



## Mid-conference fieldtrip

*September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

### Field trip itinerary

- Departure: Riva del Garda (7.30 a.m.)
- Short stop: Pinzolo – San Vigilio Church - a cultural-historical site
- Final destination: Madonna di Campiglio - arrival at 10.30 am - Cable Car
- Easy walk to Lago Ritorto and downhill
- Departure for return to Riva del Garda at 3.00 pm

*Return trip with no additional stops.*

## The historical site of the San Vigilio Church in Pinzolo (by M.G. Fellin)



*Photo by V. Olivetti*

The church was built likely in the 10th century. The first documents that mention the church date back to October 28<sup>th</sup>, 1232 and they report on the damages to the site caused by flooding.

The frescos on the northern side of the church are organized on three levels and they were painted at different times by different artists. The highest level of frescos depicts the “Danza Macabra”, or Danse Macabre. This is an artistic genre allegory of the Late Middle Ages on the universality of death, meant as a “memento mori”, to remind people of the fragility of life. The Danza Macabra in Pinzolo was painted by Simone II Baschenis da Averara (Lombardy, Italy) in 1539 and it is almost 20 m long.

The interior of the Church is also covered with frescos that represent the life of San Vigilio, the patron of this church.

San Vigilio is a martyr, patron and third bishop of Trento in the IV century. Vigilius was Roman, educated in Athen and settled in Trento as bishop with the task to convert the local population to the Christian religion. At the time, in this part of the Alps the most common devotion was to Neptune and Saturn that are roman deities. Vigilius was assisted in his evangelical mission by two of his brothers and three companions from Cappadocia: Sisinni, Martyrii and Alexandri. His three companions were killed in 397 by the people of the neighboring valley Val di Non. Vigilius was stoned to death in the Rendena Valley as a punishment for having overturned the statue of Saturn into the Sarca river. Ironically, the god Neptune stands as a statue in the center of the main square of Trento, in front of the dome that holds Vigilius's shrine.

### First world war memorial

This memorial, located in the cemetery next to the San Vigilio church, commemorates the local soldiers that died during the first world war as Trentino was still part of the Austria-Hungary Empire. This memorial summarizes the complexities of a long history. The inscription at the top “Costretti a pugnare contro l’oppressore” dates back to the 1920/1930s, when the fascists ruled Italy and reads “forced to battle for the oppressor”, implying as oppressor the Austria-Hungary Empire. The commemorative plaque at the feet for the 1<sup>st</sup> centenary affirms the loyalty of the soldiers to Austria.



Photo by V. Olivetti

### The fratricidal war in Trentino

Trentino or Welsh-Tyrol includes Riva del Garda, Pinzolo, Madonna di Campiglio and the Adamello Group. During the first world war, the front line between Italy and the Austria-Hungary Empire crossed this region from the Tonale Pass to the north, along the Adamello peaks towards the south until the lake Idro, and from here to the east across Riva del Garda, Rovereto and the Altopiani of Lavarone and Asiago. Casualties on both sides of the front sum up to about 400'000. One of the main consequences of the war was that Trentino became part of Italy after centuries of Austrian indirect and direct domain. In particular, the war in Trentino was literally fratricidal as the language and the culture in Trentino have the largest affinities with the Italian culture rather than the German one. In fact, during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as Italy was unifying and becoming a nation through a number of wars, Trentino could not be conquered by Italy. However, many people in Trentino, especially among the cultural elite, advocated the return to Italy of the Italian-speaking districts of Trentino. One of the most famous irredentists of Trentino was Cesare Battisti, who joined the Italian army as Italy entered the First World War in 1915. He and other irredentist companions were captured by the Austrians, trialed and executed for high treason in Trento in 1916. However, irredentist feelings were common but not prevailing among the Trentino people. Many felt that the Augsburg emperor was likely a better ruler than the Savoia king, the king of Italy, and they did not perceive Italy as their homeland despite the cultural affinities. Such sentiments were not uncommon among the farmers that were conscripted into the Austrian army as the war started. When Italy declared war to Austria, a year after its start, the majority of the conscripted soldiers in Trentino were moved to the front with Russia as they were not trusted to fight against their fellow Italians. They died by the thousands on the eastern front or were captured by the Russians. As the civil war began in Russia, the Trentino soldiers were stranded there and when the war ended, they were still officially Austrian prisoner soldiers although their homeland had been transferred to Italy. Many conscripted soldiers died as Austrian soldiers with pro-Austria sentiments but for decades, especially during the fascism, such facts could not be openly affirmed.

