



## GARAGNONE CASTLE AND FORTRESS - THE INVISIBLE CASTLE

Camouflaged in the rock in an enchanted landscape is Garagnone Castle, among the most important sites in the Alta Murgia with great historical and geomorphological significance, consisting of two reliefs (Castle and Rock) rising in the Great Southern Escarpment of the Murge, representing two residual reliefs resulting from the combination of erosion, karstification, and tectonics.

Garagnone is the only castle built on a rocky outcrop in Apulia, built in Norman age and rebuilt for defensive purposes, around 1200, at the behest of Frederick II, Holy Roman Emperor. Later, the castle passed into the hands of the papal Orsini family and finally became a fief of the king of Italy. Today, the area is state property, purchased by the park authority.

Outcropping rocks in the area belong to the Altamura Limestone Formation dating from the Late Cretaceous, where guide levels with Rudists emerge. Slope deposits, some dating from the last glaciation, are also important.

Inhabited since Neolithic times, the entire area was abandoned after the castle collapsed in an earthquake around 1700. Currently, the area is an integral protection reserve of the National Park and can be freely visited, with minimal-impact infrastructure, such as parking lots and seating at the base of the two rocky reliefs.

SP15 Geosite – regional significance

Location: Spinazzola

Age: Late Cretaceous - Neogene - Quaternary

Interests: Geology, Stratigraphy, Paleontology, History, Archaeology, Landscape

