



Down to Earth^{Extra}

Issue 151 July 2025

NEWS FLASH...

Final call for this year...

- Book Summer School and Autumn trips NOW!

2026 Trips...

- NEW trips to:
Anglesey
Summer School, Shropshire
Melrose - Scottish Borders

All available to book now!

What are you waiting for?

Fabulous sedimentary structures including channels and fine cross bedding in the Jurassic strata of Whitby's West Cliff. Early geologists were able to see the stark contrast between the rocks of the East and West cliffs and assumed that there was a major fault down the valley of the River Esk. We now know its more about sedimentary facies and a minor fault!

(Image: Chris Darmon)



From the Editorial team...

On of the joys of being able to travel around the country leading geological tours is that we get to see some amazing geology! So far this year we've been to the Isle of Arran (at the time when it became the latest UK geopark), Cyprus, Cornwall, the Yorkshire Coast and most recently the Isle of Mull and Ardnamurchan.

For the most part we've enjoyed good weather (although we did miss the recent English heatwave) and excellent geology. If the Isle of Arran was undoubtedly a high point, then the Isle of Staffa was a slight disappointment. We took a trip from Ulva Ferry aboard one of the fine trips run by Turus Mara who are the premier operator of such trips. Sadly we were unable to land on the National Trust owned island as they were still working on jetty improvements which we understand have so far cost at least £1.5 million.

But the lost of a walk on the island was more than made up for by our boat poking its nose well inside Fingal's Cave an amazing circuit of the entire island where we able to observe the coastline up close and personal. The disappointment was the number of our fellow travellers aboard the vessel. Whereas in times past the Staffa trip was a number one destination for visitors it now seems that the Treshnish Isles are much more popular.

What do the Treshnish Isles offer? Answer lots and lots of migratory birds including puffins. It seems that the pull of our feathered friends is far stronger than the pull of the rocks, however spectacular they are. The National Trust's website does seem to say a lot more about the Treshnish Isles than Staffa, even if they do use a spectacular image of the columns! There's a message here for the National Trust and anyone else seeking to promote an attraction such as Staffa, it matters how you present the material and what you tell people. Judging by what's online, perhaps I'd have been tempted to go to the Treshnish Isles and see the birds!

*Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
The Down to Earth Editorial Team*

Get a complete look at our trips for 2026 and the chance to book your place(s) now! See pages 8-12 for details.



news update

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano in spectacular eruption...

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano is one of the world's most prolific when it comes to the frequency of its eruptions, so it was no surprise when on June 17th, it erupted. That said, people were surprised by the fact that the plume of ash went so high into the atmosphere, having a major impact on aviation.

The USA's Smithsonian Institute carries out a watching brief over the volcano. This is what it had to say:

"The Pusat Vulkanologi dan Mitigasi Bencana Geologi reported that continuing low-level unrest and steam plumes from Lewotobi Laki-laki ended with a large explosive eruption on 17 June. Deep volcanic earthquakes increased from an average of 8-10 daily events to 50 events in two hours early on 17 June.

After analysis of visual and instrumental data, the Alert Level was raised to 3 (on a scale of 1-4) at 0700 on 17 June and then raised again to level 4 at 1500; the public was warned to stay 8 km away from the summit.

A large explosive eruption at 1735 on 17 June produced a dense ash plume that rose 10 km above the summit (based on initial ground observer estimates) and resulted in pyroclastic flows down multiple flanks that were visible in a webcam image at 1741. BNPB reported ashfall in several villages, including Boru (8 km WNW), Hewa (10 km SW), and Watobuku (7 km WNW).



A dramatic image of the recent eruption with ash being hurled high into the atmosphere. No wonder then that the local resident looks terrified.

(Image: Courtesy of The New York Times)

Some residents in Nurabelen (8 km SE), Ile Bura District, evacuated to sites in Konga (10 km N). Ashfall was also reported at the Monitoring Post in Pululera Village (8 km NW); post officers

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evacuated to the church about 1.2 km from the monitoring post. Several residents also evacuated to Nileknoheng Village (12 km NW).



*Satellite image of a previous eruption on September 4th 2013.
(Image: Courtesy of Google Earth)*

Subsequent gray ash plumes rose 2 km above the summit at 2133 and 2210 and drifted N and NE; another plume at 2300 rose 5 km above the summit and drifted SW and W. Strong incandescence was visible at the summit in corresponding webcam images. On 18 June the I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport reported 17 outbound and 15 incoming flight cancellations due to the 17 June eruptive event. An aviation advisory from the Darwin VAAC at 0940 on 18 June noted multiple ash plumes observed in satellite imagery, with the highest around 16 km and moving SW.”

