

2nd March – 4th March
Led by Paul Taylor
Level 0

Jurassic Coast Centre

Victoria House
Uplyme Road
Lyme Regis
Dorset
DT7 3LP

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The Field Studies Council (FSC) is an environmental education charity committed to helping people explore, understand and be inspired by the natural world. Each year over 100,000 people experience the FSC through visits to our network of 17 Centres

Overview of the course

This course introduces the identification and classification of the main groups of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Emphasis is placed on fossils found along the World Heritage site so includes ammonites, bivalves, echinoderms, fish and marine reptiles. This three day course will be taught by Natural History Museum palaeontologists and will use handling collections and specimens collected as part of the course. This course is intended for beginners, more experienced collectors, school teachers and geology students wishing to expand their knowledge of how organisms are classified.

The course will include opportunities to collect from the Lower Lias near Lyme Regis and Charmouth, however, is essentially laboratory based, using identification guides. Participants will acquire the confidence to identify the main types of fossil organisms. This course would provide a sound basis for building and understanding fossil collections.

About the centre



Victoria House is a substantial, detached red-brick property boasting lovely views over the town to the coast from many of the rooms. The spacious accommodation includes a large games room with pool table, table tennis plus a small gym and sauna suite. The house has a large terraced patio area with seating and is only 10 minutes walk to the beach and town amenities.

Originally the Victorian train station hotel, this luxurious accommodation would be an ideal base for anyone wishing to bring their partner to have a short break too. The additional price per night would be £40 to include dinner, bed & breakfast. This seaside town boasts a cinema, theatre, museum, coastal and country walks in addition to the local shops.

Accommodation: Victoria House offers 8 luxury rooms with en-suite (some double and some twin) there are a further two bedrooms with shared bathroom.

About Lyme Regis



The picturesque coastal town of Lyme Regis is set in the centre of Dorset and Devon's Jurassic Coast, England's only natural World Heritage Site, including the Axmouth to Lyme Regis Undercliffs National Nature Reserve, one of the most important wilderness areas in Britain. The Town and neighbouring Charmouth are famous for their geology, coastal erosion and direct access to fossils on the beach including ammonites, marine reptiles and dinosaurs that inhabited the early Jurassic Seas. In the nineteenth century Lyme Regis was home to the renowned fossil hunter and expert Mary Anning and played a pivotal role in the birth of the earth sciences.

Lyme Regis is a great place from which to study the natural sciences offering easy access to the South West and the giant outdoor classroom that is the 95 miles Jurassic Coast. Lyme Regis also has a rich cultural heritage and today offers an eclectic mix of arts and other activities that run throughout the year.

About the tutor



Dr Paul Taylor is a researcher in the Department of Palaeontology at the Natural History Museum, specializing in bryozoans and other invertebrates. With over 35 years experience as a palaeontologist, he is the author of three popular books on fossils and over 250 articles. Additional interests are in palaeoecology and the folklore of fossils.



Dr Zerina Johanson is curator/researcher of Fossil Fishes in the Palaeontology Department in the Natural History Museum. Zerina specializes in the study of Devonian fishes, but is also interested in the development of living fishes, particularly the Queensland lungfish, a close relative to land vertebrates or tetrapods. Zerina has experienced natural history collections as both a researcher and curator, and uses this to improve and develop the NHM fossil fish collection.

Course fees

- Sole occupancy Room: £230
- Shared accommodation: £210
- Non-resident: £158

What is included within the fee?

- Up to 10 hours of tuition a day
- Full board accommodation including a cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, home made cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary options are available
- Tea and coffee making facilities
- Use of dedicated wi-fi internet area, games room, sauna and lounge
- Centre organised transport during the course and admission fees

Non-resident course fees include all of the above except breakfast and accommodation.

What to bring

Warm clothing and sensible footwear for walking.

Start and finish times

Resident visitors are requested to arrive on Tuesday 2nd March at reception for registration between 1600hrs and 1700 hrs. An introductory talk will follow. Supper will be between 6.30 pm and 7.30pm. Breakfast will be at 8.30am. The course will end on Thursday 4th March at 1400hrs

Non resident guests will be contacted on the day of arrival to confirm the time of the introductory talk

Directions to the centre

Public transport: Axminster mainline train station is just 4 miles away. This is the London Waterloo to Exeter line. We can arrange for you to be met at the station by minibus but there is also the 31 bus which stops right outside our Course Centre upon request.

Lyme Regis is also on the Jurassic Coast bus service no X53 which runs from Poole to Exeter. The nearest X53 bus stop is 1/4 mile from the Course Centre.

By car: From the West A35 take Right turning at Raymonds Hill sign posted to Lyme Regis (B3165) and follow for approximately 2 miles – Victoria House is on the left at a small roundabout. If approaching from the East A35 take the B4473 off the Charmouth roundabout sign posted to Lyme Regis. Follow road into Lyme Regis, up through the main street and take the Right fork opposite the Cinema. Follow up to small roundabout, Victoria House will be on your Rt. There is parking for up to 10 cars. Please indicate if you will be arriving by car.

Booking procedure

Provisional bookings can be made by telephoning 0845 345 4071 or by completing the online form on the FSC website: www.field-studies-council.org

You will then be asked to complete a booking form, located within the relevant brochure or available to print off from the FSC website.