



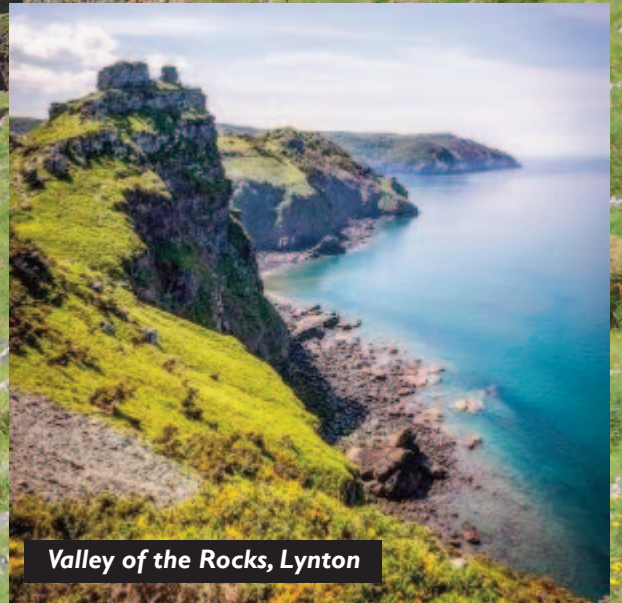
Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Magical geology in the Southwest - Cornwall & Somerset September 20-28 2025



Botallack tin mine, near St. Just



Valley of the Rocks, Lynton

A word from your leaders...

We have been visiting Southwest England for more than 20 years and have stayed in a number of different places. We have selected two areas for you, Western Cornwall and North Somerset as they provide us with good places to stay and some fine geology.

Redruth in Cornwall, gives us to access all the principal geological locations easily, allowing us to offer you an unrivalled selection of geology including a Devonian ophiolite, Carboniferous granites and associated mineralisation. Meanwhile North Somerset gives us excellent sections in Triassic and Jurassic sedimentary rocks with fossils, along with a rare Devonian plant locality. Taken together the Southwest England gives us world class geology with something for everybody, whether your passion is sediments, igneous rocks, minerals, fossils or structures!

To complete a good trip, we also require good lodgings and in Tricky's Hotel and the adjacent Tolgus Inn at Redruth and Glendower Hotel in Minehead, we have just what we are looking for. At Redruth, all of our accommodation and food needs will be met onsite, whilst in Minehead we will eat out at a nearby restaurant each evening. We can offer a variety of different room types, all of which are en suite, with singles, doubles and twin rooms available.

We are both looking forward to once again meeting up with our friends from the Northwest Geological Society. We expect this trip to book up fast, so urge you to make your reservation soon!

Chris Darmon & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to the area

Cornwall can be reached easily by train from all parts of the UK, but is especially easy from London Heathrow. There are direct hourly trains from London to Redruth, which is a five minute taxi ride from Tricky's Hotel. The train from London to Redruth takes around 6 hours. The nearest airports would be Plymouth or Newquay, which host domestic flights only. If you fly into Heathrow, you can catch a mainline train from Reading and don't even need to go into central London. Return trains run from Taunton to London.

Getting around on the trip

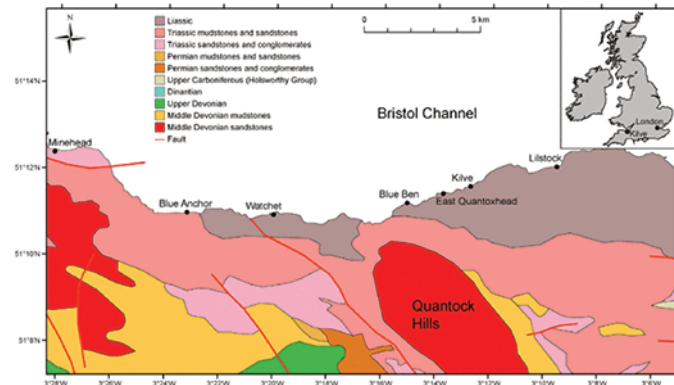
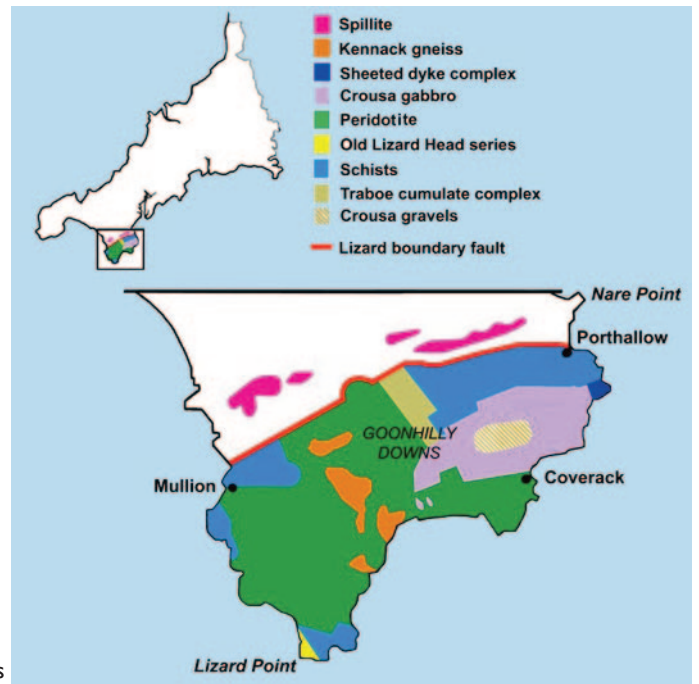
We will hire a coach daily from a local company which will allow us to provide you with a comfortable trip each day and also a live commentary covering the geology and landscape as we pass through the countryside. On one day, we'll hopefully also take a steam train to see geology from the inside!

