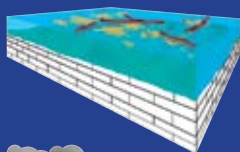
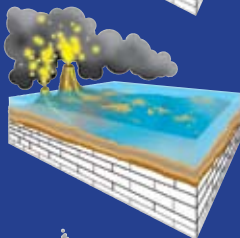


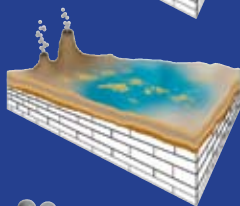
## How did the Causeway form?



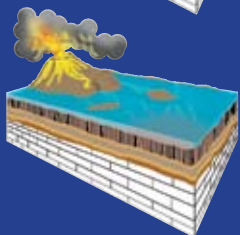
As the floodwaters peaked, several months into Noah's Flood, thick limestone strata were deposited over large areas of Europe, including (what is now) Ireland.



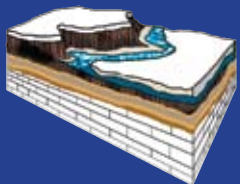
Volcanoes erupted as the earth's crust moved and ocean basins began to sink relative to the land. Floodwaters started flowing from the continents. Cracks opened in the crust and lava gushed out, covering the limestone.



Eruptions paused occasionally and the floodwater ebbed temporarily, depositing sediment and vegetation on the basalt surface.



Continued eruptions poured more lava onto the surface, filling depressions in pulses. Surging water quenched the lava lakes, which solidified into basalt that cracked into long columns as it contracted.



For hundreds of years after the Flood, high precipitation built thick sheets of ice over the land. The ice retreated at the end of the Ice Age, exposing the Causeway Coast.

calculation based on assumptions. You can get any age you like depending on the assumptions you make. Geologists themselves will not accept a radiometric date if it disagrees with what they think it should be.

Radiometric dating gives many surprises. Basalts from Hualalai in Hawaii erupted in 1800–01 gave potassium-argon (K-Ar) ages ranging from 160 million years to 3,300 million years. A lava dome on Mt St Helens in USA, formed since 1980, gave K-Ar ages between 350,000 and 2,800,000 years. Lava

erupted from Mt Ngauruhoe, New Zealand between 1949 and 1975 gave K-Ar ages up to 3.5 million years.

Geologists who believe in millions of years don't think Noah's Flood was real, and they ignore its catastrophic effects. Radioactive "dates" are no reason to reject the biblical age of about 4,500 years for The Giant's Causeway.

### Check it out

The Giant's Causeway involved a large-scale watery catastrophe, much bigger than anything we have ever seen today. The geologic evidence is consistent with the world-shattering event described in the Bible—the event that dramatically affected the course of human history just 4,500 years ago (Genesis 6–9). That event should affect the way we think about ourselves, why we are on this earth, and how we should live (2 Peter 3:3–14). Let's take the time to check it out.

**For more information see:** Walker, T., A Giant Cause, *Creation* 27(2):28–34, 2005; also at <[creation.com/giantcause](http://creation.com/giantcause)>.

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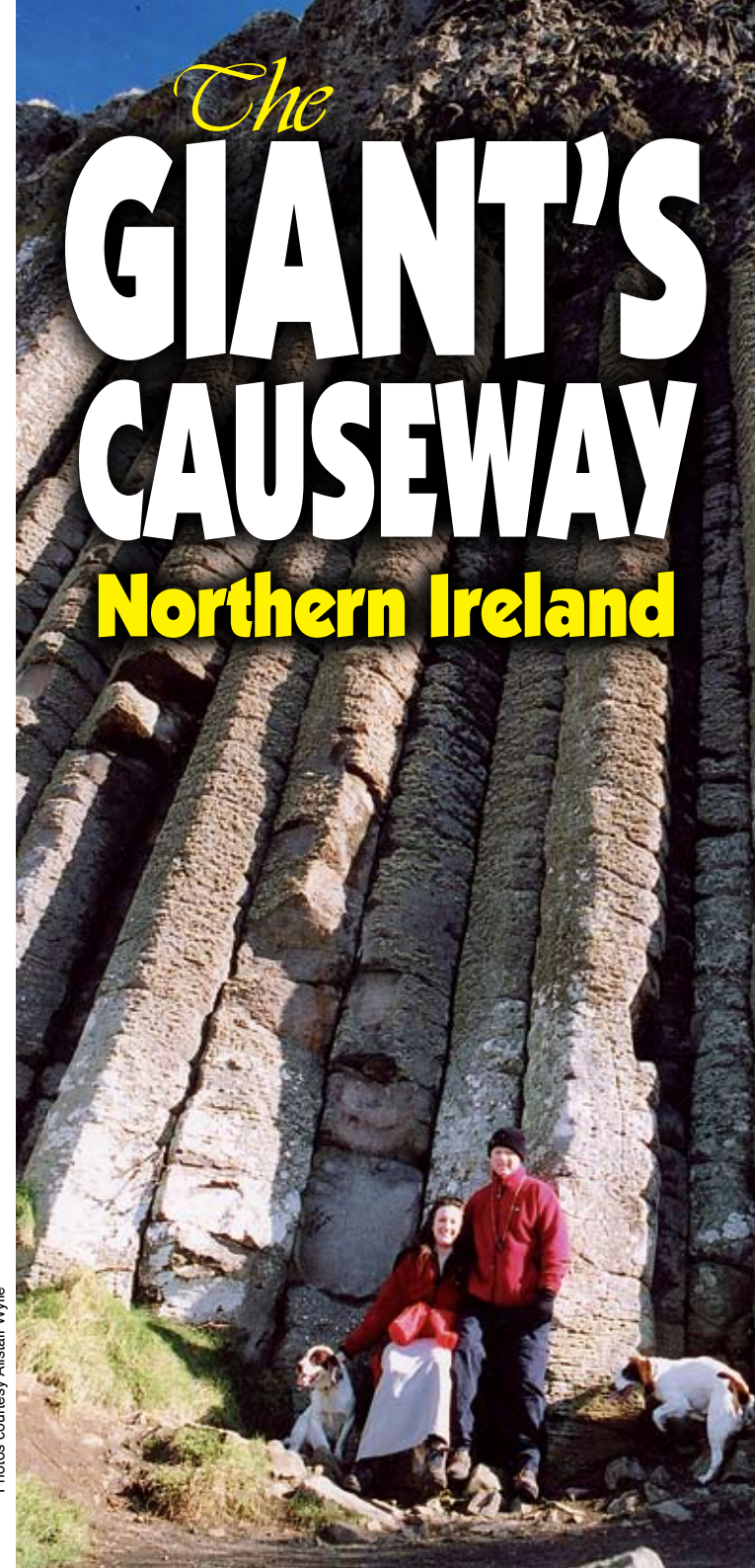
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# The GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