## **A brief summary of the history of Trentino**

Trentino has always been a border country between the Germanic world to the north and the Italian/Roman one to the south. For centuries, from about the 10th century to the Napoleonic era, Trentino was ruled by the prince-bishop of Trento. The prince-bishop obtained from the Holy Roman Empire, that despite its name was centered in Germany, the right to rule autonomously a territory, which largely corresponds to the modern Trentino, but not to own an army. Thus, the Trento prince-bishop needed military backup initially from the Holy Roman Emperor and later from the Augsburg, which ruled Austria. However, as a Bishop, he had also to respond to the Pope in Rome. After the Napoleonic era, Trentino was ruled directly by the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

The historical event, which most symbolically represents the place in history of Trentino as a border country, is the Council of Trento in 1545 and 1563. This was prompted by the Protestant Reformation in Germany and has been described as the embodiment of the Counter-Reformation. This council issued the key statement and clarifications of the Catholic Church's doctrine and teaching that were affirmed for the next three hundreds year until 1869. This was when the next ecumenical council was first held.

## **Detailed itinerary in Madonna di Campiglio**

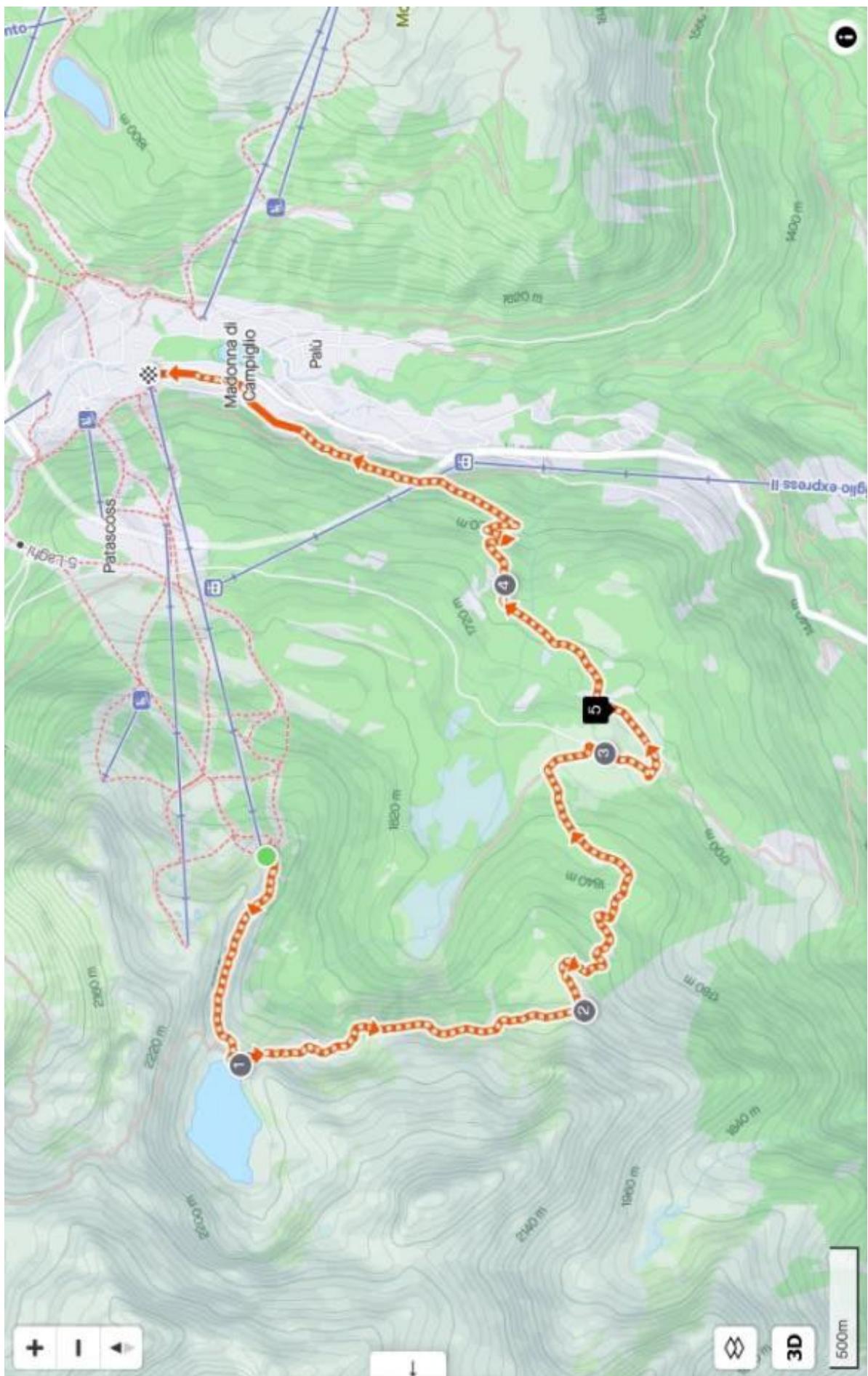
- Departure from Madonna di Campiglio with the Cable car "Cinque Laghi" (Five Lakes) to "Rifugio Cinque Laghi" (Five Lakes Hut): about 15 minutes ride
- At the top of the cable car, a short introduction to the regional and local geology and geo-thermochronology will be delivered by M.G. Fellin: ~ 10 minutes
- Walk to Lake Ritorto and then to Malga Ritorto
- At the Lake Ritorto explanation by Marco Malusà
- Packed Lunch to eat on the way at pleasure
- Walk down to Madonna di Campiglio at the bottom station of the cable car Cinque Laghi
- Departure to Riva del Garda at 3.00 pm

