A word from your leaders...

We have been visiting Cornwall for more than 20 years and have stayed in a number of different places. We have chosen the small town of Redruth because it is so well connected. It has regular trains from London Paddington (the London station that Heathrow trains come into).

Redruth also allows us to access all the principal geological locations easily, allowing us to offer you an unrivalled selection of geology. Redruth and nearby Camborne, were at the centre of a thriving tin mining district and there is a good prospect of a new tin and lithium mine in the near future. We will be getting around using a locally hired coach that will pick us up from our comfortable hotel base.

Tricky’s Hotel and the adjacent Tolgus Inn will look after all our needs by way of food and accommodation. With just 18 rooms, Tricky’s Hotel will be able to accommodate our group in a mix of different rooms. There are a maximum of 3 single rooms available. There are also twin, double and king rooms available.

Geologically, we will be taking in rocks from the Devonian and Carboniferous periods that have been metamorphosed in the Variscan Orogeny. Many of the rocks have been spectacularly folded and faulted. There are a number of large granite plutons, some of which have been chemically altered to Kaolinite (China Clay). There are also numerous hydrothermal veins and old mines for tin, copper, lead and zinc. Down on the Lizard Peninsula is a well documented Ophiolite Complex with serpentine.

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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 Paddington 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.

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.

Why Cornwall?

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.

We will be taking in the China Clay district to the north at St Austell where we will go to the China Clay museum at Wheal Martyn that also allows us a fine view over a modern working mine.

In North Cornwall we will visit the delightful villages of Tintagel and Boscastle where we can see some amazing folding and the sites of several large thrust planes from the Variscan Orogeny. We’ll also take in a working slate quarry at Delabole which has been supplying roofing slates for nearly 200 years.

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. Couples can choose between double or king rooms.
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
• The St Austell Granite with its China Clay and a visit to Wheal Martyn Museum
• Folded slates around Tintagel and Boscastle
• Visit to the Royal Cornish Museum in Penzance - superb local minerals!

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 8-night tour will be $2950 per person or $3390 per person for a single room.

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 and from the hotel in Redruth
• Travel insurance
• Incidental expenditure

Insurance

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 EU 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 and AIPG Waiver 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 January 15. 2025.

This trip will run provided a minimum of 20 people have booked by May 15th. 2024.