

Giant's Causeway

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Giant's Causeway



Giant's Causeway Latest News

Geochronologists investigating how the Giant's Causeway was created recently discovered it was formed over 5.5m years, 8m years less than previously estimated.

About Giant's Causeway

- It is located on the **coastal edge** of the **Antrim Plateau** in **Northern Ireland**.
- The region consists of **6 kilometers** (4 miles) of **stepping-stone-like black basalt columns**.
- Some **40,000 stone pillars** can be found here.
- **Each stone** is a curiously **distinct polygon or hexagon**, with seemingly **unnatural straight edges**.
- The **pillars range in height**, and **shoot up out of the sea, increasing in height until they reach the cliff top**.
- This stepping stone or **stair-like appearance** of the area is where the **Giant's Causeway name** is thought to have originated, as the columns look much like **steps for a giant**.
- It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1986.

Giant's Causeway Formation

- The rock and column formations were first **formed** some **50 to 60 million years** ago, during the **Paleogene Period**.
- The columns originally formed **due to extensive volcanic activity** in the area.
- **Molten basalt rose up through a layer of chalk beds**, creating what is known as a volcanic plateau.
- The **lava** then **began to cool and contract**, which **caused fractures and edges within the rock**.
- **As the lava flow continued to cool, it receded, leaving behind tall column shapes.**
- Because the lava cooled very quickly, it receded a great deal, leaving behind particularly prominent and large columns.

News: TG

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