

## REIT RIDGE

We now observe an imposing rocky outcrop, which dominates the north-east side of the Bormio basin!

We are in front of the Reit ridge, or rather the "Reit" (or "the larch"), a name that the locals have attributed to the western end of the rocky spur which extends for over ten kilometers between the peak of Reit at 3075 m, Monte Cristallo at 3439 m and Cime di Campo at 3534 m.

From a geological point of view, it is a single, huge outcrop of Main Dolomite of the Noric age. Although the dolomite is layered in banks even more than a meter thick, the size of the outcrop gives the impression of a thin stratification from a distance.

The presence of a significant mass of carbonate sedimentary rocks in a sector of the Alps where metamorphic rocks prevail is linked to an important structural feature, the so called Fault of the Zebù Valley, which juxtaposes with tectonic contact a large strip of sedimentary rocks (the so called Falda Ortles) to the Austroalpine metamorphic base (the Falda Campo).

It is interesting to consider how these rocks and in particular the stratigraphic and structural aspects are able to explain the peculiar characteristics of the thermal water of Bormio, known for being sulphurous. This water, in fact, springs at the height of the ancient thrust fault, in an area where the underground water circulation is strongly conditioned by the presence of fracture networks that cross the rock masses. The saline content of the water is therefore affected by the presence of soluble lithotypes, rich in sulphate, which give the water the properties that make it known and widely used for healing purposes.

Looking at the Reit ridge one cannot fail to notice the extensive talus deposits. This term indicates those deposits that hikers often call "scree" and that are active here, that is, subject to movement, on truly impressive slopes, even 800 m tall!

The geomorphological evolution of "La Reit" slopes is particularly intense when rainfall is abundant and concentrated; on these occasions the dynamism of the environment is evident and the volumes of debris moved are impressive!