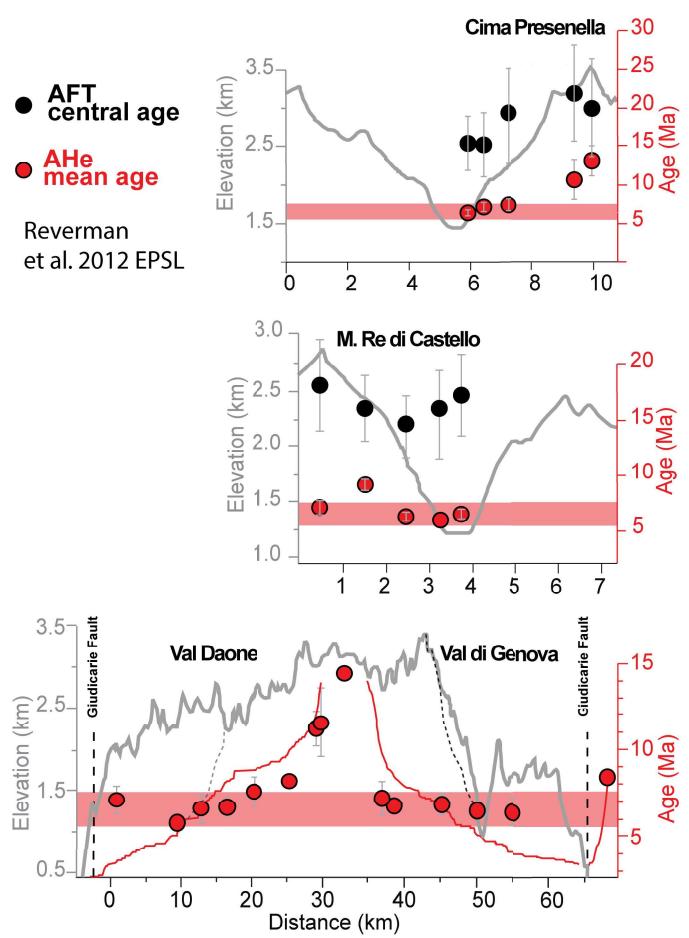
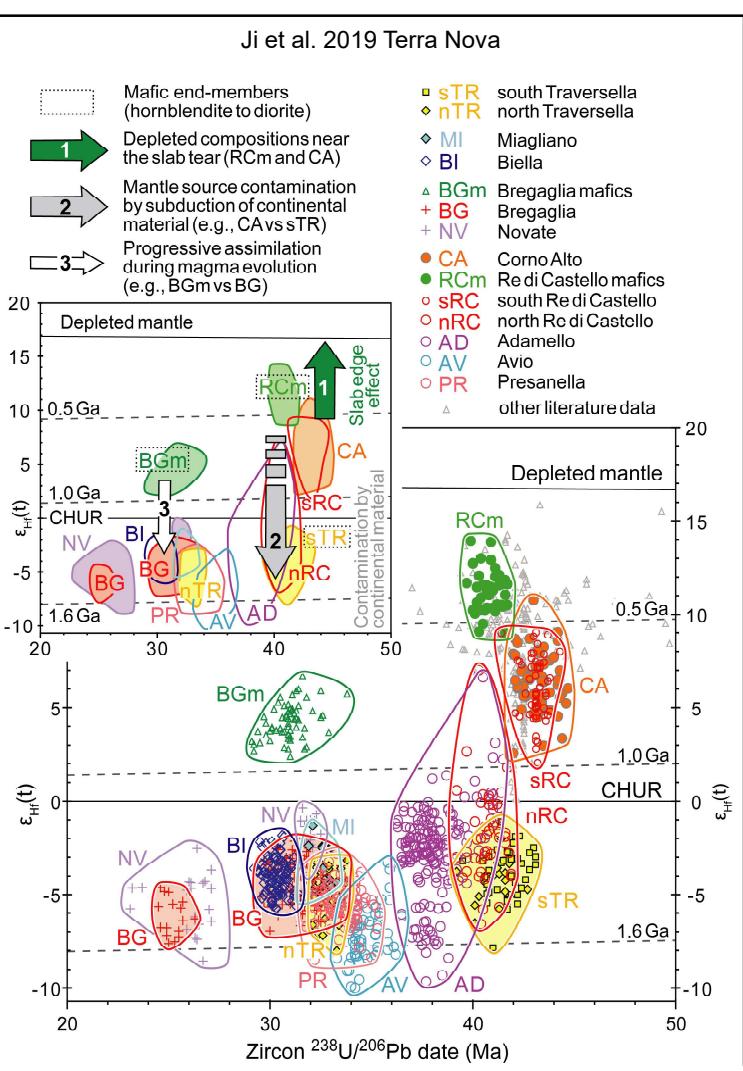
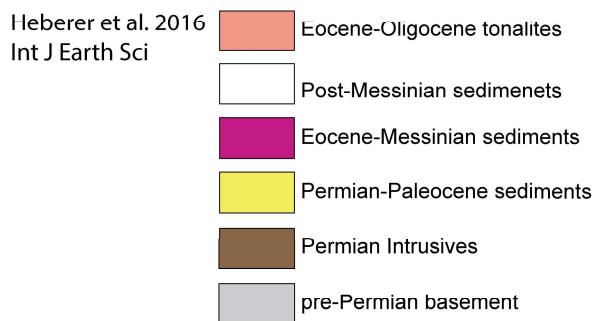
