

Geowalks: Gairloch & Torridon

Friday 24 to Wednesday 29 May 2024

The unforgettable scenery of the Wester Ross National Scenic Area is derived directly from an amazing array of geology that is superbly exposed on coastline and mountain-side. This includes ancient Lewisian gneiss, ground down to create the lumpy scenery towards the coast; the ancient Torridonian sandstone, formed on the fringe of a continent over a billion years ago, which gives the mountains their hue and structure; and layers of sparkling quartzite and other, younger rocks. To the east lies a vast slab of metamorphic rock, pushed into place along the Moine Thrust, and moving and crumpling some of the underlying layers. The story is laid out clearly for us to see, with mountain-scale faults and disruptions that make the immense geological forces almost understandable ...



This is a two-centre holiday, in Gairloch for two nights and Glen Torridon for three nights. This gives access to a superb range of geology in day walks exploring the coast and the lower slopes of the mountains, walking 5-10 miles each day on mountain paths. Although this is rough terrain, the focus is on exploring the best and most accessible parts of the geological story rather than conquering the peaks!

The trip will include a variety of walks on the coast near Gairloch, the Beinn Eighe Nature Reserve, and an exploration of a little known area between Torridon and Kishorn, a great place to explore the complex deformation found beneath the Moine Thrust, with mountainsides of bare rock cut by thrusts.

Details

Cost & Accommodation

The cost will be £495.00 per person, which includes your guide (Angus Miller), five nights in basic self-catering hostel accommodation in shared rooms, and all food. The cost does not include transport (see below).

Alternatively you can organise your own accommodation and food in the area, at a reduced fee of £195.00 per person.

Transport

The trip is organised on a self-drive basis. Car sharing is encouraged, so don't worry if you don't have a car, it should be possible to link you up and to share costs.

Level of fitness required

You will need to be reasonably fit and used to walking, on rough ground but the pace will be moderate with many stops.

Booking Conditions

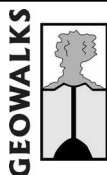
To confirm your booking, please pay a deposit of £50 per person – ask for details to make a bank transfer, or send a cheque payable to Geowalks. Final payment is due four weeks in advance – programme and reminder will be sent in advance of this.

If you cancel your booking, refunds will usually only be available if someone else takes your place. In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.

Recommended Reading

A good general overview of the area: *The Northern Highlands Landscapes in Stone*, Alan McKidry, Birlinn 2019. The older Landscape fashioned by Geology book is now out of print but is available as a free pdf download from <https://www.scottishgeologytrust.org/geology/resources/introductory-publications/>.

More detailed: *The Western Highlands of Scotland - Classic Geology in Europe*, Con Gillen, Dunedin 2019.



Angus Miller, Geowalks
23 Summerfield Place, Edinburgh EH6 8AZ
0131 555 5488 / 0797 997 1310
angus@geowalks.co.uk; www.geowalks.co.uk