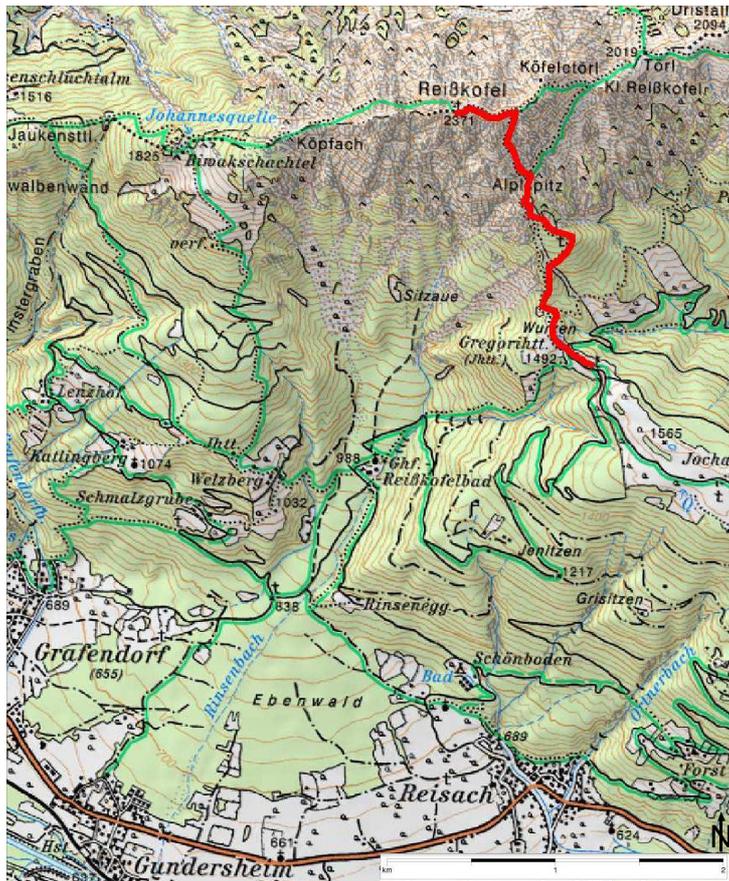


Geotope 57: Reißkofelrinne – A Legendary Landmark



Red marking: Hiking route according to advance description; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

Access:

A road to Jochalm starts at the village of Grafendorf where the trail no.235 to the summit of mountain Reißkofel (2,371 m) begins. Close to the top the crest is very exposed and should not be traversed by those who have no experience in climbing.

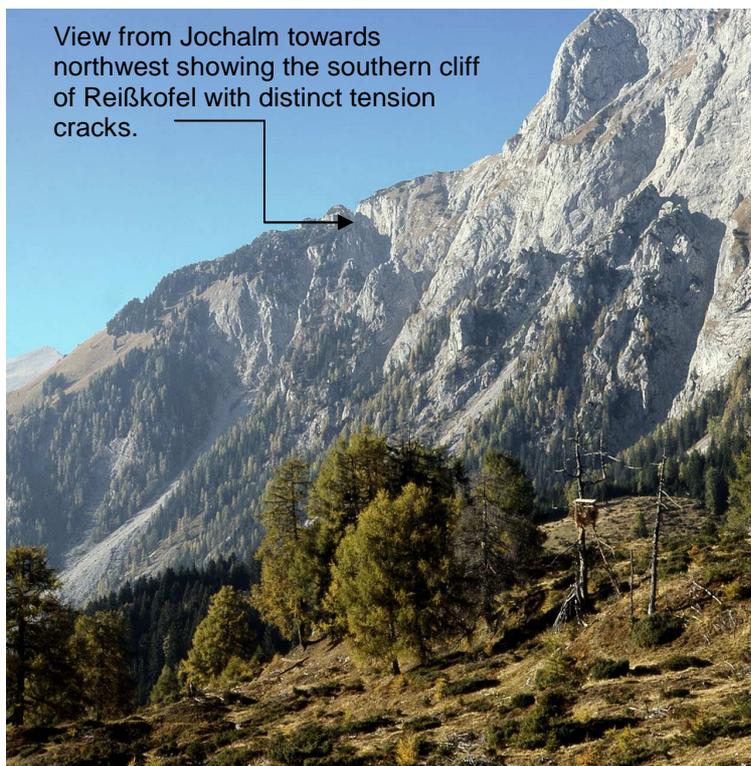
Description of the Geotope

Mountain Reißkofel represents a true landmark of the upper Gail Valley. The mighty limestone and dolomite mountain dominates not only the scenery but has also affected the immediate surrounding by the huge alluvial fan between the villages of Reisach and Grafendorf. Mass movements, faulting and the Rinsen creek are



View from Oberbuchach to Reißkofel with typical hay barn.

equally responsible for the debris. The base of Reißkofel is composed of relatively soft and intensively foliated schists like gneisses, micaschists, slates and clastic rocks of Permian age. They are distributed along the southernmost Gailtal Alps in the Lesach Valley and between Kötschach and Hermagor. In the Reißkofel region they occur from the floor of the valley up to an altitude of some 1,600 m. These relatively “soft” rocks are overlain by the “hard” limestones and dolomites of Triassic age (250 to 205 m.y. BP). The boundary between both rock types is a distinct fault zone affecting the adjacent rocks which exhibit intense deformation, vertical dipping and loosening. The fault zone can be followed south



View from Jochalm towards northwest showing the southern cliff of Reißkofel with distinct tension cracks.

of the main crest of Reißkofel. Along this head-scarp the southern exposures of Reißkofel are separated from the main limestone block by forming distinct tension cracks, many loose blocks and rich debris. This material is further transported by the Rinsen creek which during normal weather is a small rivulet but can become a torrential river by heavy precipitation. The biggest alluvial fan of the Gailtal clearly

documents the power of such heavy events.