

Geotope 2. Bodensee – The Friendly Lakes



Access:

Road from the village of Tröpolach to Naßfeld. The small and big Bodensee are located close to the main road about half the distance from Tröpolach to Naßfeld.

Description of the Geotope

The two lakes are located in the centre of an area characterized by a huge rockslide. The individual house-sized boulders rest upon rocks of the Upper Carboniferous Auernig Formation which mainly comprise shales and quartz-conglomerates with intercalations of limestones. These rocks are water-impermeable and tend to creep slowly downwards leaving distinct traces in the slopes.

The small basin of the lakes are the result of the last Ice Age (some 70,000 to 10,000 years BP) when this area was subject to glacial erosion leaving a ground moraine on the lakes bottom. The sediments of the latter formed an impermeable horizon for the water. Both lakes are spring-fed between the boulder beds and the landslide of the mountain Gartnerkofel. While the western Bodensee exhibits an area of some 6,000 m², the lake to the east is much smaller. Originally, both lakes were apparently connected and later separated by debris from the Reppwand Cliff.



Bodensee exhibiting clearly clayish sediments covering the lake bottom.