If past experience of this volcano is anything to go by the current eruption will die down and then stop, only to pick up again on the not too distant horizon. As of June 23rd however it was still spewing further ash high into the atmosphere, albeit at a slower rate.



*Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in quieter times - how beautiful is this?
Creek. (Image: Smithsonian Institute)*

Scientists discover ‘ghost plume’ beneath Oman, but is the earth’s core really leaking?

There’s nothing quite like a UK newspaper headline that reads “Scientists spot a mysterious ‘ghost plume’ in Oman – and it” suggests Earth’s core could be LEAKING”.

The real story behind the somewhat dramatic headline is however pretty hot stuff in its own right. Researchers based at King Fahd University in Saudi Arabia under Assistant Professor Simone Pilia have discovered what they term an ancient ‘ghost’ plume trapped deep beneath thick crust. This could explain how India wound up where it is today.

This comes from Live Science:

“The magma plume is trapped beneath a thick portion of Earth’s crust and the upper part of the mantle, the planet’s middle layer. As a result, the material can’t rise to trigger volcanic activity at the surface. Researchers don’t know if the plume ever sparked eruptions, but evidence suggests it shifted the trajectory of the Indian tectonic plate during its collision with Eurasia tens of millions of years ago, according to a new study.

The plume sits beneath Oman’s Salma Plateau (also spelled Salmah and Selma), which is up to 6,600 feet (2,000 meters) high, said study lead author Simone Pilia, a geophysicist and assistant professor at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia. The plateau likely formed because of the plume, although some scientists link the plateau’s formation to the bending of Earth’s crust created by the Makran subduction zone off the coasts of Pakistan and Iran, Pilia told *Live Science*.

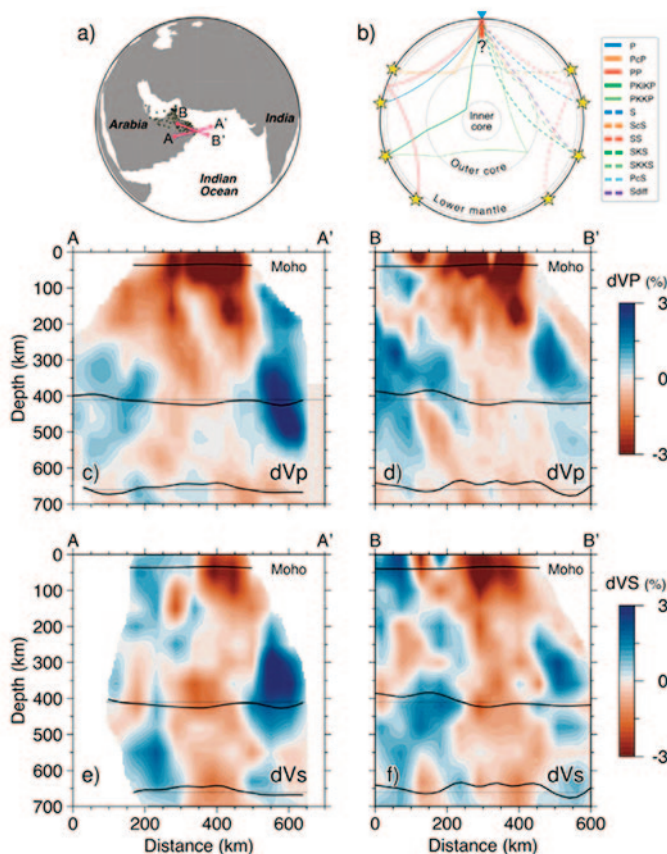
The story is expanded upon in IFL Science:

“Mantle plumes rise from the boundary of the Earth’s outer core, bringing extra heat to the underside of the Earth’s crust. In familiar cases, that heat drives magma through the crust, triggering volcanic activity at the surface. Hawaii and Iceland are probably the most famous examples, but at least eight are known to exist, and around 50 more are still debated. Only one of the confirmed plumes, the Afar plume, lies beneath a continent.

The fact that most confirmed plumes lie under the ocean partially reflects the blueness of our planet, but may also be because it is harder for a plume to make its influence felt through thicker continental crust.