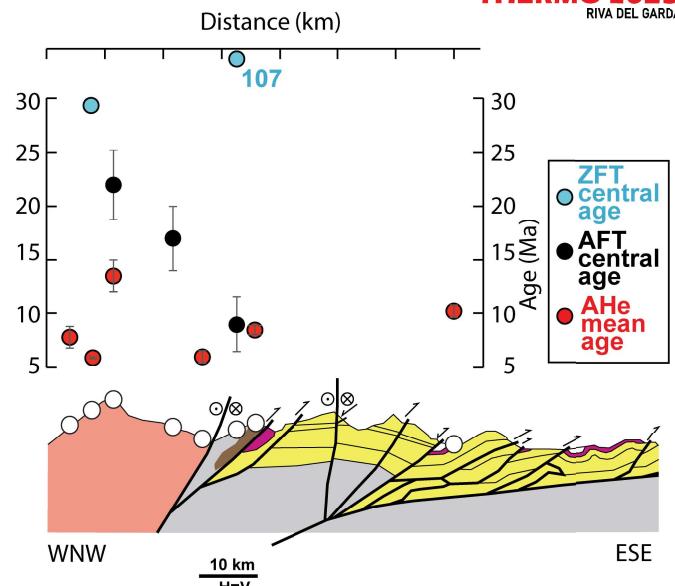
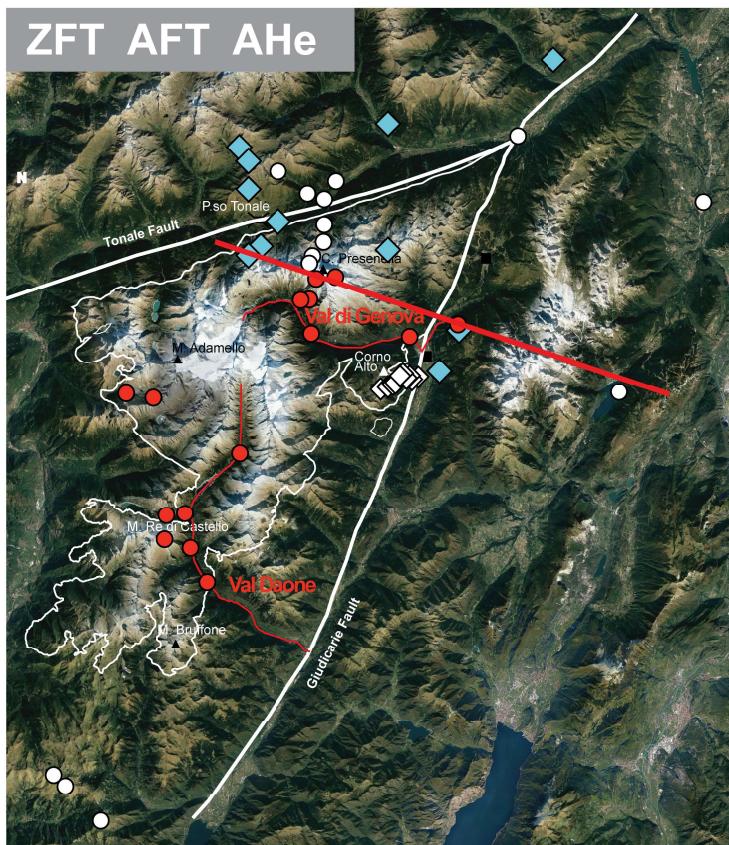
## **Additional safety and organizational information**

