

Master plan for the GeoPark

Recently the GeoPark started to draw a master plan, which has the aim to define the general strategy and to describe specific arrangements in the area. The master plan and the integrated marketing strategy is created in our association office supported by the University of Applied Science in Nürtingen and the University of Tübingen. One of the main aims are a better perception and a higher visibility of the GeoPark in the broad public. Next arrangements are the publication of the „Cave guide“ including all visitor caves on the Swabian Alb, a special journal issue about the GeoPark, the conceptional design of a soil infocentre and the setting of a geotope cadastre of the Swabian Alb.

Country park „Young Danube“

The „young“ Danube between Donaueschingen and Sigmaringen geologically and scenically is a unique region. The valley can be divided into the Baartal nerby Donaueschingen, the ‚leaching valley‘ starting at Geisingen and the cross valley from Fridingen to Sigmaringen. The municipalities alongside the young Danube aiming to use these natural capabilities for the forthcoming of the region. Between Immendingen and Möhringen the National Geotop „Donauversinkung“ ‚Danube leaching‘ (see below) appears, and by numerous arrangements the Geotop gets a touristic upgrading. The GeoPark Swabian Alb is a partner of the project ‚Danube leaching‘ contributing to the topics geotop protection, environmental education and geotourism.



Treasures of the Ice Age in Blaubeuren

On 18 May 2014 the Museum of Prehistory in Blaubeuren (URMU) celebrated its reopening. In the extended and redesigned URMU unique art objects of the Ice Age such as the returned „Venus of the Hohle Fels“ are presented in new treasure rooms.



In the entrance hall now the tourist office of Blaubeuren is located. There you can find an infocentre of our GeoPark.

Geopark Porphyryland in Saxonia

The Geopark movement is booming: themed „Filthy rich in Saxonia“ the Geopark Porphyryland represents one of the biggest volcanic areas in middle Europe, in this case from the Rotliegend era 300 Mio. years ago. At the moment three „Geoportals“ (visitor centres) are the starting point for trips in the landscape, and this on defined geo-routes. One focus of the geopark lays on education: excursions and junior ranger trainings are two of a bulk of attractive offers.



Geotop protection

In contrast to the biosphere the basis of life, the rock, is still unattended, even within the natural protection politics. The existence and weathering of rock prior to the settling of plants and animals is one of the main factors of soil formation, the rock mass an essential location for water retention. From the 1990ies geological services and regional authorities struggling for the protection of geotops, though with limited success. With a concept of geotop management the GeoPark is opposing this deficit. Based on the geotop cadastre of the Authority of Geology, Mining and Raw Materials in Freiburg (LGRB), and together with the LGRB a detailed assembly with the most important Geotops on the Swabian Alb, their condition, their need of protection and their preservation will be established later being available for the public. Since the GeoPark aims to built also a network with scientific institutions geotop mapping with students from universities are carried out. Questions of geotourism on the Swabian Alb are in the centre of discussions with the Forest Academy in Rottenburg; for the future we plan common contributions on national and international conferences.

++ [Soil of the year](#) ++ [34. EGN Meeting Harz](#) ++ [International UNESCO conference](#) ++