*The uplift of the Hajar mountains in north-east Oman could be the result of a “ghost” mantle plume that has not triggered volcanism.
(Image: Courtesy of IFL Science)*



Researchers discovered the Dani plume using seismic wave data.
(Image credit: Pilia et al. 2025. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*.
Redistributed under the terms of Creative Commons.)

Geologists have considered the possibility that in some cases “ghost” plumes could exist without volcanic activity, and some potential examples have been proposed. However, confirming something that, by definition, doesn’t reach the surface is hard. Now, the behaviour of seismic waves from distant earthquakes has led geologists to claim an example they say is clear, and they have named it the Dani plume.

Although the Dani plume has caused no modern volcanism, it may still be the reason eastern Oman is uplifted compared to surrounding areas. Moreover, the authors argue, in the late Eocene (40-34 million years ago), the plume was the likely cause of a previously unexplained rotation of the Indian plate, influencing its eventual collision with Asia.

Researchers studied the major types of seismic waveforms received from large earthquakes planet-wide at 30 permanent seismic stations near the border of Oman and the United Arab Emirates. They supplemented the results with data from 85 temporary stations. The waves travelled through a relatively low-velocity region beneath the surface, which the authors estimate was around 200 kilometers (120 miles) across, widening to 350 km (210 miles) at the top. Discontinuities in density are found at depths of 410 km and 660 km beneath the surface as one type of rock changes to another, but in the low velocity zone, the upper boundary was shifted downwards and the lower one up.

These observations are consistent with a plume of material 100°C to 300°C hotter than the rocks around it rising through the mantle until it encounters the crust. The crust forms a lid, causing the hot material to take on a shape like a mushroom cloud. The authors think it is

possible that some material initially reached high enough to produce volcanic activity, but if so, the record has been erased by the subduction as Arabia ran into Asia.

Among the questions the authors have about their own work, one stands out: “Is the Dani plume unique, or do similar ghost plumes exist elsewhere on Earth?” they write. Although unable to answer their own question, the authors point to several anomalies that might reveal further ghost plumes with more research. These include several locations beneath Africa and the geologically older parts of the Pacific Ocean, particularly the Coral Sea.

If ghost plumes exist today, it is likely others did in previous times, and the authors point to evidence from North America and Australia of ancient ghost plumes – ghosts of ghosts, one might say.

If ghost plumes are common, the authors note that estimates of heat escaping the Earth’s core to its crust may be too low.”

The Editor comments: So this is powerful stuff, and feeds into the ongoing debate about mantle plumes. I have to say that I’ve previously been in the mantle plume denier camp. But this, along with a number of other recent discoveries, including observations on our own Palaeogene volcanics of Western Scotland, are moving me towards being a mantle plume believer!

As for the *Daily Mail’s* ‘leaking core’ yes, but it’s only leaking heat!

The study is open access and can be seen in Earth and Planetary Science Letters.

Mount Etna sends the tourists running...

TV images in early June of tourist running from an eruption at the summit of Mounts Etna, might not have been what the local tourist board had in mind. However there were no injuries and the spectacle soon died once again.

It’s a reminder of the complex and active tectonics of the whole Mediterranean region.



This was Mount Etna on June 2nd 2025
(Image:Sicily Active)

As of June 24th, (when this piece was written) the tourists were once again on the summit of the volcano and the activity had subsided. It remains a volcano to be watched and respected. It can restart with little or now warning when the tourists will, once again, need to get their running shoes on!

The eruption in early June was widely reported in the media.

GEOLOGY TOURS 2026/27

BHUTAN; THE HIMALAYAN GEM

Tour Dates & Prices : 8-23 Apr 2026 £5992 pp

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Bhutan

Dramatic landscapes of Bhutan, from soaring peaks to lush valleys. On this cultural tour, with its added geological dimension, we will come to understand not only what the landscapes and the rocks reveal about the geological history of the country but also how the mountains came into existence in the first place.

THE KARAKORAM; VALLEYS OF NORTHERN PAKISTAN

Tour Dates & Prices : 09 - 23 Oct 2026 £4768 pp

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Pakistan

Visit the spell binding valleys of northern Pakistan with their sky high mountains, ice-cold rivers & lush green valleys. Along the way you will learn about the geological history of these mountains and the interesting features they display.



