



Highlights

Visitor Center
Dellach/Gail
80 Geotopes
6 Geotrails
Lake Wolayer
Kellerwand Cliff
Cellon-Avalanche Gully
Mauthen Gorge
Petrified Forest of Laas
Lake Zollner
Gurina
Naßfeld-Krone
Garnitzen Gorge
Vorderberg Gorge
Weißbach Gorge

Where is the Geopark?

The 827 km² Geopark is located in the southwest of the Province of Carinthia at the border to Italy. It comprises the Carnic Alps, the Gailtal Alps and the southern parts of the Lienz Dolomites. The mountain chains with altitudes up to 2800 m including the Gail and Lesachtal Valleys in between extend in east-west direction from the city of Villach in Middle Carinthia to the border of Eastern Tyrol.

Geological Features

Since the beginning of the 19th century this region has attracted Earth scientists from all over the world. The natural treasures not only comprise rock formations containing up to 500 million years old marine and terrestrial fossils but also numerous natural monuments like several hundred meter high vertical limestone cliffs, quiet mountain lakes, mystical canyons and spectacular waterfalls.

In the Geopark about 80 geologically interesting localities (Geotopes) can be explored along six thematic trails (Geotrails). In addition, the innovative Visitor Center in the community of Dellach/Gail can be visited. Among others, geologically interesting features are

- numerous documents (rocks and fossils) from the Palaeozoic Era
- the Periadriatic Line separating the Southern from the Northern Alps
- remains of the historic mining
- Quaternary deposits from the last Ice Age.

The scenic cultural landscape is characterized by an exemplary settlement pattern, Natura 2000 areas like the Gail Gorge in the Lesach Valley, and protected landscapes as well as natural monuments, e.g. the Pressegger Lake or the Petrified Forest of Laas.


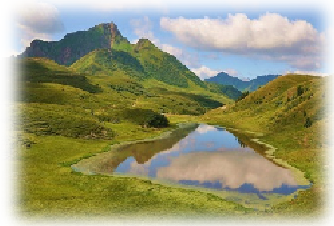



Archaeological treasures are the outstanding discoveries from the Venetian and Roman times at Gurina overlooking the community of Dellach/Gail.

The extraordinarily designed interior of the Visitor Center contains a remarkable selection of up to 500 million years old rocks and fossils. They are unique for the whole Alps. Based on modern presentation and placement services like live transmission to Earthquakes, video presentations and interactive animations different visitor groups are addressed and invited to in- and outdoor activities.

The main focus of the Geopark is placed on publicity for the region, raising awareness and protection of the geological heritage.



Aktivitäten und Choices

<p>Petrified Forest of Laas</p>		<p>Petrified Forest – Geology live In the surroundings of Laas garnet-bearing mica schists and gneisses represent the basement rocks. They are unconformably overlain by the typical red rocks of Lower Permian age named Laas and Gröden Formations, respectively. The latter are succeeded by limestones and dolomites which comprise the main Gailtal Alps and were formed between 250 and 200 million years ago. Most famous are the 290 million years old petrified trees near the historic electric power plant.</p>
<p>Geotrail Lake Zollner</p>		<p>Mysteries of an Alpine landscape Lake Zollner is an easily accessible and popular hiking area characterized by quiet moorland, gently rolling hills and craggy mountain peaks. To understand the geological history of the Carnic Alps, a distinct angular contact between two rocks from different epochs of Earth's history displays a key element of mountain building processes.</p>
<p>Geotrail Garnitzen Gorge</p>		<p>Massive forces at work In the U and V-shaped Garnitzen Gorge one can walk along a roaring emerald green brook, passing fascinating and colourful rocks and cliffs and joining the water which has deeply eroded shales, limestones and gravel. The trail continues along the Garnitzen creek to the Garnitzenalm south of mountain Gartnerkofel.</p>
<p>Geotrail Naßfeld</p>		<p>Along fossil-rich seashores The Naßfeld area represents one of the geologically most famous areas of Europe. There is no other place to encounter such abundant terrestrial plant and marine animal occurrences from the Upper Carboniferous epoch some 300 million years ago. Marked hiking trails connect the easily accessible outcrops.</p>
<p>Geotrail Lake Wolayer</p>		<p>Walking on the seafloor In the surroundings of Lake Wolayer the oldest fossil-bearing strata of the whole Alps are found. You can walk over limestone slabs containing large cephalopods (squids), corals, sea-lillies, snails, bivalves, trilobites and others. The cliffs of Hohe Warte, Seewarte and mountain Seekopf even comprise reef and lagoonal deposits formed during the Devonian Period some 400 million years ago. To the east the slopes of mountain Rauchkofel are composed of up to 500 million years old rocks.</p>