Why Cornwall & Somerset?

Cornwall has such varied geology within a small area. Igneous rocks are well represented with basaltic pillow lavas near St. Ives and several granites, especially the Land's End and St Austell bosses. The granite landscape with its tors and acid soil and vegetation is so very special.

Minerals associated with the granites have produced tin and copper in large quantities from numerous mines in the area. The former Devonian sediments have been metamorphosed to slate, and often show folding and faulting. We'll be visiting the mines of the St. Just and St. Ives area and will take in Botallack Mine and the museum at Geevor. We'll also hope to take you a unique tin stamp in the Blue Hills near to St. Agnes where you can see the only tin producing operation in Cornwall.

On the Lizard Peninsular we have preserved one of the finest examples of a slice through an ancient seafloor and into the upper parts of the mantle. This is an ancient ophiolite complex, associated with a former subduction zone. Rock types such as serpentine, as well as banded gneisses and pillow lavas are all exposed within a small area. In the melange you will see an amazing jumble of rock types - in short a geologist's paradise!



With so many different rock types this is a great area to see the rich diversity of the rock record and to take in the different field techniques we use to understand them. For those that wish, there will be plenty of hands-on opportunities. If you like field sketching or photography, there should be plenty for you on this tour with stunning coastal landscapes.

In Somerset we'll be able to see some more of the Devonian strata, this time only mildly metamorphosed and some of it is fossiliferous, including a recently discovered world class Devonian plant site. There's lots of memorable coastal scenery with high cliffs. We'll also be able to see Triassic and Lower Jurassic sediments, similar to those seen on the famous Jurassic Coast of Dorset, but away from the crowds and the tourists!

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements on our trips and we have worked hard to bring you the best local accommodation. We have deliberately gone not for one of the chain hotels, but a locally owned and operated one. Tricky's Hotel, is set in 5 acres of countryside on the edge of the small former mining town of Redruth. It shares the site with the nearby Tolgus Inn where we will have our evening meals. With just 18 bedrooms it will provide us with an informal stay, where we will be the main, or even the only guests. Tricky's offers a variety of rooms with twins and king rooms. We can offer a

maximum of 3 single rooms, which are subject to a modest surcharge. If you can find someone to share a twin room with, that would be good.



Glendower House, Minehead provides us with an example of a family owned and run small hotel that provides a comfortable bed and excellent home cooked breakfast. Dependent upon numbers, we may also need to use a second establishment, but it will be of the same standard and close by. For our evening meals we will take you to a nearby family owned restaurant which is of a high standard and is well known to us.

Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we hope to cover during this trip:-

- The coastal geology of St. Ives and Cape Cornwall
- Mines and coastal geology around St. Agnes and Cligga Head
- Geology and mines around Geevor, St Just and Land's End
- An ancient seafloor - the geology of an ophiolite complex on the Lizard
- Visits to Geevor Mine and (hopefully) the Blue Hills tin stamper at St Agnes
- Devonian strata and coastal scenery of Valley of the Rocks, Lynton
- Devonian plant fossils of Minehead
- Triassic rocks of Watchet
- Jurassic rocks and fossils of Blue Anchor and Kilve

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 8-night tour will be \$2750 per person or \$3190 per person for a single room. (Maximum 3 singles available).

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Darmon and Colin Schofield, who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified here
- The cost of all transport used during the trip
- Admission to any museums, mines etc. as visited by the group

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel to Redruth and return from Minehead at the end of the trip
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenditure



Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is required to take out holiday insurance. This will need to cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. and also for the cost of any medical treatment in the event of an accident or medical emergency.



Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these trips are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with European Union Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

Booking

Please fill in and return a completed booking form. Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of a deposit of \$750.00 per person. The balance of the brochure price will be due by June 30th. 2025.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 15 people have booked by September 30th. 2024.

What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans. Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-

Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405