Dr Danny Clark-Lowes



Dr John Nudds

LADAKH; LAND OF THE HIGH PASSES

Tour Dates & Prices : 14-30 Aug 2026 £3885pp

Tour Leader: Dr John Nudds

Where: India

Discover the dramatic geological evolution of the Himalayas. Travel through distinct geological provinces—from the Siwalik foothills and the Lesser and Greater Himalayan Series, through the ancient Tethyan rocks and the India-Asia suture zone, and into the striking Trans-Himalayan Ladakh batholith and Karakoram ranges. End the Tour with a visit to the Taj Mahal.

LAHORE TO LADAKH; LAHORE, AMRITSAR, SHIMLA, MANALI & LADAKH

Tour Dates & Prices : TBC

Tour Leader: Dr Danny Clarke-Lowes

Where: Pakistan & India

Trace the footsteps of Rudyard Kipling through the vibrant streets of Lahore, exploring the colonial legacy that shaped his early years. Then cross the Wagah border into Amritsar in India and journey through the majestic landscapes of Shimla, Manali, and Ladakh—uncovering the rich geological tapestry of the region, from the Himalayan foothills to mountain-building events that shaped the subcontinent.

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS:

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Visit: www.indusexperiences.co.uk/holiday-types/earth-sciences/

Cornish Metals announces a Government £4 million+ grant for construction at South Crofty Mine...

During June Cornish Metals announced that they had been granted the sum of £4,190,500 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for the construction of workshops, stores and offices on the Bartles Foundry site at South Crofty.

This is the latest such grant as the South Crofty project moves forward with pumping and mine refurbishment ongoing, largely to budget and timetable.

Now you can explore more than 500 old Scottish Mines, thanks to the release of old plans...

Many people can remember some famous old Scottish coal mines, indeed some of them were amongst the last to close during the 1990s. But you may be amazed to hear that BGS has just released abandonment plans for more than 500 non-coal mines from the country. These are for mines that closed before 1980 and cover mainly metals from gold to iron and lead/zinc to chromium to ironstone.

"Digital scans of over 500 historical plans of abandoned mines (non-coal) have been released by the National Geoscience Data Centre (NGDC) as part of BGS's commitment to providing more open, accessible data for its users.

In the late 1800s, the Coal Mines Regulation Act and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Act created the statutory requirement for the deposition of plans of abandoned mines by mine owners to the Secretary of State. In 1980, the BGS Edinburgh office was appointed as the statutory place of deposit for plans of abandoned non-coal and oil shale mines in Scotland. These plans have been preserved and managed by the NGDC, which is NERC's Environmental Data Service designated geoscience data centre that is hosted by BGS. NGDC collects and preserves geoscientific data and information, making them available for the long term to a wide range of users and communities.

To reflect the BGS's commitment to more open, accessible data for its users, the decision was taken to make scans of these non-coal mine abandoned plans digitally accessible to the public. This decision comes at an important time when there is increased interest in the potential of mine water for developing geothermal energy technologies. Having these plans openly accessible means they can be

used in desk-based studies for those working in the public and private sectors doing site investigations, hazard assessments or further academic research.

The plans can be viewed via the BGS non-coal mining plans viewer and can be filtered by selecting 'Abandonment plan' from the plan

GEOLOGY - ISLE OF ARRAN

Understanding The Earth



LOCHRANZA CENTRE CIC

Arran Geopark

Why not escape to Arran this Summer & learn about its fascinating Geology with like minded people?

SUNDAY 27TH JULY 2025

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Extra July 2025

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Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Final call for our Peak District Summer School...

Cliff College, Curbar August 9-16 2025



Peak District geology at its very best!

- 6 full days of field work with a choice on some days
- A visit to a Castleton cavern
- A visit to the Peak District Mining Museum in Matlock Bath
- The Triassic rocks of Alderley Edge
- Visit to Wollaton Hall Museum, Nottingham
- The Torrs at New Mills - by train from Grindleford
- Geology of Matlock and Matlock Bath
- Geology of Monsal Head & Dale (see image above)
- Coach/minibus transport to field locations
- Full board accommodation in single ensuite rooms (can also be double rooms)
- Evening talks and activities from visiting speakers and our own team
- Social events and opportunities for down time

Everyone is invited to join us for our annual Summer School. The cost is £1395.00 per person whether you are in a single or shared room.

See the brochure & book online at www.geosupplies.co.uk
Email downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
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Great geo-adventures in 2025/6 begin here...



With the white buildings of Torquay in the background, this is the near vertical Devonian strata in the cliff. This location is known as London Bridge and will be seen on a boat cruise around the bay. (Image: Chris Darmon)

We can still fit in additional people on our Peak District Summer School and we also have vacancies for couples on our Torquay trip in October.

