

**ONE BILLION YEARS OF EARTH HISTORY AND 30.000 YEARS OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.  
„KULTURPARK - KAMPTAL“ - A TOURIST-PROJECT AT THE SE EDGE OF THE BOHEMIAN-MASSIVE, AUSTRIA.**

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The southeastern edge of the Bohemian Massive, a rolling country side, is geologically characterised by various tectonic units made up by crystalline and sedimentary rocks of Proterozoic, Paleozoic and Cenozoic age. The first traces of human settlements and cultural relict date back to 30.000 years B.P. - which points to the long and continuous settlement history and cultural tradition of this region.

The weak industrial development of this area and the decreasing agriculture, but rich natural and cultural heritage of this region convinced the development agency of Lower Austria „ECOPLUS“ to fund a regional geologic-prehistoric-historic cultural project to develop tourism. The project was named after the main river Kamp „Kulturpark Kamptal“.

In this project the long lasting geologic history and the intensive geologic scientific tradition provide some of the fundamental elements: This geologic history formed the base of the geomorphologic evolution of this landscape over the past one billion year, its floristic and faunistic history is documented by fossils and finally this geologic evolution provided and still provides the basic natural resources used by the early settlers as well as by the present population in terms of minerals, stones and agriculture and finally triggered the cultural evolution.

For the visiting tourist a primary introduction to this geologic evolution of this region is provided in a new and modern exposition at the Krahuletz Museum in Eggenburg. The „red thread“ of this basic museum information follows the line from the wealth of the minerals of this region to topics like minerals from rocks and rocks from the landscape, respectively rocks are the mediators between the lithosphere and the biosphere expressed by the development of various soils. This geologic exposition is illustrated by exceptional mineral, rock and fossil specimens, explanatory texts and pictures as well models and „do it yourself“ stations.

After a visit to this exposition the touristic visitor is prepared to explore and follow the geologic history of this region himself throughout the landscape. Scattered over the entire region of the „Kulturpark“ area he will find at selected outcrops and fieldstations special explanations and small expositions which offer the story of this specific point and the possibility to collect minerals, rocks and fossils. With his finds he can come back to the Krahuletz Museum and try determine his finds by himself at the „do it yourself stations“.

The book „Erdgeschichte des Waldviertels“, which is available already in its second edition, provides a profound geologic general view.

Literature:

FRIESINGER, H., STEININGER, F. F. & HASLINGER, H., 1994: Kulturpark Kamptal. - Denkmalpflege N.Ö., 13: 30-41.

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