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JOYCE COUNTRY & WESTERN LAKES UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK • CONG, CO. MAYO, IRELAND

University Geology & Earth Science Field Course Base

Purpose-ready group accommodation for undergraduate mapping courses, independent dissertations & postgraduate research (Groups welcome from Easter until the end of September)

Ratified by UNESCO in April 2026 as Connacht's first—and Ireland's fifth—UNESCO Global Geopark, the **Joyce Country and Western Lakes UNESCO Global Geopark** preserves **700 million years of Earth history** across counties Galway and Mayo. Located directly within the Geopark in Cong, **Lakeland House** and **Michaeleen's Manor** offer an unmatched academic base for multi-day field modules and multi-week mapping projects.

Key Geological & Geomorphological Field Sites Within Easy Reach

- **The Kilbride Peninsula (8 km² Introductory Mapping Hub – 25 mins away):** Covers Neoproterozoic to Silurian sequences. Ideal for sedimentary logging, strike-and-dip, stereonets, and structural mapping across **2D & 3D pillow basalts** (Finny & Bencorragh), Silurian marine transgression strata with *Skolithos* trace fossils and bentonites (Kilbride Fm), turbidite greywackes (Lettergesh Fm), and the **Doon Rock Fault**.
- **Karst Hydrology & Epikarst Systems (On Our Doorstep in Cong):** Subterranean drainage linking Lough Mask to Lough Corrib via **Cong Spring** (3 million m³/day at low flow) and **Pigeon Hole Cave**, plus globally unique **boulders in their sockets**, upward-dissolved **tube-karren (*röhrenkarren*)**, **eggbox pitting**, and the calcite-precipitating **marl lake** of Lough Carra.
- **Dalradian Metamorphics & Structural Geology:** Folded Dalradian marbles and minor S, Z, and M folds at **Corr na Móna** and **Cur Hill**, alongside green **Connemara Marble** in Glen Inagh.
- **Quaternary Glaciation: Killary Harbour** (Ireland's only true fjord, over-deepened to −40 m), glacial corries (*The Deircs*), drumlins, moraines, the Leenane glacial lake delta, U-shaped valleys, and meltwater channels on Aill Dubh.

Purpose-Built Facilities for Academic Groups & Faculty

Accommodation for Up to 80 Guests

- **Lakeland House (Up to 60 people):** Capacity for up to 60 people in a mix of private ensuite rooms and shared dorms with shared bathrooms.
- **Michaeleen's Manor (Up to 20 people):** Adjacent property ideal for housing lecturers, demonstrators & visiting researchers separately.

Catered or Self-Catering Flexibility

- **Catered Meal Packages:** Full or half-board options including breakfast, field packed lunches, and evening dinners.
- **Self-Catering Option:** Well-equipped self-catering kitchen and dining area to keep student budgets low.

Evening Map-Work & Field Logistics

- Sitting room, mini-cinema & free WiFi for evening fair-copy mapping, stereonet plotting, and GIS work.
- Laundry/drying facilities for wet gear, secure equipment storage & free coach parking.

Local Guiding & Geopark Liaison

- **Experienced local geological guides** arranged on request to lead outcrop traverses.
- Assistance with local coach hire and Geopark landowner liaison (`geologist@jcwlgeopark.ie`).

Seasonal Availability: Easter – End of September

Groups are welcome from Easter until the end of September—ideal for springtime field trips in **April, May, and June**, summer independent undergraduate mapping dissertations, and **September** field courses. Stay from a few days up to several weeks or months.

Contact Us for Tailored Prices Based on Your Group Requirements

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Websites: **www.lakelandhouse.net** | **www.michaeleensmanor.com** | **www.congholidaygroup.com**