We've now completed our line-up of trips for 2026 with additional localities in Anglesey, a Summer School in Shropshire and a brand new trip to Melrose in the Scottish Borders.

Amazingly several 2026 trips are approaching being fully booked - so get in soon to secure your places!

To view a brochure, go to our website at:
www.geosupplies.co.uk or Tel: 0114 245 5746

Remember that booking forms are only available direct from us:
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

Residential Field trip programme 2025/6...

2025

- Peak District Summer School, August 9-16
- Cornwall & Somerset, September 20-28
- Torbay, South Devon, October 8-15

2026

- The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1
- Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22
- Central Cornwall, May 1-8
- Teesdale & Northern Pennines, May 16-23
- Shetland, The Northern Isles, June 17-25
- Anglesey, July 5-10
- Summer School, Shropshire, August 8-15
- Iceland, North & East Fjords, September 13-22
- Melrose, the Scottish Borders, October 18-24

Early booking is advised, especially if you are looking for a single room.

Search online at www.geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on 0114 245 5746
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If you haven't joined one of our residential field trips before, what can you expect?

- *Our residential field trips are suitable for adults of all levels of interest and geological knowledge.*
- *Our trips are friendly and informal and usually comprise 15-20 people. Overseas trips are usually larger.*
- *We usually make use of comfortable small hotels and guest houses and all meals are included.*
- *You have the services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield as field leaders. Both are highly experienced and knowledgeable field geologists.*
- *For some trips we have a hired minibus but on other trips we will use shared cars, or even public transport.*
- *Dates shown in this listing are the start and finish dates.*
- *Where prices are quoted, they are per person in a shared twin/double room.*

If you still have any questions or queries, don't hesitate to email us at: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or tel: 0114 245 5746

Before you book on one of our trips...

We are always pleased to welcome new people along on our trips. So if you are thinking about it, what do you need to know before you 'take the plunge'?

Who are the trips aimed at?

The short answer is that they are not aimed at any particular group of people. Our participants are mainly older retired people who want to keep their minds and bodies active, but younger people are welcome.

Some people have lots of geological field experience whilst others are complete beginners. As one person put it to us "I've forgotten all I once knew and need to come along to hear it again." Our UK trips are all small groups of 15 to 20 people maximum so we can make lots of what we say personal to you.

Will I be able to manage the walking?

We always try to keep walking to a minimum, but, almost by definition, some walking will be involved. If you can't manage a particular walk, just tell us and it will never be a problem for you not to do it. We have one person who really enjoys sketching - she's done some amazing sketches while the rest of us visit a quarry!

How do we get about on trips?

It varies a lot from trip to trip. Sometimes we hire a minibus, on other occasions we use public transport and at other times we'll make use of shared cars. Look at the details for each trip to find out.

What about accommodation?

We always try to use hotels or guest houses that have ensuite rooms as standard. Most of our accommodation will provide breakfast and evening meals, but sometimes we eat in local restaurants. We include the cost of all food, including a packed lunch for each field day.

We prefer to use small family run hotels and guest houses but they are getting harder to find, so sometimes we use larger hotels such as Premier Inns and hotels in the Leisurplex group. Once again, see the individual trip brochures for details.

Are your bookings safe with us?

Yes indeed they are! We've been in the business of running trips a long time and ensure that all the money you pay us is safe in a client trust account until your trip is completed.

The 2025 programme...

We are delighted with the way that our 2025 programme has been received, with most trips now fully booked. We still have vacancies on the 2025 trips listed below, but they are limited and subject to availability at the time of booking.

What is our Summer School?

Our Summer School is modelled on those that used to be run by the Open University a number of years ago. All are based on a campus of one sort or another where we can sleep in largely single, en-suite study bedrooms and enjoy on site meals. They are also more than just field trips with dedicated transport each day. There's an evening programme of talks from local experts and also social events. In short - something for everybody, including those with limited mobility!

Summer School Peak District, August 9-16

£1395

For the first time in the 7-year history of our Summer School weeks we're actually returning to a place that we've visited before. Cliff College in the Peak District of Derbyshire is a well known Methodist theological college. It provides excellent ensuite bedrooms and lovely home cooked food, and makes for an ideal summer school base.



The beautiful grounds of Cliff College (Image: Cliff College)

We'll be sampling lots of the excellent local geology and giving you those added summer school bonuses of evening talks and special visits to places of cultural and historic interest as well as geology.