## Northern Ireland

Photos courtesy Alistair Wylie



# YOU ARE LOOKING AT EVIDENCE FOR NOAH'S FLOOD

Most visitors don't connect The Giant's Causeway with Noah's Flood. Yet the rocks point to having been rapidly formed during a colossal watery catastrophe. Let's see how.



## Huge volcanic eruptions

The eruptions were of titanic size; The Organ (cover) illustrates the immense depth of one lava flow. The rock high above the columns is twisted and irregular. The columns plus the irregular rock represent one lava flow, up to 30 m thick. Seven such flows make up the Causeway Basalts but only two are visible in the upper half of the cliffs.

Some columns from the second Causeway flow stand out against the sky and are called The Chimney Tops.

More lava flows are visible under an orange band halfway up the cliffs. The total thickness of all the basalt erupted could be as much as 1 km.

The eruptions covered an enormous area. Lava flooded 30 km south beyond Belfast, and 150 km north-east into Scotland (map above).

So The Giant's Causeway eruption was no gentle affair. Dramatic outbursts of basaltic lava gushed out of fissures in the earth at a tremendous rate, consistent with the breakup of the "fountains of the great deep" (Genesis 7:11) during the Flood year. Lava surged rapidly, and covered the land with deep, glowing pools of molten rock, before it had time to solidify.

## Water everywhere

Also, The Giant's Causeway erupted into a massive amount of water. There are telltale signs everywhere.

- Molten lava flowed over flooded land, creating lots of steam. The steam bubbled under the lava, leaving long, vertical tubes (up to 10 mm across and 20 cm long) filled with chalcedony.

- Water quenched and shattered the top and the bottom of the lava flow, leaving broken rock called "flow breccia".



- Water also produced "pillow lavas", such as The Giant's Eye when the lava squeezed out like big blobs of toothpaste. Chemical reactions then produced a crumbly, yellow-brown material called palagonite.

- The displaced floodwaters surged back after each lava flow, flooding the top. This cracked the surface and penetrated into the basalt, producing the twisted, irregular rock at the top of the columns.

- Returning floodwaters also deposited sediment and vegetation.

- Lava flows pulsed so quickly that the tops of each lava flow still have a glassy surface.

Yes, there was lots of water during Noah's Flood, yet the eruptions were so large and rapid that the lava flowed huge distances.

## An ancient soil?

One striking feature of the Causeway coast is an orange bed, 10-12 m thick, which forms a prominent band around the cliff face. It is made of a friable, red and brown material, and contains deposits of coalified vegetation.

Causeway brochures say the bed is an ancient soil, and that the coal formed in a swampy peat bog, all over millions of years. But the evidence does not support this.

First, although the bed is crumbly, it does not have the different layers typical of a soil. And the vegetation is too well preserved to have remained in a bog for thousands, let alone millions of years. Leaves and bark fragments are abundant, as well as pollens and other tree parts. Further, the species identified (including cedar, pine, spruce, hazel and alder) do not grow in peat bogs.

Rather, during a pause in the volcanic eruptions, water washed vegetation and sediment onto the basalt. Heat from the basalt rapidly transformed the vegetation into coal. In the years since the Flood, groundwater percolated through the soft material, continuing the chemical alteration.

## Not millions of years

Brochures say the rocks are 60 million years old. But are they?

Scientists cannot measure the age of any rock. They simply measure isotopes (different atoms) in the present. The age they quote is a



The Harp