



The Arran Geology Festival 2016 is organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum and VisitArran with support from Scottish Natural Heritage, University of Edinburgh School of Geosciences, the National Trust for Scotland, the Hunterian Museum, Arran Outdoor Education Centre, the Lochranza Centre and the Geological Society of Glasgow.

Arran GeoFest

18-20 March 2016



Explore Arran's
amazing
geological story

There's nowhere else quite like it – Arran is a great place for geology. Walk in the footsteps of Triassic reptiles or marvel at giant shells that lived at the Equator 300 million years ago. From the ancient remains of the Caledonian mountains in the north to the desert sandstone of the south, Arran has a wide variety of metamorphic and sedimentary rocks that record Scotland's journey across the planet and the animals that have hitched a ride.

But that's not all, Arran's granite hills and the bumpy landscape in the south result from much more recent geological activity: dramatic volcanic eruptions as the Atlantic Ocean opened. This was 'only' 60 million years ago, when different types of magma were injected underground and cooled to form tough igneous rocks.



Come and wonder at the tenacity of James Hutton and other early geological pioneers, who studied Arran's rocks and went away with revolutionary ideas that changed forever how we think about the world.

Discover ancient stories embedded in stone, and consider the long process of change that formed, and is still forming, this special island. Walks, talks, family activities and a sea kayak journey – something for everyone!



Find out more about Arran's geology ...
Arran Heritage Museum
 Located a mile north of the Brodick ferry terminal, we have exhibits that reflect the social history, archaeology and geology of Arran. Visit our geology room to see a timeline and rocks of each geological period, explanatory video presentations and much more! Well worth a visit for young and old. Open from 23 March. www.arranmuseum.co.uk



Lochranza Centre CIC
 Offers accommodation, taught field studies courses and activities for groups and families. We have 75 beds, eating rooms, presentation facilities, drying room, social areas & shop. Groups can use our accommodation and do their own thing, or take our taught geology, geography, biology or activity courses. lochranzacentre.co.uk



Friday 18 March

1 p.m. Short Walk: Blackwaterfoot to King's Cave
A coastal walk along the raised beach with Angus Miller, Geowalks to explore the varied rocks of south Arran, including the spectacular Drumadoon Point and the sandstone cliffs at the King's Cave.

2 p.m. Short Walk: Corrie Shore with Colin MacFadyen, Scottish Natural Heritage. Explore the layers of rock along the coast at Corrie, which record evidence of Scotland's journey across the Equator millions of years ago. See rocks formed in sandy deserts, rivers and shallow seas laid out like the pages of a 3D history book.

7.30 p.m. Talk: Volcanoes Dr Kate Saunders, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh. In April 2010, Europe was in chaos when a relatively small volcanic eruption in Iceland closed our airspace for over 7 days. We suddenly found that a volcanic eruption could affect our daily lives. Come and explore our current knowledge of volcanoes and the challenges facing volcanologists monitoring active volcanoes worldwide. *At Brodick Castle and Country Park - Countryside Centre.*



King's Cave

Saturday 19 March

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family drop-in activities Explore volcanic eruptions and hunt for fossils with University of Edinburgh geologists & NTS Rangers. *At Brodick Castle and Country Park - Countryside Centre.*

10 a.m. Geology by Sea Kayak, Cock of Arran
Day-long journey with Neil Smith & Arran Outdoor Education Centre. *Cost £40 pp, booking essential.*

10 a.m. Short Walk: North Newton Shore & Hutton's Unconformity with Colin MacFadyen, SNH (see Sunday's description).

10 a.m. Day Walk: North Glen Sannox Explore the contact between the northern granite and older rocks formed in the great Caledonian mountain range with Simon Cuthbert, Geological Society of Glasgow.

11 a.m. Short Walk: Kildonan Shore Walk with Rachel Wignall, SNH to discover rocks that show Scotland was once a desert close to the Equator.

2 p.m. Short Walk: Slidery Trackways Neil Clark from the Hunterian Museum will guide you to some impressive reptile tracks from the Triassic Period.

2 p.m. Short Walk: Corrie Shore with Colin MacFadyen, SNH (see Friday's description).

7:30 p.m. Talk: Beast of Blackwaterfoot (Chirotherium) and Scottish dinosaurs Dr Neil Clark, the Hunterian Museum. In recent years geologists have made some amazing discoveries on Skye and Arran that show a range of reptiles lived in the west of Scotland during the Triassic and Jurassic Periods. *At the Lochranza Centre.*

Sunday 20 March

10 a.m. Short Walk: North Newton Shore & Hutton's Unconformity with Rachel Wignall, SNH. Walk in the footsteps of famous Scottish geologist James Hutton and visit a site that led to the laying of the founding principles of geological science.

12 noon Family Explore, Kildonan shore Meet on the beach to search for footprints of the great beast *Chirotherium* that walked here 200 million years ago, and find the stretch-mark evidence of what happened next in Scotland's geological journey.

**Full programme,
updates, meeting
details and booking at
www.scottishgeology.com/arran**



Hutton's Unconformity

All walks, talks and family activities are FREE!
Donations welcome to the Arran Trust and the Scottish Geodiversity Forum