We can accommodate a few more people at this stage, including people looking for a single room. We strongly advise you to book NOW to secure the last remaining places!

NEW! Cornwall & North Somerset, September 20-28 £1995

A small number of vacancies have arisen on this trip because our US guests, from Washington State, have not taken all of the places. This trip is split between Central Cornwall and North Somerset with Hotels in Redruth and Minehead.

Welcome to our exciting world!



Coach transport is provided each day and this includes our transfer between Redruth and Minehead. A memorable week is in prospect with great company and excellent geology. Geological highlights include The Lizard, granite scenery, china clay, Valley of the Rocks, Watchet and Blue Anchor.

The brochure for this trip is only available direct from us - request one today!

The South Devon Riviera, Torbay, October 8-15 £1295

The South Devon Riviera coast has been a holiday destination for more than 150 years and we will be staying in the family run Hotel Balmoral in Torquay. From here we will be exploring the local area that lies within the UNESCO world geopark. This is an area of great



The Hotel Balmoral, our base in Torquay

coastal scenery, with lots of Devonian sediments, plus some volcanics. As the geology is best seen from the sea, we'll ensure that we have at least one boat trip out into Torbay to get up close and personal with the cliffs and their fabulous structures. We also hope to take a trip on the Paignton and Kingswear steam railway and combine it with another boat trip on the River Dart to Totnes.

Don't miss out on an Autumn break - come and join us in sunny Torquay!

To make a booking email us at:

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Whilst the brochures are, available on our website, booking forms are only available from us. You can then arrange to pay the deposit and we'll send you the booking form.

The 2026 programme...

Over the last month or so we've been releasing trips for 2026 as soon as they were ready to go and we've been amazed at how quickly they are filling up! The Iceland trip planned which was postponed until September of next year is nearly full with 20+ people already confirmed and a number of other trips have bookings.

The Jurassic Coast of Dorset, March 27-April 1 £995

Believe it or not, we have not visited the famous Jurassic Coast of Dorset since 2017, so it's high time that we put that right! As on the last occasion, we're basing our trip at the seaside town of Weymouth which is well connected in terms of public transport and also has suitable accommodation for us to use. We're going early in the season

so that we can offer you a good value trip, but with the recent pattern of mild winters, we hope that by the end of March it will be reasonably warm.



The magnificent Durdle Door (Image: Visit Dorset)

As for the magnificent geology what can we say? We hope to take in some of the area's 'gems' including Durdle Door, Lulworth Cove and Swanage. It would also be good to call in on Mary Anning's favourite stomping ground of Lyme Regis. We also hope to take in the amazing fossil collection on show at Dorchester Museum.

Get in soon to secure your places on this early 2026 trip!

The Northwest Highlands of Scotland, April 14-22 £1695

Ask Colin and Chris what their favourite trip is and they will answer "the Northwest Highlands". It combines their favourite hotel with their favourite geology and landscape! Accordingly we are once again offering this 8-night gem even though we were last there in 2024. On this trip we pay homage to Britain's oldest rocks in the form of the 3 billion year old Lewisian Gneisses, along with the overlying Torridonian Sandstones and the Cambro-Ordovician sediments. These all came together as a result of the Caledonian Orogeny some 420 million years ago.



Loch Assynt is but a stone's throw from the Inchnadamph Hotel (Image: Wikimedia Commons)

In much more recent times, the Ice Ages of the last 2 million years have given us the most beautiful and unspoilt landscape that we can enjoy today.

We already have a number of bookings for this trip - come and join us!

Central Cornwall, May 1-8

£1595

We discovered Tricky's at the Tolgus Inn in Redruth in time to take two groups of Americans during 2025. Now we are offering the location to our regular clients! Redruth is centrally located on the main railway line from London Paddington and allows us to reach most of the main parts of Cornwall without long journeys.



*Old mines and magnificent coasts.
(Image: Into Cornwall)*

During this week we'll be taking in the granites of Lands End, the ophiolites of the Lizard, the china clays of St Austell and the amazing folded rocks of North Cornwall around Tintagel and Boscastle. We'll also go down a tin mine and visit Wheal Martyn China Clay Museum. We'll have the use of a locally hired minibus or coach to get around on this trip, making it possible for everyone.

People are already booking up this trip!

Teesdale and the North Pennines, May 16-23

£1395

We've been looking to visit this area for some time and have never quite got around to it until now! Finding the wonderful family run Teesdale Hotel was the final piece in the jigsaw and hey presto - here we have a new location!

