

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world with Carleton College

November 2007

Dear Carleton alumni, friends, and potential highland trekkers!

I am glad you're considering joining us on the walking tour that by *About Argyll* and our Alumni Adventures staff have put together for us to the southwest coast of Scotland; it promises to be a wonderful trip!

I have always taken great pleasure in hiking along rocky coasts and among the rugged hills of maritime climes: the salt air, seabirds crowding on rocky cliffs, rapid streams rushing down steep valleys, and the perfect calm of morning mists lingering below the hilltops. The coast and hills of Argyll assure we will enjoy all of these things, while journeying through a land steeped in highland lore (and geologic history). Truth be told, however, I am also a creature of comfort, and the mix of vigorous walking with the promise of comfortable lodging and the sociable company of Carleton alums and highland locals, hold equal draw for me on this trip.

This won't be a geology fieldtrip, but I will endeavor to provide explanations of interesting features we encounter during our walks, and can provide as much geological background as you care to endure. This part of the world is geologically related to the northern Appalachians, where I did my dissertation fieldwork. Scotland is considered to be the "birthplace" of modern Geology, and I encourage you to read *The Man Who Found Time*, by Jack Repcheck, which at face value is a biographical treatment of James Hutton, who was arguably the first person to recognize the truly vast amount of time recorded in Earth History, but it is really about the Scottish Enlightenment. We can also look forward to learning from our knowledgeable guides about the flora and fauna of this part of the world.

London and Edinburgh are among my favorite cities in the world. I encourage you to consider partaking in the Edinburgh festival before our trip; the timing works out well, if you're so inclined.

Regards,

Clint Cowan '83

Carleton College Geology Department