



The cave *Finsteres Loch*

Witness of an ancient murder?

Finsteres Loch literally translated means a dark hole. This 133 m long cave contains remains of several combusted layers and human bones – an unsolved criminal case? Those finds testify an eventful past of the cave being frequented by humans from the Bronze Age and the Antiquity to the Middle Ages.

(671 m above sea level, 133 m long)

At the south-eastern ridge of the *Rosenstein* above the spring of the *Lauter* the walkthrough cave *Finsteres Loch* is located. Similar to the *Dreieingangshöhle* the main human activities are to be assigned to the Middle Ages and the Urnfield culture. This is proven by a thick burned layer dating back to the Urnfield culture and by large amounts of medieval pottery from the 12th to the 15th century. With an extension of 4 to 9 m the occupation layers mainly concentrated at the foyer but also inside the cave significant finds were recovered in the early 20th century. A fragment of pottery with finger imprints typical of the middle Bronze Age (about 1600 BC) is especially worth mentioning. Furthermore, human skeletal remains in terms of toe- and finger phalanx, a fragment of a femur and a cheek tooth (molar) are documented. A burned layer from the eastern entrance contained fragmented vessels including a piece of Roman pottery (*terra sigillata*) from the imperial period.

The human remains can be assigned to the Middle Ages and could witness the execution of a verdict or even a violent crime.