

Karawanken- Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark

GEOPARKKARAWANKEN|KARAVANKE
In Stein geschriebene Geheimnisse
Skrivnosti zapisane v kamninah



Highlights:
*Obir Dripstone
caves*

*Underground
Kayaking*

*Underground
Biking*

*Trögerner Klamm
Gorge*

*Wildensteiner
Waterfall*

*Vulkan-mountain
Smrekovec*

*Petzen/Mt. Peca
Hemmaberg*

Where I find the Geopark?

The Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark is a crossborder Geopark connected and divided by the mountain range with the same name.

The Geopark is located between two Alpine mountains that exceed 2,000 metres: The Petzen/Peca and the Koschuta. 14 Municipalities from Austria and Slovenia form the area of the Karawanken-Karavanke UNESCO Global Geopark.

Our information centre "World of geology" is located in the south of Austria, in town Bad Eisenkappel, in state Carinthia.






Stonerich: A first look at the Geopark

The Geopark's geological history is very long. The oldest stone formations in the area date from around 500 million years ago. The area has a rich mining, iron, and coal mining tradition. The Geopark, with its millions of years of history, has many interesting stories to tell. The Karavanke are a young mountain range. They are located at the interface of the European and the Adriatic continental plates. The main tectonic element that traverses the Karavanke is the Periadriatic Seam. It represents the tectonic shift running from east to west, separating the northern parts from the southern parts of the Karavanke. The Karavanke are largely built of limestones and dolomites of the Mesozoic. Magmatic rocks such as granite, diorite, tonalite, and metamorphic rocks can be found along the Periadriatic Seam.

Until now, 48 geosites and 14 Geopark localities have been registered in the Geopark area. Due to the strong karst of the region, there are beautiful caves, cliffs, quarries and as well a mysterious Karst-mountain - the Petzen, with visible traces from the Ice Age.



Activities and offers

<p>OBIR DRIPSTONE CAVES www.hoehlen.at/en/</p>		<p>The fascination of the Obir Caves is created by the incomparable mix of nature and man, with the symbiosis of 200 million years of history and modern technology. The caves were discovered in 1870 when miners went on a search for lead and zinc. The living dripstones in the caves are a rarity in Europe. The caves are located at 1,078 metres above sea level and offer a panoramic view. The temperature in the caves is a constant 8 °C. The Obir Dripstone Caves can only be reached with cave buses that regularly take visitors to the entrance of the caves. Only a guided tour is possible.</p>
<p>UNDERGROUND KAYAKING www.podzemljepece.com</p>		<p>Visitors board a real mine train that runs through the 3.5-kilometre long Glančnik tunnel to a sloping tunnel called Unionski Vpadnik. From here, you go down a flight of stairs (95 m) which leads to the water. At this point, the visitors get the necessary personal protective equipment (neoprene shoes, life jackets, and mining helmets with headlamps). Special kayaks for three people already await you in the flooded tunnel. The guide takes the visitors to a small underground river leading to a magical underground lake which is almost 700 m below the surface. Here, visitors can enjoy the quiet and pristine water, as well as explore the underground labyrinth and the flooded tunnels and excavations.</p>
<p>UNDERGROUND BIKING www.podzemljepece.com</p>		<p>The bike ride begins after you are greeted by your guide in front of the Geopark Karavanke Information Centre in Glančnik/Mežica. An experienced guide safely takes you from one valley to another on the underground route that is more than 5 kilometres long. After the bike tour, you leave the mine in Breg in Mežica. From there, about a 1.5-kilometre long downhill to the starting point in Glančnik awaits you.</p>
<p>GEOTRAIL TRÖGERNER KLAMM GORGE www.geopark-karawanken.com</p>		<p>The Trögerner Klamm Geotrail is easily accessible.</p> <p>Length: 3 km Walking time: 1.5 hours Refreshments: refreshment station at the end of the gorge</p> <p>At the end of the gorge, a semi-natural water playground has been created. The Trögerner Gorge was formed by the erosive power of water like all other gorges. The canyon, which is around 3 kilometres long, was formed by water cutting through the Schlern dolomite. Furthermore, you can discover many colourful rocks in the stream bed, deposited here due to the proximity of the Periadriatic Seam.</p>
<p>GEOTRAIL MELA KOSCHUTA www.geopark-karawanken.com</p>		<p>Length: 10 km (round trip) Height difference: 850 m Walking time: 6 hours Refreshments: The Terkl Bauer Inn</p> <p>By car, you drive to Zell/Freibach to the Terkl Bauer Inn where you turn in the direction of Bad Eisenkappel – Schaida and drive for about 100 metres, then turn right again to the sports field. The climb through the beautiful beech forest takes you to the Potoksattel Pass where you can see the impressive Potokgraben. You soon reach a redesigned shelter which includes detailed information about the geological features of stratification and crashes. When crossing the rocky wilderness of the Mela Koschuta karst, the fault zone becomes visible, extending from the Koschuta towards the Potokgraben.</p>

