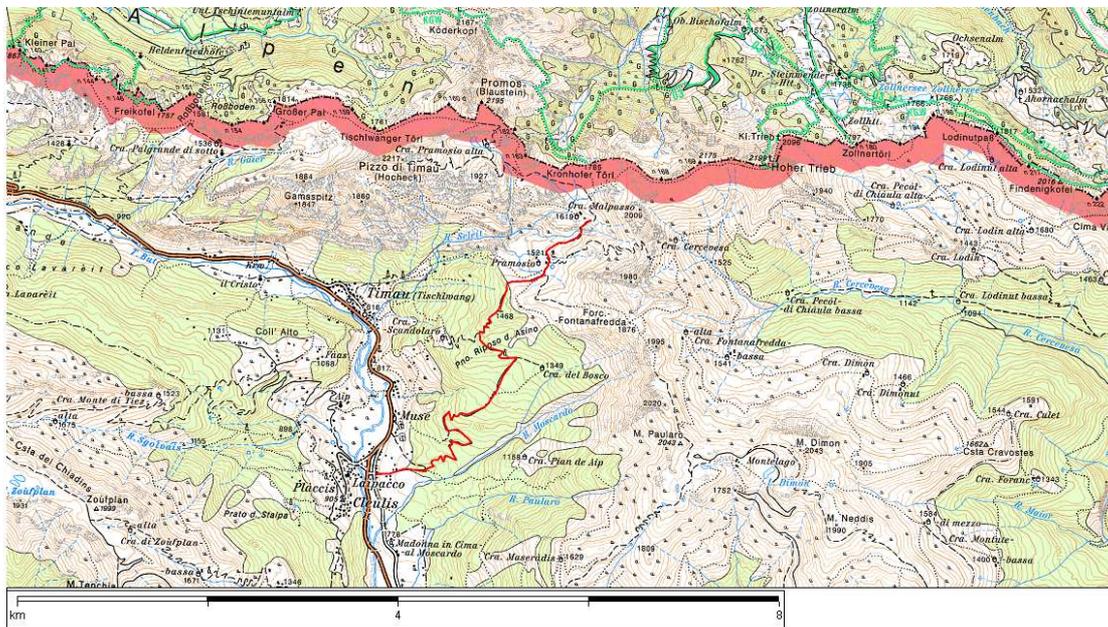


## Geotope 43: Casera Malpasso – The Relatives of Nautilus



Red marking: Hiking route according to advance description; green tracks: hiking trails; ©BEV: Federal Office for Calibration and Measurement, 2005.

### Access:

There are two possibilities to access this locality. The first one is from the small village of Weidenburg through the Kronhof Creek, Lower Bischofalm and Promos Saddle to Casera Malpasso close to Promos Alm (1,524 m); the second is by car via the villages of Timau and Cleulis on a bad road to Promos Alm and further on to Casera Malpasso at an altitude of 1,619 m.

## Description of the Geotope

The Geotope is located near a small flat plane which ends at a low hillside composed of bedded greyish cephalopod limestones. In the uppermost beds ammonoids of Upper Devonian age (420 to 360 m.y. BP) occur rather abundantly. They belong to the clymeniids, i.e. an extinct group of Devonian cephalopods. The genus *Nautilus*, living today in the Indic Ocean, represents a distant relative of this group. The coiled clymeniids with their interior siphuncle and body chambers have a diameter between 2 and 4 cm which was much smaller than any ammonites from the Triassic and Jurassic reaching sizes of more than 2 meters. Nevertheless they were excellent guide fossils during the Devonian Period due to their rapid evolution. For example, this short limestone section has provided more than 20 index species during the last 20 years.



Limestone slab with clymeniids derived from above Promos Alm.