

Geowalks Walking Holiday: Eigg

Tuesday 14 to Saturday 18 September 2021

The small Hebridean island of Eigg is an enchanting mix: beautiful scenery, a surprising variety of rocks, and a friendly and innovative local community. There are many geological riches to explore, including important fossil-rich sedimentary rocks and the singing sands, fringed by sandstone cliffs cut by basalt dykes. The famous Sgùrr forms the high point of the island.

Eigg is mostly formed from basalt lava flows and intrusions, the remains of extensive volcanic activity 60 million years ago. These are underlain by sedimentary rocks from the Jurassic Period. The rocks of An Sgùrr were formed by a final, violent volcanic eruption, the last known volcanic activity in this area.

This trip will explore Eigg's geological variety, including the west coast, the south of the island and An Sgùrr. The itinerary will include short walks over rough and sometimes boggy ground.



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, details may change or the trip may need to be cancelled. Our group size will be restricted and safety procedures will be in place. Full details in the Final Programme, 4 weeks in advance.

Outline Programme

Tuesday Travel to Eigg, departing from Mallaig mid-morning.

Wednesday-Thursday-Friday Day walks from the Glebe Barn exploring the island, options include:

1. The west coast. Explore the Bay of Laig and follow the low cliffs of sandstone round to the singing sands; the sandstones contain amazing concretions and are cut by many basalt dykes – my favourite geological walk!
2. Climb An Sgùrr, following a reasonable but boggy path beneath the cliffs and up onto the rocky ridge, for great views of the Hebrides and the mainland.
3. The rough south coast, with caves, intruding dykes, crofting villages and views of the varied An Sgùrr ridge.
4. Walk to the northern tip of Eigg to see the result of post-glacial landslides that have ripped into the layers of basalt lava, and follow the footsteps of Hugh Miller and search for fossil-rich rocks on the beach.

Saturday Further exploration in the morning, depart Eigg for Mallaig early afternoon.

Details

Cost

Course fee £380 per person. This includes four nights accommodation and all meals, but not your travel to Eigg.

Transport to Mallaig

Mallaig is accessible by public transport, either by bus or on the famed West Highland railway. You will probably need to stay in Mallaig the night before the trip.

Level of fitness required

The trip will involve short walks often on rough ground (up to 5-6 miles with longer optional extensions). There will be some flexibility in the programme, allowing you to opt out and do your own thing if you wish. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground.

Accommodation & Catering

We have exclusive use of the Glebe Barn hostel www.glebebarn.co.uk, a very comfortable and superior hostel in a fantastic setting overlooking the harbour bay. The number of people in the group will be determined by how many can be safely accommodated.

All food is provided, including substantial, catered two-course evening meals, self-service breakfasts and packed lunches.

Booking

Contact Angus to reserve your place. Full details will be sent out four weeks in advance. You can cancel your booking at no charge until two weeks prior to the trip; full payment will be due then.

If the trip has to be cancelled, you will receive a full refund. It will not be possible to pay any other associated costs, such as travel reservations.

Before the start of the trip, you will receive a full refund if you develop Covid-19 symptoms, are required to self-isolate or because of any Scottish Government Covid-19 restrictions to travel.

If you decide to cancel in the final two weeks before the trip for any other reason, no refund will be possible.

Recommended Reading

The Geology of Eigg, John D Hudson, Angus D Miller, Ann Allwright. Edinburgh Geological Society, ISBN 9780904440164.
Rum and the Small Isles, in the SNH Landscape Fashioned by Geology Series, 2004. Available from www.scottishgeology.com



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