

Le Chaos du Chéran

The gorge of the Chéran river is located between the tectonic plate of the Bange mountain (from the massif of Belledone) and the Semnoz mountain (from the massif of the Bauges). It's been dug by the Chéran river's water for 100 meters down the valley. This phenomenon is due to the icecap which was way higher than the level of the water today. It melted in a few hundreds of thousands of years and this is the result.

Due to the movement of the tectonic plates, we can see the tectonic plates of the massif of Belledone that is pushing away the Bauges' one. This movement also created cracks in the rock, which is limestone, a waterproof rock. So, during winter, water comes inside the cracks and freezes. Since ice takes more space than liquid water, this phenomenon makes the cracks spread the parts of the rocks more and more until a few centuries later it breaks and that the rocks fell.

The rainwater which is acid dissolves some of the rock limestones and polish the top of the cliff. Erosion is another cause of the collapsing rocks in the Chéran river.



