

# PRESS RELEASE: Activities of the GeoPark Carnic Alps

The approx. 830 km<sup>2</sup> big Geopark Carnic Alps in southern Austria extends from the community of Feistritz/Gail in the east to the community of Maria Luggau in the west and from the state border in the south to Lake Weißensee in the north. It comprises the whole District of Hermagor and includes the Carnic Alps, the Gailtal Alps, the southern Lienz Dolomites and the Gail Valley.

The aim of the Geopark is to raise awareness for its distinctive geoscientific features, beauties and relationships and to disseminate these values to the broad public, local residents and guests to foster economic wealth of the region.

The Geopark is based on outdoor activities (some 80 accessible Geotopes, 5 Geotrails and guided tours) and Indoor activities in the more than 120 m<sup>2</sup> big Visitor Center in Dellach.

## **Outdoor-Activities of the Geopark Carnic Alps**

### *Five new Geotrails*

In 2012 the Geopark Carnic Alps has opened 5 revised and newly established Geotrails which are designed as pictorial panels with trilingual text (ger., engl., it.) to make 500 million years Earth history alive. Puzzles are included to make the journey through time even more exciting for kids.

The new Geotrail Guide contains additional informations!

- The Geotrail Lake Wolayer is characterized by a great variety of marine fossils from the Ordovician to the Devonian Periods;
- The Geotrail Laas, a nice cosy walk leads to the longest petrified tree of Austria and conveys along several cultural monuments the importance of geology in our daily life;

- The Geotrail Lake Zöllner with its gentle hills, quiet moors and the jewellery of Lake Zöllner are telling the story about the formation of this unique landscape;
- The Geotrail Naßfeld represents an ancient coastal bay which has now become an up-lifted land area. There, a highly diversified fossil fauna and flora from the expanding Tethys Ocean occurs which later became the birthplace of the Alps;
- The Geotrail Garnitzen Gorge permits a glance at the subsurface of an orogen and fascinates by its colourful polished rock formations exposed in the roaring Garnitzen Creek.

(In this list is not included the Geotrail Plöckenpass established in the year 1988. This trail is still open for visitors and leads from the Pass to the Cellon avalanche gully. Since all older panels dated from 1988 were redesigned and newly adapted, it is also intended to replace the old panels of the Geotrail Plöckenpass in a new layout and design in the coming years).