We'll be taking in the wonderful Upper Teesdale with its Lower Palaeozoic inlier along with High Force, Lowe Force and Cauldron Snout. There's great limestone scenery as well as the Great Whin Sill.



*High Force, Teesdale with the Great Whin Sill
(Image: The Geological Society)*

Over in Weardale we'll take in the lead mines around St John's Chapel and Killhope as well as the Frosterley Marble and the fossil tree at Stanhope.

This trip is close to being full already!

Shetland - the North Isles, June 17-25

£1895

Everyone should visit the Shetland Isles at least once in their lives, so says Chris, who's been there around a dozen times over the past 40 years. The best time to visit Shetland is around mid-Summer when it never really gets dark.



*St Magnus Bay Hotel in the village of Hillswick, one of our
Shetland hotels.*



*Metamorphic rocks at the northern tip of the United Kingdom on the
Island of Unst.*

(Image: Scottish Geology Trust)

We invite you to join us as we take in the North of Mainland and the Northern Isles of Unst, Fetlar and Yell, home to some of the most amazing geology in the entire UK. Visit the Moho in a small quarry in Unst and get yourself a sample of serpentine to rival any from Cornwall. Why not begin our Shetland adventure with an overnight boat trip from Aberdeen?

This trip is now more than half full.

NEW! Anglesey, July 5-10

£995

We love going to Ynys Mon, or as the English know it, Anglesey. As a long established geopark it's geology is superb and also unique as the main location to see rocks of the Mona Complex.

Based at the former copper port of Amlwch in the north of the island we will explore some of the best sites on the island, many of which are close to our base.

Come with us to see some very rare rocks and also experience some

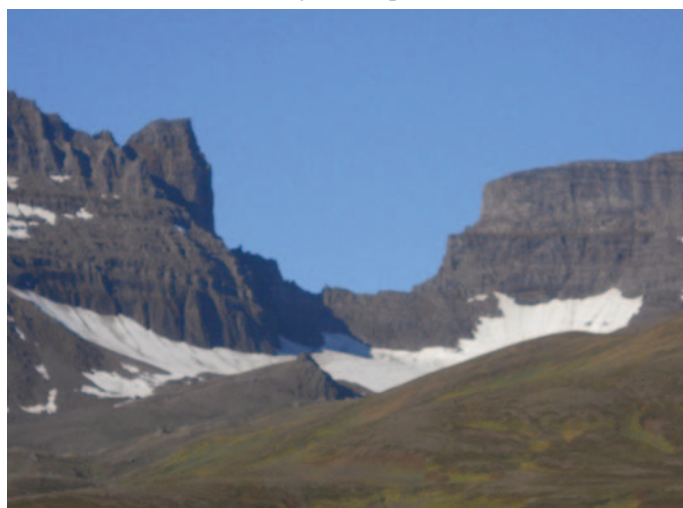


The Dinorben Arms Hotel, our base on Anglesey

fine coastal scenery. On this trip you get to see sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks of many types!

We expect this trip to fill up rapidly!

Iceland - the North & East Fjords, September 13-22 £2595



*Eastern Fjords are beautiful in any season!
(Image: Chris Darmon)*

These days a lot of people go to Iceland, but they very rarely visit the north and east of country. In this trip with our usual guide and driver Ingi, we'll begin at Keflavik near the airport and then travel to Akureyri before working our way clockwise to Myvatn to the volcano Krafla before heading to the beautiful east Fjords.

We'll stop in the amazing geo-village of Borgarfjörður Eystri to see Iceland's most colourful rhyolitic rocks. The last time we were here we did see the Northern Lights in all their glory! Iceland is an amazing place but these days much of it is over visited by tourists. This cannot be said for some of the places that we will be visiting on this trip. This is the real Iceland, where natural wonders and beauty are able to shine without the smell of hamburgers!

To complete our trip we travel back from Hofn to Keflavik completing our circuit of Iceland. There's an option of an additional night at the end to have a day looking at the most recent volcanic activity on the Reykjanes peninsula and viewing the recent lavas, which will still be hot!

Last call - this trip is almost full!

Melrose in the Scottish Borders, October 18-24 £995

We end the year with a good value 6-night trip to a new area of the Scottish Borders. Melrose is in the heart of an excellent area of fine geology, with sediments from the Ordovician, Silurian and Devonian along with a fine array of igneous rocks, both extrusions and intrusions that mainly date from the Carboniferous.

