

19 Pre - Geology, Paleontology and Archeology of the Middle Pleistocene to Early Holocene of southern Apulia (southern Italy)

Excursion Leaders: Raffaele Sardella, Beniamino Mecozzi, Alessio Iannucci

Proposed Excursion Dates: 9-12 July 2023

Definitive cost per head: € 250

Minimum number of participants: 8

Maximum number of participants: 15

Draft Itinerary: Brindisi -Castro – Zinzulusa cave, Romanelli cave; Maglie museum - Nardò museum - Parco di Porto Selvaggio cave – Brindisi airport and/or Lecce train station

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel

Proposer Contact Details:

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Description

The Salento peninsula (southernmost part of Apulia, Italy) is an area of great importance for the understanding of palaeoenvironmental changes that have occurred in the Mediterranean region at the end of the Pleistocene and the ecological dynamics (*Homo*-fauna and environment interactions) in what can be considered a refugium area for many species during the cold climate phases.

The excursion includes the visit of several cave deposits, including Grotta Romanelli, located on the coasts of Southern Apulia. Grotta Romanelli, with its Middle Pleistocene-Early Holocene archaeological and fossiliferous deposits, is one of the key sites for the study of Italian prehistory. It was among the first sites in Europe where scientific methods were applied in the field and for decades has been a strong reference for the stratigraphy, prehistory and palaeontology of Mediterranean Europe.

Geomorphological, archeological and paleontological data from Grotta Romanelli and other coastal cave infilling deposits of Salento Peninsula are of considerable interest for the reconstruction of the Mediterranean terrestrial ecosystem evolution during the last 300 thousand years.

Finally, the visit of the Archeological and Paleontological Museums of Salento Peninsula allows to see part of the remarkable number of fossils and artefacts recovered during the historical excavations.

