



FIELD TRIP

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd July 2022

Seashells, Dragons and Equatorial Forests

A field trip to the Jurassic, Triassic and Carboniferous of beautiful South Wales

Led by Dr Melissa Johansson with support from Huw Evans and Claire Murphy



This fieldtrip will begin on Friday afternoon in the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff with a guided tour of the fantastic Geology exhibition led by local experts, giving the participants an overview of the geological history of Wales.

Saturday will consist of a visit to two beautiful beaches, starting with the Jurassic coastline at Llantwit Major, looking for ammonites and other fossils within the muddy limestones which form the spectacular cliffs of the Vale of Glamorgan.

This will be followed by the Triassic Coast, which comprises beds of striking red and green dolomitic/calcareous mudstone with bright bands of white and pink gypsum. Here we will see the recently discovered dinosaur tracks of the Tetrapods as investigated by the BBC News.

A quick snapshot of what to expect can be found on the following video:

<https://youtu.be/hPQsuWleWjs>

On the Sunday, we will visit Blaenavon the host of World Heritage sites for the Iron and Coal Industry. The output of Iron and Coal from Blaenavon, from the 17th and 18th Centuries respectively, was fundamental to Britain's Industrial Revolution. The area is situated on the north-east outcrop of the South Wales coalfield where surface and underground coal mining was widespread. The last of the mines was Big Pit which was closed in 1980 but maintained as an Industrial site of worldwide heritage standard. The visit will include a visit to the underground coal workings using the old miners lifts and though the tunnels 300ft underground which includes stables and original mining equipment. The surface buildings have all been preserved and offer a multimedia insight into the entire coal mining process for those who do not wish to go underground.

At lunch we will sample the produce from the rich farming hinterland and sample fine beers traditional to Welsh culture. After lunch the visit will be completed by some modest walks via tramways to view surface coal levels, reclaimed coal spoil tips, a Carboniferous Limestone quarry and abandoned industrial architecture. All framed by stunning views over the Brecon Beacon National Park.

References

[Detailed Geological interpretation of the Jurassic Lias Coastline, Llantwit Major, South Wales, U.K. - YouTube](#)

<https://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/Visit-Blaenavon.aspx>

Field Trip Itinerary

Friday 1st July

15.00 – Geology tour National Museum of Wales, central Cardiff

Saturday 2nd July

08.30 – Jurassic Coastline, Llantwit Major area, Vale of Glamorgan

12.30 – Lunch at Pickfords, Penarth seafront

14.00 – Triassic Coastline, Penarth area

Sunday 3rd July

08.45 – Carboniferous Big Pit, Blaenavon

13.00 – Lunch at the Lion Hotel, Blaenavon

14.30 – Carboniferous Coal and Limestone outcrop, Brecon Beacons National Park

Fees

£100 per person (inc. VAT). Please indicate your interest in attending this event by ticking the relevant box on the registration form. We will then contact you to process your booking.

Accommodation & Travel

The base for the trip will be Cardiff, with fast rail and road connections from London. All transportation throughout the weekend will be provided.

Participants will be responsible for booking their own accommodation and covering the costs. Here is a list of recommended hotels in the area:

[Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre](#) - Castle Street, Cardiff, CF10 1XD

[Premier Inn Cardiff City Centre \(Queen Street\)](#) - Helmont House, 10 Churchill Way, Cardiff, CF10 2HE

[Travelodge Cardiff Central](#) - Imperial Gate, St. Mary's Street, Cardiff, CF10 1FA

[Cardiff Marriott Hotel](#) - Mill Lane, Cardiff CF10 1EZ