

5 Pre - Palaeolithic Cave deposits and Karst evolution in the Venetian Pre-Alps

Excursion Leaders: Marco Peresani & Ugo Sauro

Proposed Excursion Dates: 11 AND 12 July

Draft Itinerary: Verona, Grotta di Fumane, Monti Lessini and Monti Berici Karst landforms, Grotta di San Bernardino, Padova

Definitive cost per head: € 220,00

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel

Proposer Contact Details:

Marco Peresani

Institution and Address: Università di Ferrara, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Corso Ercole I d'Este 32, Ferrara

Phone: +393339164026

Email: marco.peresani@unife.it

Description

Human evolution, palaeolithic caves and karst landscape are the key topics of this excursion offering the opportunity to visit the Monti Lessini, the Berici Hills and two of the most important stratified palaeolithic sites in the Eastern Italian Pre-Alps and Alpine foreland. Monti Lessini is a mountainous area with a distinct physical landscape related to the tectonic evolution and fluvial, karst and periglacial morphogenetic processes. This pre-alpine area is rich in natural archives preserved in karst cavities which are also a reference for investigations on human-ecological relationships of Neanderthals and first Homo sapiens, their settlements and material culture. At Grotta di Fumane, deposits explored by multidisciplinary research represent exceptional evidence of fundamental importance for the study of life and the spirituality of a past humanity that roamed this part of southern Europe for over 50,000 years. The second part of the excursion aims to illustrate the fluvio-karstic landscape of the Berici Hills, a plateau with uneven topography with peaks, sink-holes, palaeosols and caves like Grotta San Bernardino. This is another key site which preserves a Middle and Late Pleistocene stratigraphy recording an ensemble of climatic cycles and evidence of Neanderthal use of the cave and landscape resources in different ecological conditions.

