

Geowalks: Isles of Cumbrae & Bute Saturday 15 to Monday 17 June 2024



Explore these picturesque and contrasting islands in the Firth of Clyde, made from sandstone, lava flows and the tougher rocks of the Highlands. The Isle of Bute is cut by the Highland Boundary Fault, and the shape of the island reflects the rocks beneath. The rugged north end of Bute has resistant layers of metamorphic rocks, typical of the Highlands. In the south of Bute and on Cumbrae we find younger, softer rocks including Red Sandstone, but also volcanic rocks. Like Arran, the larger and more famous neighbour, these islands have a great selection of rocks and have been affected by geological events over a long time span.

This weekend trip will include a day on Cumbrae and then two nights in Rothesay, Bute. We'll explore the rocks of the Highlands and the Lowlands in a series of short walks, mostly on paths but including sections of rocky beach.

Outline Programme

Saturday Meet in Largs, day trip to the island of Cumbrae; we will walk on the quiet road on the west side of the island to Millport, then catch the bus back to the ferry terminal. Late afternoon, travel over to Bute.

Sunday Explore the south of Bute from Kilchattan Bay, a wild coastal walk.

Monday Visit the Highland Boundary Fault, with a short walk at Scalpsie Bay. Then we will move north for varied exposures of the Dalradian metamorphic rocks, typical of the Southern Highlands. Perhaps a chance to sample the cake at the Ettrick Bay tea room, and head home mid-afternoon.

Details

Cost & Accommodation

The cost will be £275 per person, which includes your guide (Angus Miller), two nights B&B accommodation and one dinner. The cost does not include car transport (see below) or ferry crossings. Single rooms are available at a supplement of £50.

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 will 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 plenty stops. Longest walks will be less than 10 km. We'll stick mostly to paths although there may be some walking on beaches and rough ground.

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

Arran and the Clyde Islands, Scottish Natural Heritage (Landscape fashioned by Geology Series), 1997. ISBN 1-85397-287-8. Available as a free download at www.scottishgeologytrust.org/geology/resources/introductory-publications/.



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