



**Down to Earth**

*"Earth science learning for all"*

# The Isle of Guernsey

## October 7-14 2023



**Granites on Guernsey's west coast**

### **A word from your leaders...**

The Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey have a rich and varied geology that matches that of Brittany. A few years ago we visited Jersey, but have never been to Guernsey and the nearby islands of Herm and Sark. This will be our second visit to Guernsey having last run a trip in 2017. Between use, we'll be covering all aspects of the rocks and present day landscapes of Guernsey. With a bus stop 5 minutes from the hotel we'll make full use of these services to get about.

Guernsey is easy to reach by air from all parts of Britain and is served by a number of different airlines, including Flybe and the locally based Aurigny. You can also sail daily from Portsmouth and Poole with Condor Ferries. Once on Guernsey, the most popular way of getting around is to hop on and off the frequent local buses that criss-cross the island to a regular timetable.

On a holiday island such as Guernsey, you are spoilt for choice when it comes to accommodation. Whilst we normally opt for small, family run establishments, we have this time gone for a larger 3-star hotel in a beautiful coastal location at Le Havre in the northern part of the island, about 3 miles out of St Peter Port. The locally owned Peninsula Hotel has spacious modern rooms with full en suite facilities and provides good food and excellent service.

During our week, we would hope to sample all of the island's geology including a wide range of igneous and metamorphic rocks from granite to gabbro and gneiss. These rocks date from the Precambrian and Lower Palaeozoic. In addition to solid rock formations, the islands also provide us with lots of Quaternary deposits and the tell tale signs of recent changes in sea level.

We expect this trip to attract a high level of bookings, so you are strongly advised to book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. This is especially the case if you are looking for a single room as there's a maximum of 5 available.

**Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield**  
**Course Organisers/Leaders**

**[downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk)**



## Getting to the area

There's plenty of choice about getting to Guernsey. You can join the Condor Ferry in Portsmouth for a leisurely journey, or the fast ferry from Poole. If you'd like to fly, there are lots of choices with Flybe and also the local airline Aurigny. Once you arrive in Guernsey, the bus will take you to within 100 m of the hotel front door.

## Getting around on the trip

For this trip we will make use of the excellent local bus services on the island, including the 'Guernsey Vaeux' which travels right around the island's coast. All buses are fitted with low floors for easy access.

## Why the Isle of Guernsey?

We last visited Guernsey in 2017, so it's high time that we returned. If you've already been to Jersey with us, please don't think that Guernsey will be a repeat. That said, like Jersey, Guernsey features geology that is totally different to anything found in England and Wales. To start with many of them date back to at least 2 billion years.

Taken together, they comprise a crystalline basement of high grade metaigneous and metasedimentary rocks, such as gneisses and amphibolites. These basement rocks, all of which are at least 900 million years old, link to similar rocks from the Pentevrian succession of Brittany. They outcrop in the southern part of Guernsey and form a superb cliff line with beautiful bays such as Petit Bot.

The northern part of the island is made up of much younger igneous rocks. These are incredibly varied and include granites, diorites, dolerite and gabbros. The intrusions span a period from 700 to 550 million years ago and relate to the Cadomian Orogeny. There are a few younger dykes that were emplaced in the late Carboniferous.

Finally, Guernsey provides excellent sections in a variety of different Quaternary deposits, including rubbly head from the last Ice Age and rounded pebbles from raised beaches. There's even some wind borne loess material. The solid rock and superficial deposits combine to give Guernsey a unique landscape for us to enjoy.



## Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements to our trips and we have worked hard to bring you the best local accommodation. After initially looking for a our usual small family run hotel, we have instead opted for the superbly situated 3-star Peninsula Hotel at Grande Havre on the northern coast, 3 miles from St. Peter Port.

The Peninsula Hotel is highly regarded for its excellent service and food. There's an extensive buffet breakfast and they serve a 4-course evening dinner. (don't worry the courses aren't huge). All the good sized rooms are en-suite as standard. For an additional supplement you can opt for a de-luxe sea view room. Ground floor rooms are also available and there is a lift to all floors. Single accommodation is available, and is subject to a modest supplement. Packed lunches will be taken for each field day and will be provided by the Hotel.

## Itinerary

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

- Metamorphic rocks of Saints and Petit Bot Bays
- Metamorphic rocks of Marble Bay
- The Pleinmont metasediments and igneous rocks of Rocquaine Bay
- Igneous rocks of L'Eree and Cobo Bay
- Rocks and landscape of Herm and/or Sark
- Building stones of St Peter Port
- The Guernsey Museum of Natural History
- Coastal scenery of Spur Bay and Beaucette

## Cost

**For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 7-night tour will be £1395.00 per person; for single occupancy (Max.5), the cost will be £1650.00 per person. For the cost of seaview de-luxe rooms please enquire.**

If you are willing to share, but don't have a companion, just indicate on the form and we will try to help you.



## What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield, 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, including to and from the airport
- The cost of the sea crossing to Herm and/or Sark
- Admission to any museums, as visited by the group

## What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Guernsey
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenditure
- Lunch on the final day

## Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is strongly advised to take out holiday insurance. This will cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with your credit card or bank account.

## 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.

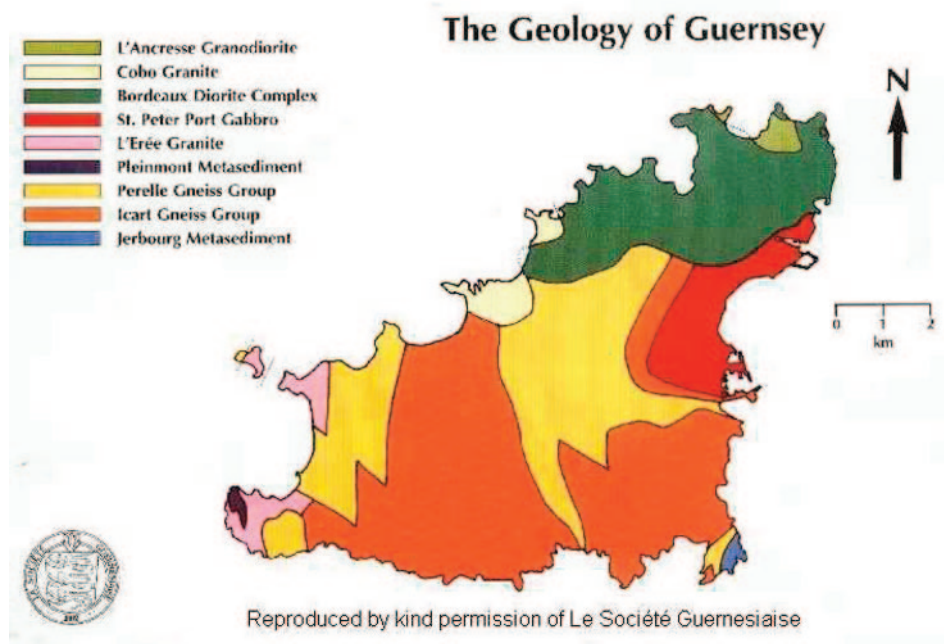
## Booking

Please fill in and return a completed booking form.. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £400.00 per person or the full payment. The balance of the brochure price will be due by June 30th. 2023.

***This trip will run provided a minimum of 15 people have booked by March 31st. 2023.***

## 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 the 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 2023'***

**If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-  
Email: [downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk](mailto:downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk) • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405**