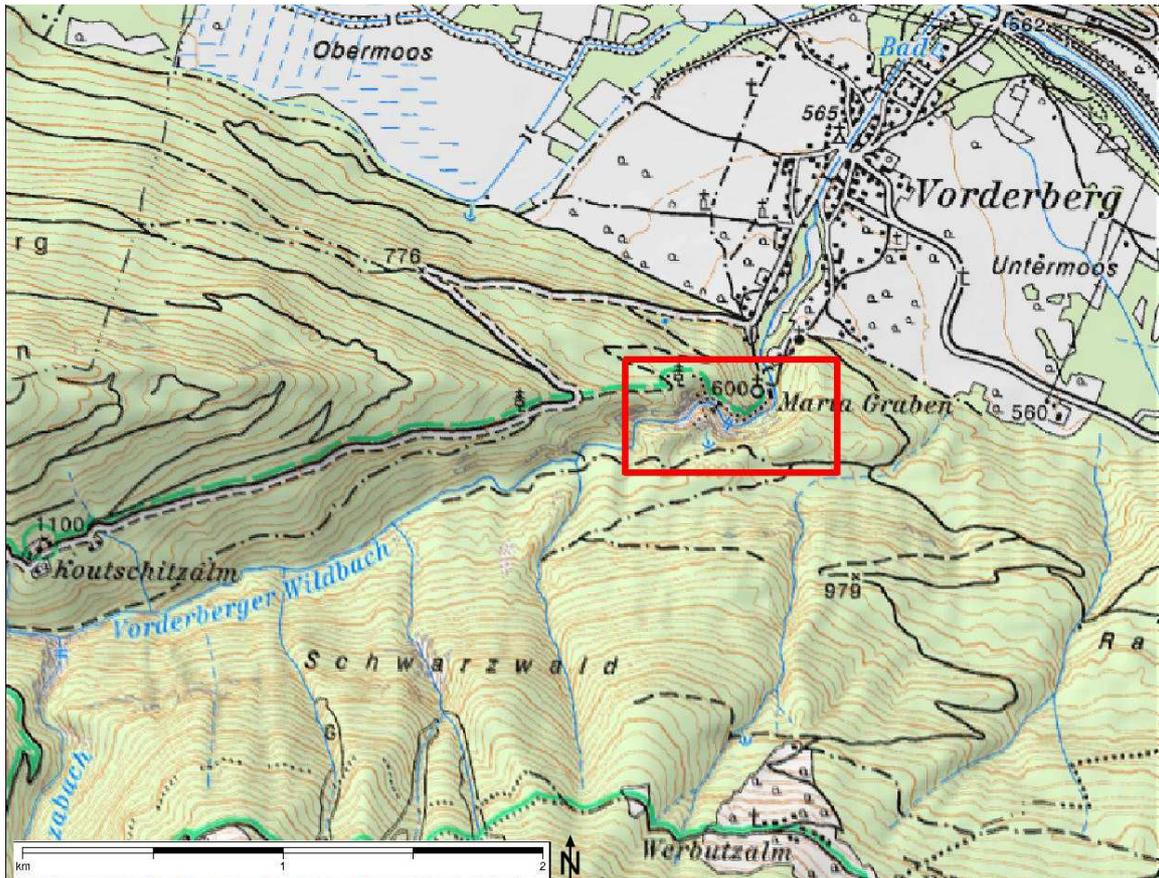


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Geotope 7. Vorderberg Gorge – The Exciting



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

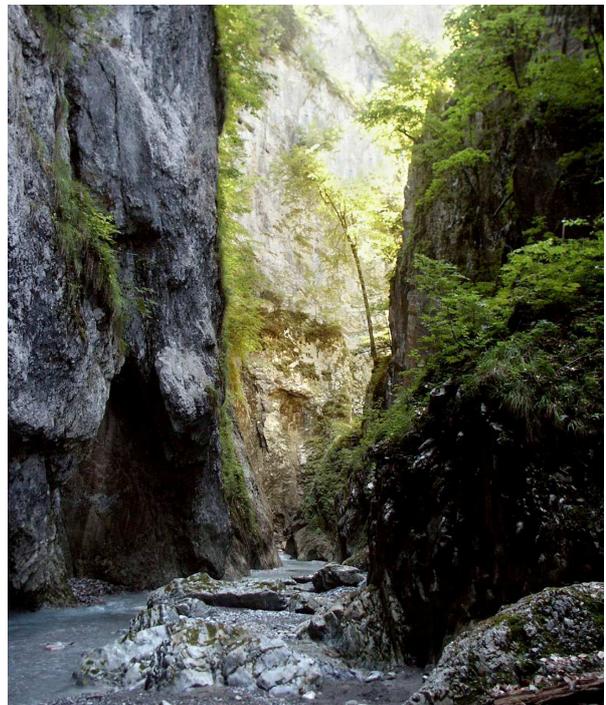
Access:

The entrance to the gorge can be reached from the village of Vorderberg in southern direction to the church „Maria Graben“.

Description of the Geotope

The gorge is only accessible over a distance of some 300 m, nevertheless this part is most impressive. At the beginning the visitor faces an almost black rockhole which was eroded by the flowing water in the surrounding banded limestones. The closer one comes the more the gorge is widening to an incision with vertical and even overhanging walls which seem to block the water. However, the water passes over all barriers either as waterfalls, polished limestones or over a gravel deposit.

The rocks exposed in the gorge are banded limestones, i.e. weakly metamorphosed and deformed limestones originating from the Devonian Period (420 to 360 million years BP). They were involved in lateral displacements which occurred along the Periadriatic Fault Zone during the Oligocene. According to tectonic analysis (and models) crustal wedges north of this fault were displaced over several kilometers to the east. This movement caused the striations on the surface of the banded limestones.



Beginning of the gorge south of the village of Vorderberg.