

Geology of the western Swiss Alps, a guide-book

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This guide book presents 6 field trips divided in two sections corresponding to the Alpine Externides and Internides, of the western Swiss Alps. A good share of basement geology is included in the guide, and two field trips (Ft1 and Ft5) are mainly devoted to Variscan and pre-Variscan rocks outcrops. Other field trips lead the geologist up to exceptional places like Zermatt, presenting the main key areas of geological and geodynamic interest along a complete cross-section of the western Swiss Alps.

We felt that it was also necessary to present in such a document the latest ideas on Alpine and pre-Alpine geology of the western Tethys realm. Parts of recent publications were used for that matter, they were updated, and put in a general introduction with numerous figures, mainly devoted to the geodynamics of this area in space and time. A special emphasis is put on the reconstruction of the Alpine Tethys paleo-margins.

Coloured Alpine cross-section and block diagram, and excerpts of the new 100'000 structural map of Western Switzerland have been put in annex, in a pouch on the back-cover. Similar excerpts of the topographic map of Switzerland, on which stops are located, accompany each field trip.