

The Giant's Causeway



This Celtic Region boasts one of the most unusual geological formations in the world, known as the Giant's Causeway. Legend has it that Fionn mac Cumhail (better known as Finn McCool) found himself separated from

his new love. Now Finn was not someone to let a little adversity keep him from the love of his life. He was a famous warrior, chieftain, and, perhaps most importantly, a giant.

When he realized that quite a bit of water separated him from his heart's delight, Finn began constructed a huge series of stepping stones, all the way from his home to hers. He was then able to walk over the waters, take his Lady Giant in his arms, and carried her back to his castle, without even getting her feet wet.

Geologists tell a different tale. The causeway was formed during the early Tertiary period, about 65 million years ago. Three distinct lava flows took place, creating the igneous rock that forms most of the causeway. There were significant lulls during these volcanic events, which can be seen in the reddish-brown sections of the causeway. These sections are rich in clay and iron and were slowly weathered, exposing more dark basalt beneath them.



The fascinating pattern of rock that can be seen today was caused by rock crystallization, where molten lava hits cold water, causing rapid cooling. The rock was cracked, twisted, and pushed into astonishing columns. It is estimated that there are over 40,000 of these basalt columns in the causeway.

Do you know what Celtic Region plays home to this unusual geological formation? IRELAND