

## **DOLMEN OF THE PALADINS – MEGALITHIC TOMB AND GUIDANCE LAYER**

Il Dolmen dei Paladini è un antico monumento che illustra il legame tra l'uomo e le rocce murgiane. Situato nell'agro di Corato, in contrada Colonnella, questo sepolcro megalitico testimonia il culto dei defunti in età preistorica. Scoperto nel 1913 dallo studioso di fama internazionale Marco Gervasio, il dolmen rappresenta un'importante testimonianza archeologica della regione.

The Dolmen dei Paladini is an ancient monument that illustrates the link between man and the Murgia rocks. Located in the Corato countryside, in the Colonnella district, this megalithic tomb testifies to the worship of the dead in prehistoric times. Discovered in 1913 by internationally renowned scholar Marco Gervasio, the dolmen represents an important archaeological evidence of the region.

The monument consists of four stone slabs arranged vertically and a cover slab placed horizontally. A fragment of a jar was found inside the dolmen, the only find that allows the monument to be dated to around the Bronze Age.

Its imposing size stimulated the imagination of local farmers, who nicknamed the structure "Chianca dei Paladini." The dolmen has been musealized and equipped with illustrative panels. Near the monument is also an important guidance layer, which allows the geological formation of the Bari Limestone to be dated to about 110 million years ago. This layer, rich in plankton fossils, can be observed with the naked eye in the surrounding rocks, with explanations provided by guides.

MG14 Geosite – national significance

Location: Corato

Age: Late Cretaceous - Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Archaeology







