



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Whitby on the Yorkshire Coast

October 17-23 2027



This is Robin Hood's Bay with the tide out - revealing the geology!
(Image: Chris Darmon)

A word from your leaders...

Amazingly, we've not based a trip in the historic seaport of Whitby since 2009, because we've never been able to find a suitable hotel, with many of the family run guest houses closing. We've solved that by basing ourselves at the much loved Royal Hotel that proudly sits atop the West Cliff. This will give us comfortable ensuite rooms and the kind of service that a good hotel can offer - great particularly in the Autumn evenings

We won't have the use of our own minibus for this trip, but will be able to access a local one should we need one on any of the days. We will also make use of local transport including buses and local trains. Whitby is a superb base from which to explore the local North Yorkshire rocks. We'll take in the Jurassic sediments with their fossils and sedimentary structures, as well as see evidence for Quaternary ice ages. Whitby offers poor weather alternatives such as a fine local museum with great fossils, that said October can be a great month.

With so much in the local area we won't be spending a lot of time travelling to get to our field locations, which means there's more time to study in the field! With five field days, we're going to have to make choices - we can't do everything! If you like coastal scenery and hunting for fossils, this trip is definitely for you.

Unusually we have a good number of single rooms available on this trip - but they will probably go quickly, so make that booking soon!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers

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Getting to Scarborough

Whitby is connected to the mainline railway network via a scenic branch line from Darlington. From London Kings Cross you can be in Whitby in around four and half hours. There's also a direct bus from Leeds and York to Whitby - the Yorkshire Coastliner. By road, it's best to travel York and Pickering from the south. If coming by car, please check with us about parking at the hotel.

Getting around on the trip

We will spend at least one full day in Whitby itself. On another day we will make use of the local train to Grosmont and we'll also make use of local bus services to get to Robin Hood's Bay and Staithes. We may also make use of a hired minibus or coach.

The Whitby coastline (Image: Rockwatch)

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 Yorkshire Coast



Geologically, the area is at the same time relatively simple, but also extremely interesting. The oldest rocks come from the Jurassic and there's a good sequence of rocks from the Middle and Upper Jurassic in the area. Some of the sedimentary environments are particularly interesting with evidence for very shallow water in the form of numerous horizons where burrowing took place. There's also evidence for reefs in places. We'll see evidence of past mining activity for jet, iron ore and alum working in the shale.

As for the younger rocks, there's an interesting 'extra' a 60-million year old Tertiary dyke that's come all the way from the Scottish island of Mull. We hope to see it at Egton near Grosmont.

Turning to the landscape and the Quaternary, there's plenty of evidence for what happened along the coast and inland during the Quaternary is the form of deep valleys such as that seen at Grosmont and even the Esk at Whitby. We'll also be able to see lots of exotic pebbles on the beaches, including some Shap granite!

Accommodation & Food

The Royal Hotel is one of Whitby's best known hotels and is used to catering for groups. They will provide us with comfortable ensuite rooms, including 5 singles, along with evening meals and breakfasts. We will also take packed lunches for each field day. This 3-star hotel is famously well situated on the top of the West Cliff, right by the famous whalebone arch.

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:-

- The Jurassic sediments of Robin Hood's Bay
- The fine structures in the Jurassic rocks of Staithes
- The geology of Whitby, contrasts on the East and West cliffs.
- The fossils of Whitby Museum
- Rocks and glacial evidence around Grosmont
- The Cleveland dyke at Egton Bridge
- Geology of Sandsend and Hinderwell
- Geology and building stones of Whitby

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 6-night trip will be £1195.00 per person (sharing) and £1495.00 single (maximum 5).



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 Whitby
- 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 July 31st 2027.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 10 people have booked by December 31st. 2026.

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 2026/7'