During this trip we'll be taking in the famous localities of Dob's Linn near Moffat where Charles Lapworth established the Ordovician and Silurian boundary and also James Hutton's famous unconformity at Jedburgh. We'll also have a day in Edinburgh exploring some of the famous sites in Holyrood Park.

Our base for the trip is the comfortable Waverley Castle Hotel which sits in beautiful grounds on the outskirts of the small town. Unusually, we have been offered a number of single rooms, at a very modest supplement - but get in quickly to secure your place!

To make a booking email us at:

downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746

Booking forms are only available from us.

An unusual present idea - limited edition...

'The Cream of the Crop 2024'

As part of their work for Geo Supplies, your editorial team, Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield go to some very interesting places around the British Isles. Whilst they are in these places they often pick up rock specimens, most of which go to students and institutions both here and even around the world.

However there are also some rare or unusual rocks that don't form part of our regular stock and it is these that we've gathered together into a limited edition collection that we are offering as our 'Cream of the Crop 2024'.

The set comprises 12 carefully chosen specimens from the British Isles and Norway: carbonatite, Larvikite, phonolite, borolanite, picrite, 'oyster rock', teschenite, Ledmore marble, Aberfoyle slate, orthoquartzite, Torridonian breccia and micro-granodiorite. Each set comes boxed with notes and costs £49.95 including postage. The set is available and ready to be shipped NOW!

Purchase online at: geosupplies.co.uk or ring us on: 0114 245 5746.

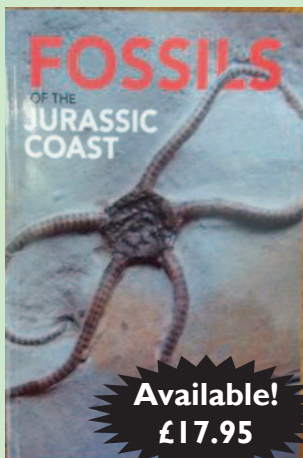
**Last
2 sets!**

Featured books for July 2025

In each issue we are pleased to be able to introduce you to a range of featured books. Where they are being offered at reduced prices, these will be current to the end of July 2025 provided that stocks are available. Please note, all prices include UK postage.



New!
£32.00



Available!
£17.95



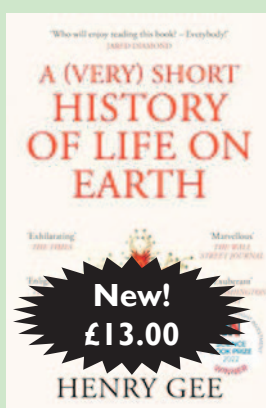
New Ed!
£17.00



New!
£22.00



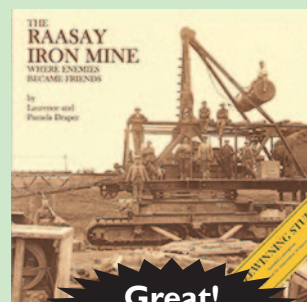
New!
£10.00



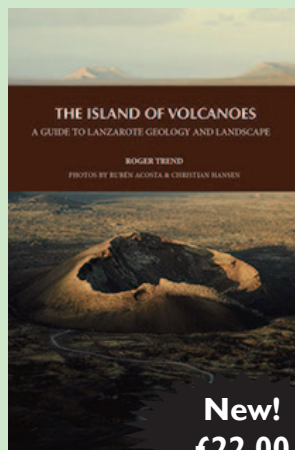
New!
£13.00



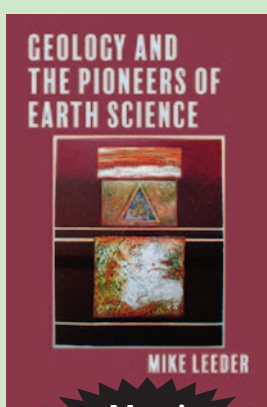
Good!
£12.00



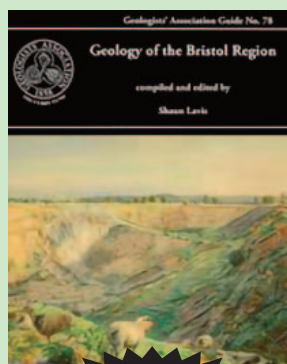
Great!
£10.95



New!
£22.00



New!
£55.00



New!
£29.00



Brilliant!
£22.00