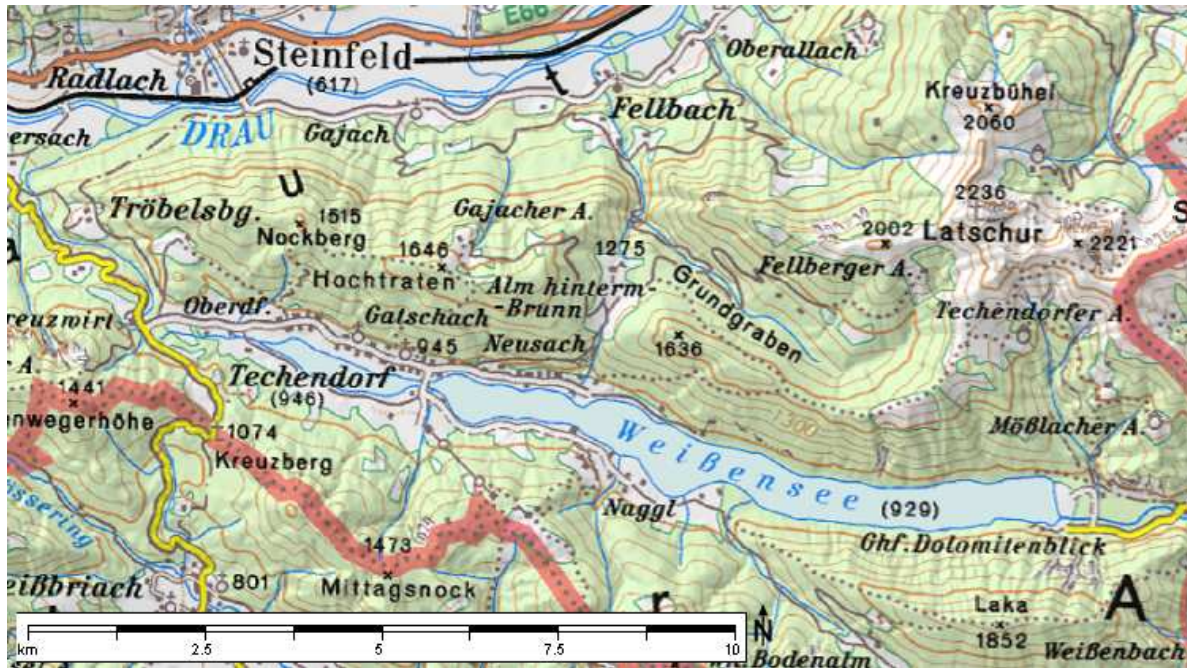


Visitor Center GeoPark Carnic Alps 9635 Dellach im Gailtal 65
Telefon: 04718-301 33 E-Mail: office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at Home: www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at

Geotope 1. Weißensee – The Crystal-Clear.



©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement 2005

Access:

By car from the Gail Valley (City of Hermagor or Windische Höhe) or from the Drau Valley (e.g., Community Greifenburg).

Description of the Geotope



The 930 m high Weißensee represents the highest swimming lake in the Alps. It covers an area of 6.5 km² with a maximum depth of 99 m. The lake was formed during the last Ice Age (approx. 70,000 to 10,000 years BP) when the Alpine valleys were filled by glaciers.

The eastward moving ice carved the underlying soft bedrocks until a narrow trough was formed. After the ice had melted this trough was filled by crystal-clear mountain water forming the Weißensee of today.

Some geological details: North of the lake limestones and dolomites of Triassic age (250 to 205 Mio. y. BP) are exposed. Close to the lake, however, softer shales occur. South of the lake the mountains are composed of the Upper Triassic Hauptdolomit Formation.