Whilst we have a number of people who've travelled with us for a long time there's also a mix of new people. We are renowned for being friendly and welcoming to all!

Getting to and from the field area

We usually meet at our hotel on the evening of the first day. We leave travel arrangements in your hands, suggesting suitable flights for overseas trips. For many UK trips people often arrive by train or, in the case of Scottish trips, by air from your home area. In case of difficulty, we'll always try and help you - just ask us.

Getting around on trips

For 2020 we'll have the use of a minibus driven by our own Colin Schofield, for all UK trips. In the case of overseas trips we make use of hired transport to get around, usually a small coach. Where numbers exceed the capacity of the minibus, we'll need to use an additional car, driven by another group member. If you are willing to help with this, please indicate on the booking form.

Walking on our trips

Everything should be within the capabilities of all of the party. We will always try to get as close as possible to the sites, but this will still mean that there are some walks of a couple of miles, to see the best exposures. There may also be some short sections of steep cliff ascents and descents.

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 all waterproofs and walking boots - particularly as you will be walking over rough ground.

Our accommodation

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our trips and so



we generally try to use small, family run, hotels and guesthouses that offer en-suite or private facilities. Most rooms will be double or twin-bedded, but limited single accommodation is available, subject to a modest supplement **As single rooms can be a problem, we are always happy to help anyone looking for someone of the same sex, to share a twin bedded room - simply indicate on the booking form.**

Our hotels usually provide us with breakfast and a 3-course evening dinner for each night. On most trips we also cover the cost of midday food which will either be taken as a packed lunch from the hotel or purchased locally, where this is not the case it will be clearly shown in the individual trip brochure.

The field experience

We want you to really get the most out of your trip, which means that we 'read the rocks' together, allowing everyone the opportunity to discover things for themselves. This often leads to lively debate at some of our field locations as people chip in with their own ideas. This is what field geology should be about and it's great fun.

On each trip, we'll take you to some of the finest geological sites in the area as well as some lesser known places that may be just as exciting. We don't go to working quarries or enter underground mines unless they are part of a commercial experience such as a show cave or preserved site. It's not normally necessary to bring specific safety gear.

Chris Darmon, our principal guide has over 40 years of field experience and he is often joined by local guides and colleagues. Chris and Colin are normally available to you at any time during the trip and will be resident in the same accommodation as the group.

The cost

Prices are as quoted for each individual trip. We try to keep costs as low as possible without economising on the various elements that make up the price of the total package. We recognise that some people are unable or unwilling to use hotel accommodation. On certain trips, it may be possible to offer a non-resident package - please enquire for details. If you live close to any of our locations and want to join us as a non-resident, please ask us. Naturally, the cost of travel between your home and the field area is not included, see individual brochures for any specifics.

Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is strongly advised to take out holiday insurance. This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with many credit cards. In the case of overseas trips, it is essential that you are covered by an insurance policy.



Booking

You must fill in and return a completed booking form for each trip. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either the specified deposit for each person or the full payment. If you pay a deposit now, the balance of the brochure price will be due by the date shown in the individual brochure. The trip will only run if the stated minimum of people have booked by the due date. In the case of cancellation by us, a full refund will be payable. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Everyone who books must agree to the terms and conditions for our trips. This includes the terms of our cancellation policy should you be unable to attend.

Your money

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these trips 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 safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

The complete 2020 field trip programme...

- Terras de Cavaleiros, Portugal - March 13-20*
- Norway revisited - March 27 - April 5*
- Raasay & Skye - April 25 - May 2*
- Eigg & Rum - May 3-12*
- Dingle Peninsula - May 31 - June 7*
- Shetland Isles - June 20-27*
- Western Lake District - July 4-11*
- Summer School - July 25 - August 1
- Pembrokeshire - September 1-8*
- Isle of Arran - September 14-21*
- Forest of Dean - September 27 - October 1
- The Yorkshire Dales - October 6-11
- The Malvern Hills - October 23-28*

Trips marked * have brochures that can be viewed on our website: www.geosupplies.co.uk
We look forward to hearing from you!

Brochures for all field trips, courses and classes are posted online at: www.geosupplies.co.uk

**Enquiries & bookings:
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