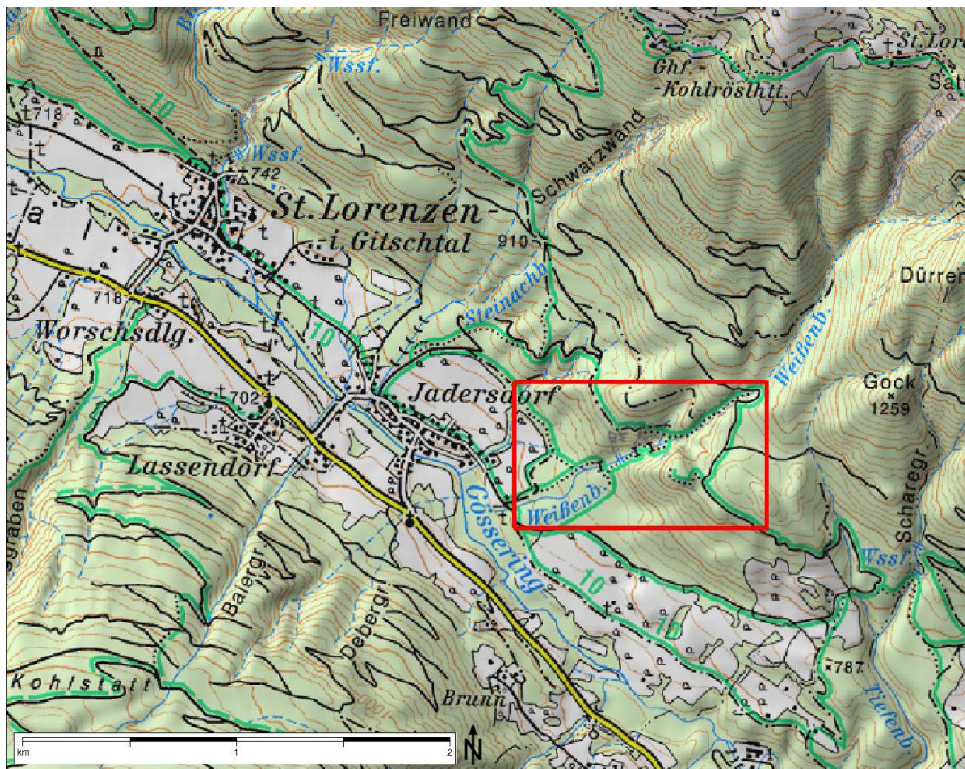


Visitor Center GeoPark Carnic Alps 9635 Dellach im Gailtal 65  
Telefon: 04718-301 33 E-Mail: [office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at](mailto:office@geopark-karnische-alpen.at) Home: [www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at](http://www.geopark-karnische-alpen.at)

## ***Geotope 9. Weißenbach Gorge – The Undiscovered***



Red square: location of the Geotope; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

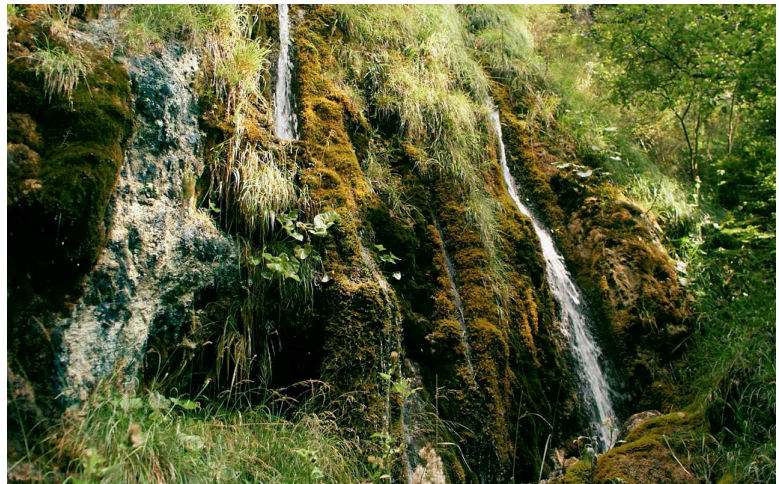
### Access:

The beginning of the gorge is northeast of the village of Jadersdorf.

## Description of the Geotope

It is unbelievable that the small creek running through the gorge was responsible for this impressive gorge. It is incised into Triassic limestones and dolomites with an age of some 230 million years BP. They are called Wetterstein Limestone at the beginning, followed by Wetterstein Dolomite and Partnach Formation.

The partly steep trail passes moos-covered travertine on the surface of the forementioned rocks. It may stop abruptly at the beginning of a rock-wall where a ladder



helps visitors to climb over some rocky steps. Then some trees cover the floor and act like an umbrella to protect the hikers from too much sunshine. Along the tour several small springs can be found suggesting subsurface waterways which dissect the carbonate rocks. Most of these springs are surrounded by travertine occurrences.

For those who are interested in more details: How was travertine formed?

Travertine is formed by precipitation of minerals dissolved in water, e.g. calcium, flowing slowly over the surface of different rocks and plants, e.g. mosses. As a result thin crusts and highly porous coatings are formed which are often used as decorative rocks. Newly formed travertine, however, is very soft and breaks easily. Calc-sinter is generated similar but is less porous.