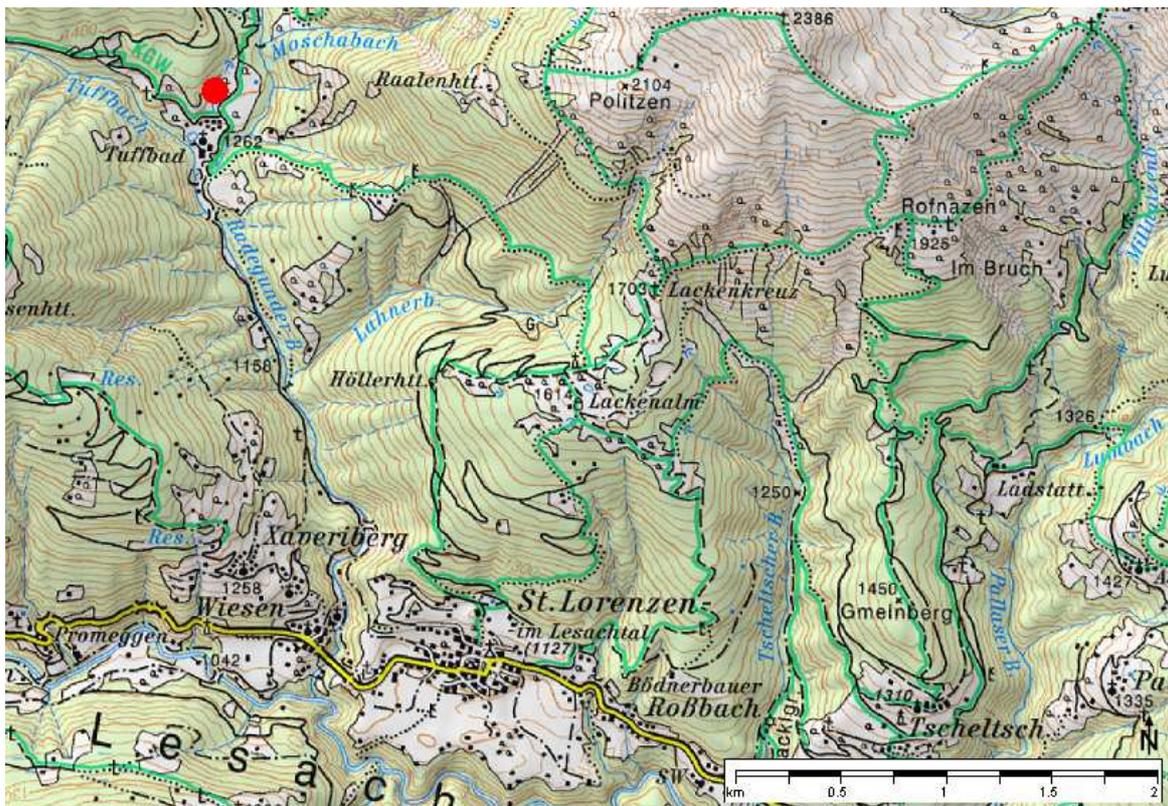


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Geotope 53: Radegundgraben – Curing in the Spa of the Tuffbad



Red point: target point; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

The Radegund Valley is located north of the village of St. Lorenzen in the Lesach Valley. A paved road leads from the village of Wiesen directly to the spa.

Description of the Geotope



Tuff spa in the Radegund Creek.

The Radegund Valley is incised into crystalline rocks. They represent the basement of a thick sedimentary sequence starting with the red clastic Gröden Formation of Middle Permian age. This formation is followed by rocks of Upper Permian

age and finely by Triassic to Jurassic rocks forming

the Lienz Dolomites. In addition, glacial deposits from the last Ice Age are preserved in many parts of the surroundings of the spa.

The Tuffbad has been curing local residents for more than 200 years. It is located at the confluents of a smaller creek named "Tuffbach" with the main creek at an altitude of 1,262 m. The first follows the boundary between the crystalline rocks and the red clastics of the Gröden Formation. The latter is fault-bounded against the Triassic rock sequence to the north composed of siliceous shales and dolomitic rocks. Most probably, in the subsurface also the gypsum-rich Lower Triassic Werfen Formation is occurring which may be the actual source for the thermally weak mineralized water rich in sulphate. The content in calcium originates from the catchment rocks of the springs farther off the north.

The name "Tuff Spring" is derived from the highly porous calc-sinter and travertine. It is formed during escape of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere causing precipitation of slightly temperature-elevated mineralized water.



Precipitated calc-sinter on the meadow behind the spa.