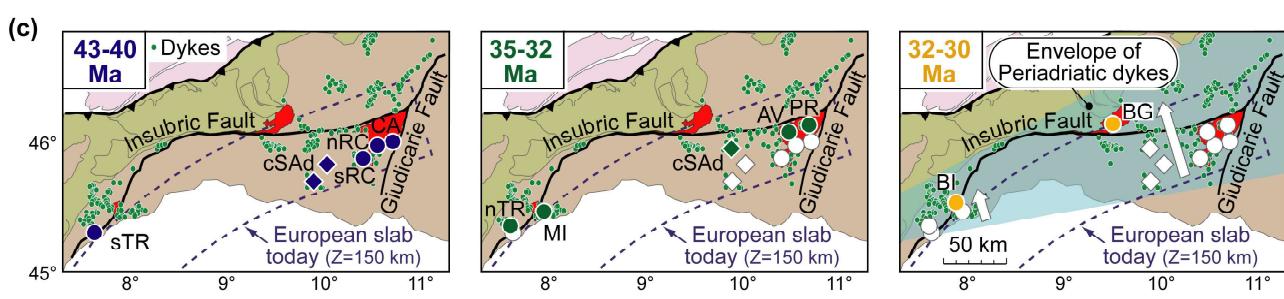
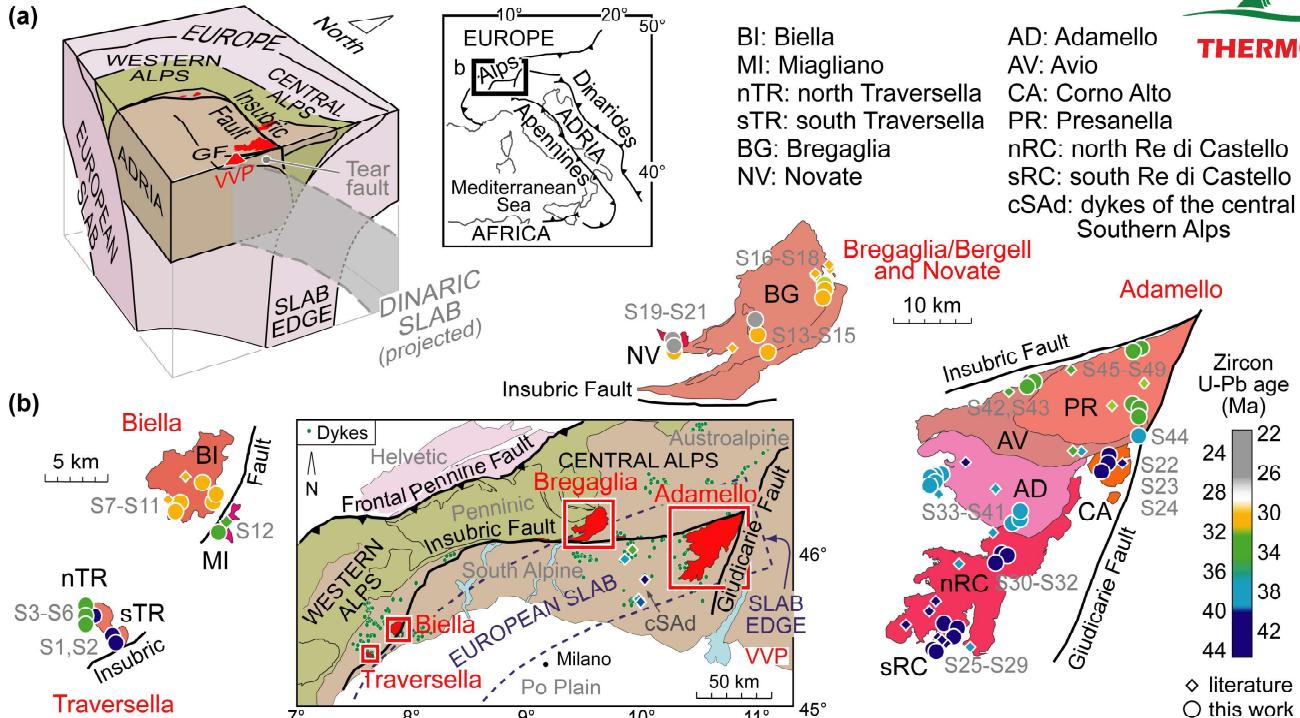
Along the walk, professional mountain guides of the Adamello-Brenta natural park will accompany the participants to guarantee their safety and to intervene in case of need. Several members of the conference organizing committee will also join the fieldtrip and will be available along the way for open discussions on the regional and local geology/geo-thermochronology. The top station of the cable car Cinque Laghi is located at 2100 m and is the highpoint of the walk. From the cable car, the walk takes on a gentle unpaved and downhill track to the lake Ritorto and then continues to the bottom station of the Cinque Laghi cable car in Madonna di Campiglio at about 1600 m of elevation. There, we will get on the buses for the return trip. The total length of the walk is about 6 km.

It is important that all the participants gather on time for the return trip at the bottom cable car station Cinque Laghi.

## Walk itinerary







from Sheet 042 Malè - Geological Map of Italy (2007)

