



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Ilfracombe, North Devon October 12-17



Valley of the Rocks, Lynton

A word from your leaders...

This part of North Devon is a first for both of us, although by the time we see you, we'll have covered part of the area with some US female geologists. We're not quite sure why we've never been here before, it's certainly not because of any deficiencies in the geology or scenery far from it! With places like Westward Ho! and Lynton's Valley of the Rocks, there's plenty to see and do.

The country rocks of North Devon comprise a mixture of low grade slates and sediments from the Devonian and Carboniferous periods. They have been extensively folded and faulted during the Variscan Orogeny. These combine to give us some beautiful coastal scenery with high cliffs and beautiful bays and beaches. Weather permitting we hope to travel to Lundy for the day and take in the Tertiary granites that make up the island. There are some Quaternary deposits and signs of both active erosion and also changes of sea level in the past.

The trip will be based in a comfortable hotel in Ilfracombe, that is used to dealing with groups. They will provide us with our breakfast and evening meals and generally look after us.

As some elements of this trip will be new to both Chris and Colin, we'll both be keen to explore the area with you and genuinely excited by many of the things that we discover with you all. This trip is ideal for anyone with an interest in reading the rocks and understanding the landscape, as there's lots for everyone to see!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Getting to Ilfracombe

The nearest railhead to Ilfracombe is Barnstaple, which is at the end of branch line from Exeter St. Davids. It enjoys a good service of trains. From Barnstaple there is a regular bus service to Ilfracombe. By road, it's a relatively short journey from the main roads that serve Exeter.

Getting around on the trip

As usual, we'll have the use of a 17-seater minibus, driven by 'our Colin'. There may also be a need for a couple of extra cars, so we may be looking for a couple of volunteer drivers! This will only happen if the total number of participants exceeds 15. We are looking to hire our minibus from a company in Exeter, so if you are looking for a lift we may be able to help you - ask nearer to the time.

Walking

This is not an area of particularly difficult terrain, although there will be a couple of steep ascents and descents of cliffs. 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 of the party. Most walks will be short, along the shoreline.

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.

The geology of the North Devon Coast

The scenery of the North Devon is highly rated, and yet this is also an area that isn't terribly high on the tourist radar. The heyday of places like Ilfracombe were last seen in the 1950's and, in many ways, the area has still not recovered from the loss of its railway in the early 1970's.

Turning to the solid geology, we will be looking at a thick succession of Devonian and Carboniferous sediments. This comprises mainly sandstones and shales, with many of the latter now metamorphosed to slate. These rocks have been folded and faulted in the late-Carboniferous Variscan Orogeny. It is these rocks that give us the high cliffs for which the area is famed.

Out in the Bristol Channel lies the National Trust owned Lundy Island. This island comprises a granite of Tertiary age. As such it is the most southerly of the igneous intrusions of that age. Quaternary deposits often blanket the area, some of which are of glacial origin.

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our tours and we have worked hard to bring you good value in local accommodation. For this trip we have chosen the Osborne Hotel, which is well located in Ilfracombe. The hotel will provide us with breakfast and a 3-course evening dinner. For each day packed lunches will be sourced locally for each field day. 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

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip, weather and tides permitting:-



- Devonian rocks and scenery of the Valley of the Rocks
- The geology of Hele Bay and Ilfracombe
- The Tertiary granites of Lundy Island (weather permitting)
- Amazing folding at Hartland Quay
- Rocks and scenery of Baggly Point and Saunton

In order to get the most out of your short visit, we will aim to finish around 12 noon on the final day, allowing us to do a little in the morning.

Cost

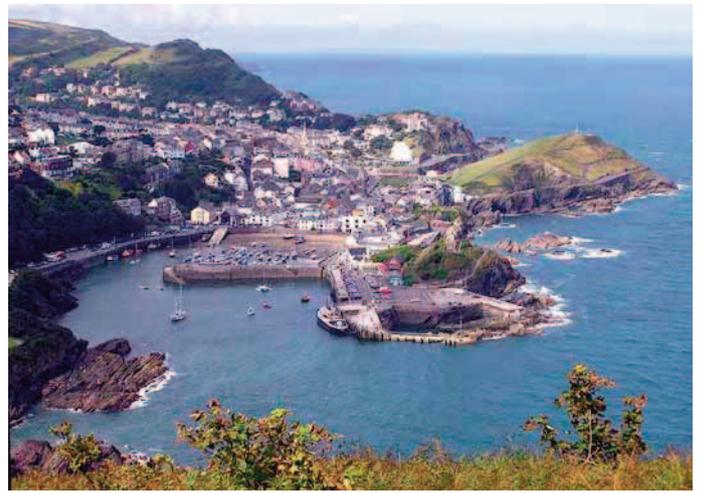
For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 4-night trip will be £595.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £695.00 per person and is limited to a maximum of 3.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield as tutors, who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified here
- The cost of all transport used during the trip
- Admission to any museums, exhibitions etc. as visited by the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Ilfracombe
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenditure



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 your credit card or bank account.

Booking

Please fill in and return a completed booking form.. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £200.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by June 30th 2018.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 12 people have booked by January 31st. 2018.

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 is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - pretty soon judging by the number of people who have shown an interest already - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of any advance fares on train.

Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

Please also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2018'



Fabulous scenery ay Hartland Quay

