

Geology for Hillwalkers

One day field trip in Lakeland

With Paul Gannon author of
Rock Trails Lakeland and Rock Trails Snowdonia



This practical field course is specifically aimed at hillwalkers, mountain leaders, youth leader and teachers who want to expand their knowledge of mountain landscapes. The field course will introduce you to the basic concepts of modern geology such as plate tectonics, volcanoes and glaciation and their role in creating the mountain scenery of Lakeland. You will learn to identify land forms and how they were made. You will also discover how geology can be used as a navigational aid.

Lakeland's mountains were created when tectonic plates collided, generating extremely violent volcanoes which produced very hard rock, such as lava shown in the photo above and 'pyroclastic breccia' shown in the photos on the right and below. On this field trip you will see several types of volcanic rock and also major landscape features.



The volcanoes and mountain-building episodes happened many millions of years ago. More recently Lakeland has been shaped by great glaciers during the Ice Age which ended only ten thousand years ago. Glaciers carved out the magnificent valley of Great Langdale. The glaciers also deposited many 'moraines' which can be seen on the field trip. Learn how these features were created.

The exact route taken on the day will depend on the weather and the group on the day. A typical good weather day may involve climbing to Blake Rigg and then the summit of Pike o' Blisco. On a day with bad weather the trip may involve a trek over Lingmoor Fell and Langdale. Both routes cover a wide range of rocks and landforms.



The field trip will involve stony tracks, with some steepish sections of ascent and descent and some parts off-path on rough terrain. The total ascent may be as much as 500 metres - you must be fit enough to cope with this level of exercise. You will need good footwear and clothing. Remember it can rain and be cold on the Lakeland fells at any time of the year so bring wind- and water-proofs. Bring packed lunch and drink.

The courses are led by Paul Gannon, author of
Rock Trails Snowdonia
& *Rock Trails Lakeland*,
the highly popular hillwalkers' guides to the geology and scenery.

These courses are specifically designed for those without any background in geology. The features that you will learn to indentify are all things that are easy to see as you walk or climb the hills and mountains. Everything is explained in everyday language. Geology can be a very difficult subject to get to grips with because of its fearsome scientific vocabulary, but this course is aimed at making sense of geology for the ordinary hill lover. Get more pleasure out of trips into the hills by learning how this superb landscape was created. Courses limited to a maximum of eight people to ensure everyone has time to ask questions and get the most out of the trip. All rocks may look the same - one shade or other of grey and apparently lacking any distingushng features, but on this one-day trip you will learn how to spot the difference between rocks using a variety of features visible to the naked eye.

The price of the one-day course includes a free signed copy of either Rock Trails Snowdonia or Rock Trails Lakeland (RRP £14.95)

Review of Rock Trails Snowdonia in TGO Magazine,
by Emily Rodway, deputy editor, May 2008:

"Paul Gannon aims his writing squarely at the walker, and any scientific jargon is flagged up and supported by a detailed glossary. Indeed, everything about the book is very well thought through and easy to follow, with thorough explanations of important events in Snowdonia's history (including human life and industry) supported by examples. Clear, numbered diagrams and attractive, well-taken photographs are used throughout to support the writing. I look forward to taking this book with me on any future trips to North Wales ... it will be fascinating to observe the geology of the area through more educated eyes."

Review of Rock Trails Lakeland in Cumberland News,
by Steve Matthews, 26 June 2009:

Crossing Colliding Continents With a Rocky Evangelist

"If you allow Paul Gannon to take you for a Sunday afternoon stroll anywhere in the Lake District, you will find yourself in a monstrous world of colliding continents and boiling lava flows, of glacial gouging and corrie carving. When Paul Gannon climbs Whiteside in the Skiddaw group he imagines the massive forces that have shaped the Lake District ...

Paul is an evangelical geologist. He sees the smooth grassy slopes, the craggy rocks, the autumnal fern and heather that we delight in, but he also imagines the massive forces that over millennia have shaped the face of the earth....

On such an everyday walk as Catbells, geology lies all around you. Just after the first steep, strenuous 200 metre slope he will point out a narrow trench, the last trace of the old workings where German miners exploited the copper wealth of the area five centuries ago. Nearer the summit he will draw your attention to the outcrops of "the well-cleaved sedimentary rocks of the Buttermere formation", which sounds very technical until you start scrambling over the rocks themselves and see, as you can very clearly in the photographs, how the rocks all lie pointing upwards in one direction and seem like layers placed on top of each other...

Paul makes the slow, slow pacing of geological time dramatic and exciting. And the neat diagrams and the superbly selected photographs help you understand clearly how things have happened and how you can see the effects of all this activity lying about you in all directions today....This is one of those walking books that has something new to offer. Others have dealt with the geology, but few can have described it with such enthusiasm and clarity."

Booking Form

(Mountain Leader Training Association members - please download booking form from the MLTA website)

Geology for hillwalkers/mountain leaders on:

Snowdonia - Saturday 4th September

or

Lakeland - Saturday 24th September

Name

Address

Course date

Telephone number(s)

Email address

Number of persons

I would like a copy of *Rock Trails Snowdonia/Rock Trails Lakeland* (delete as appropriate)

If you would like to receive your copy by post before the course please add £1.50 for P&P, otherwise I will bring your copy along on the day.

Total cost (@ £45 per person per day, or £40 per person for four or more bookings)

Signature (to acknowledge that you have read and accept the terms and conditions as displayed on the www.landscape-walks.co.uk website)

Make cheques payable to 'Paul Gannon' and send with the completed form to:

Paul Gannon

Craigafon

1 Bryniau Gerddi

Llanberis

Gwynedd

LL55 4TU

On receipt of your booking I will acknowledge receipt by email. Joining details will be forwarded about 7 to 10 days before the course.

