

10-Pre - Palaeogeographical evolution of the Egadi Islands (western Sicily, Italy). Implications for late Pleistocene and early Holocene sea crossings by humans and other mammals

Excursion Leaders: Fabrizio Antonioli, Mariarita Palombo, Valeria Lo Presti

Proposed Excursion Dates: 9,10, 11 July

Definitive cost per head: € 490

Minimum number of participants: 8

Maximum number of participants: 12

Accommodation arrangements: Hotel X

Proposer Contact Details:

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Description

The continental shelf morphology offshore of western Sicily suggests that during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM, 21 ka cal BP), two of the Egadi Islands, Favignana and Levanzo, were connected to Sicily by a wideemerged plain, while Marettimo was only separated from the other islands by a narrow channel. During the Holocene Levanzo and Favignana become islands at different time. Fieldtrip presents geomorphological and paleontological contents together with the *Homo sapiens* colonization and navigation in the Mediterranean. The chronological range of what will be illustrated (on field) range between 300 and 7 ka BP.

Day 1 Appointment at the maritime port of Trapani in the morning by 10 am, in front of the Liberty Lines hydrofoil terminal. Transfer by hydrofoil to Marettimo, an employee will come to collect the luggage to be placed in a safe place. Departure by boat to make the circumnavigation of Marettimo with various stops on the high coasts and in the caves of the wildest island in the Mediterranean. In particular, on the NE coast under the castle of Punta Troia, we will visit to the Tuono cave, where a recent discovery (*Cervus elaphus* and *Patella caerulea* as food remains) made it possible to anticipate the navigation of the Mediterranean from the Neolithic to the Mesolithic. Then, on the WSW coast we will visit a well conserved fossil tidal notch and related *Lithophaga* holes. Packed lunch. In the afternoon, departure by hydrofoil for Favignana with dinner and overnight in the hotel.

Day 2 We will visit an exceptional marine transgression: MIS 5.5 containing *Persistrombus latus* (ex *S. bubonius*) directly on the Jurassic Ammonites in a cliff just above the present sea level. Then visit to the Farglioni 3 caves containing: *Lithophaga* holes aged MIS 9 as evidence of an uplift period of the Egadi and Sicily ended at the Egadibefore MIS 5.5, fossiliferous stratigraphy with mammals and remains of *Homo sapiens* food remain ranging from 13.5 to 7 ka cal BP. Then visit to the stratified limestone of the Marsala synthem, torn from the bedrock and today in an overhanging position (for 3 km on the coast) containing Vermetid reef which dates back to the 1960s, an exceptional storm (or tsunami). In conclusion a walk into the spectacular system of quarries (industrial archeology of the last century). Dinner and overnight stay in Favignana.

Day 3 Departure by hydrofoil for Levanzo, visit to the Genovese cave (Jeep and 20-minute walk) The cave, which can be visited by appointment only, contains fossil deposits but above all engravings and cave paintings that are unique in the world. The painting testify the disconnection of the island from the mainland occurred 9200 years cal BP. Packed lunch and return to Trapani by 5pm.

