



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

The Isles of Eigg & Rum

May 3-12 2020



Rum's igneous rocks from the Singing Sands of Eigg

A word from your leaders...

There are some places that you just have to visit and if they happen to be within striking distance of the West Coast of Scotland, there would seem to be little reason why not. Whilst Chris has been on three occasions, Colin hasn't and we last took a group in 2011. Fully serviced accommodation on Rum is a problem, but we still think that we should offer this amazing trip to you all.

The two islands are geologically very different, whilst being within sight of each other. Eigg is mainly underlain by Jurassic sediments, whilst being dominated by the dramatic Sgurr, a Tertiary lava feature. Rum is much more mountainous with the Rum Cullin rising to nearly 3,000 feet. Tertiary igneous rocks dominate the island, especially ultrabasics in the form of peridotite. There are also much older rocks including Torridonian, Triassic and Jurassic sediments. Rum is a National Nature Reserve, in part for its geology and it's not difficult to see why!

For our first and last nights we'll be based at either Arisaig or Mallaig and then we have three nights on Eigg, followed by four on Rum. There are only limited places on this trip, so early booking is strongly advised. Both of us are really looking forward to this trip which is taking place before the midge season!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Arisaig or Mallaig

The first and last nights of this trip will be either at Arisaig or Mallaig. Both places are on the scenic Fort William to Mallaig railway. They also lie on the Fort William to Mallaig main road so travel isn't too hard. If you are coming by car, your vehicle can be left in the secure compound of Arisaig Marine.

Getting around on the trip

With only a short distance of metalled road on Eigg and none on Rum, we won't be having any transport on the islands. Your luggage will be transported to the accommodation, but otherwise we are on our feet! There is a minibus service on Eigg that we may be able to use to carry us to the furthest distant part of Eigg. It may also be possible to arrange for a lift on one of the days on Rum, but that's not a promise!

Walking

Much of the walking on Eigg is easy with pleasant footpaths in gleans and along the shoreline. Rum by contrast, is rugged and some of the walking is quite tough. At the farthest point, the round trip walk would be about 9 miles. Weather permitting, there will be the option of a high level walk up the Rum Cullin.

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 – essential as we will be walking over rough and steep ground.



The geology of Eigg and Rum



The islands of Eigg and Rum are in the Inner Hebrides, just off the west coast of Scotland. Eigg is dominated by the famous Sgurr, a pitchstone lava flow which dates from around 55 million years. Beneath this and a covering of Tertiary basalt is a sedimentary series of Jurassic rocks. These are fossiliferous and were made famous with the finding of vertebrate bones by Hugh Miller.

By contrast Rum is dominated by mountains of ultrabasic material, which are intruded into a basement that includes Torridonian, Devonian and Jurassic sediments. This is a great place to carry out geological fieldwork and abounds with amazing rocks and structures. There's evidence for explosive, high silica volcanic activity and intrusives of great variety.

Eigg and Rum offer unrivalled views of the other islands in the area and the fabulous Cullins of Skye to the north. To the south lies the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. There's a real feeling of being in the midst of a major igneous province.

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our tours and we work hard to bring you good value in local accommodation. On Eigg, we'll be staying either at Kildonan House and Lageoma, both guest houses that offer breakfasts and evening meals. However on Rum we can only offer two rooms in a guesthouse, one twin and one double. Beyond this there's self catering accommodation in the modern bunkhouse. That has a twin bedded room, along with beds in small dormitory rooms. Food can be brought from Eigg and there's a limited shop on Rum.

If you are looking for single rooms, we regret that we cannot accommodate you, but you could have a dormitory bed on Rum and Eigg - contact us for details.

Itinerary

At this stage, this is meant to be indicative of the course content. Final details will be worked out in accordance with the wishes of the group and the prevailing weather.

- Volcanic rocks of Eigg, including basalts and the Sgurr
- Jurassic rocks and fossils of Eigg
- Torridonian sandstones of Loch Scressort, Rum
- Ultrabasic and contact rocks of Harris Bay
- Explosive volcanic rocks of Coire Dubh
- Marginal rocks around the ring fault in SE Rum

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 9-night trip will be £1395.00 per person; with guesthouse accommodation on both islands. If self catering on Rum, the cost is £1195.00 per person.

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 ferries and transport used during the trip



What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Arisaig/Mallaig
- 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 £300.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by January 31st 2020.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 10 people have booked by November 30th 2019.

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 2020'

