



## DISCOVERING THE GEOPARK (ADVENTURE GEOPARK)

The 1000 square kilometer Carnic Alps Geopark invites you on a journey back in time to discover the Earth's past. There is no other place where one can find within such a small and scenic landscape so many documents of the Earth's heritage.

More than 70 sites between the villages of Feistritz in the eastern Gail Valley and Maria Luggau in the Lesach Valley can be visited to discover the journey through time which lasts several hundred million years. The hiker will encounter spectacular waterfalls, mystical canyons, vertical cliffs, quiet mountain lakes and fossilized marine and terrestrial faunas and floras.

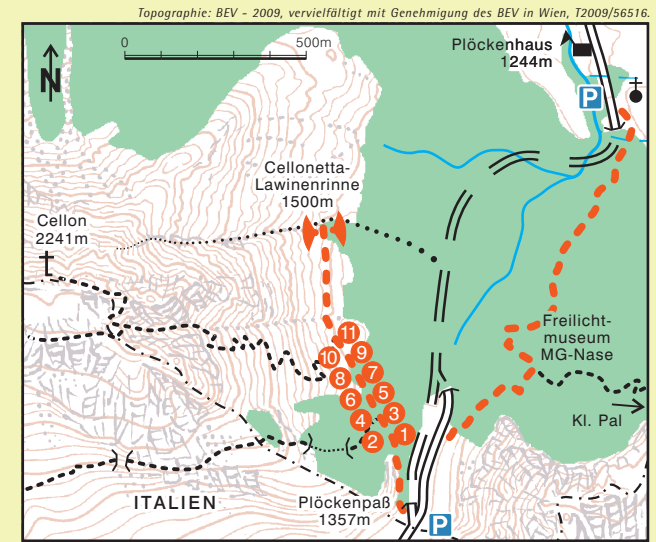
In the Geopark man plays only a minor role. The keystone is the elementary power of nature and geological times which convey an unforgettable impression to every visitor. The exciting history starts some 500 million years ago. At that time the oldest rocks of our mountains were deposited in an ocean on the other side of the globe. Since then they have been on a real odyssey from cool climate during the Ordovician to moderate and tropic latitudes in the Devonian. At the end of the Palaeozoic Era, the Permian, the area experienced a desert climate. In the following Triassic Period the continental plates crossed the equator and drifted during the Mesozoic and Cenozoic Eras centimeter by centimeter towards present latitudes. Finally, during the Pleistocene Epoch ice formed the landscape as it is seen today. Some 20.000 years ago the glaciers started melting and men invaded the Geopark to settle and cultivate mountains and valleys alike.

# PLÖCKENPASS GEOTRAIL





Map



THE PLÖCKENPASS GEOTRAIL

Access to the Geotrail at Plöckenpaß is either from Plöckenhaus or from the state border. It offers an introduction and gate to the geology of the Carnic Alps and thus, is regarded as a "must". Within an hour the visitor is informed about the history of the universe and the solar system. At the ravine cut into the mountain Cellon by avalanches the visitor will meet much younger rocks which, however, are still some 400 million years old.

Access:

Parking Plöckenpaß or Plöckenhaus.



Above: Geological signpost in the Cellon avalanche gully. Snow covers the sequence and the signposts sometimes until the beginning of summer.

Above, right: Detail of the varying rock sequence from the Middle Silurian in the lower part of the Cellon section.

Right: Trilobite remains from the Lower Silurian of the Cellon section. Above head, below tail.

Route: Plöckenhaus (1244 m) – Open Air Museum MG-emplacment – Plöckenpaß (1357 m) – Cellochetta-Avalanche Gully (1500 m) – Plöckenpaß.

Length: Including the military trail total approx. 4 km.

Duration: 4 to 5 hours for the total tour or approx. 2 hours for the half distance.

Boards:

- 1: The new portrait of the universe.
  - 2: The Big Bang and the following seconds.
  - 3: The face of the early Earth.
  - 4: Life is born.
  - 5: The first organisms.
  - 6: The geological clock.
  - 7: The modern picture of the Earth.
  - 8: The puzzling ancestor of the Alps.
  - 9: The Carnic region 460 to 320 million years ago.
  - 10: The Carnic region between 310 million years ago and today.
  - 11: Nature conservation and nature protection.
- Earth history life in the Cellochetta ravine.  
Panoramic view Valentin Valley – Plöckenhaus – Angerbach Valley – Plöckenpaß.