



## FARAUALLA GRAVE - AN ABYSS ON THE ALTA MURGIA

Faraualla grave is an abyss on the Alta Murgia, one of the most impressive karst phenomena present in Puglia. It is a 260-meter-deep swallow-hole located in the Gravina in Puglia area, at the base of a doline into which rainwater collected from the "lame" (wide furrow in the ground typical of the Murge landscape) flows. Developed mainly vertically, during the descent two wells merge together, 149 and 53 meters deep respectively, quickly reaching 200 meters deep where the cave proceeds horizontally.

The first exploration of the Faraualla Grave dates back to 1956, by the "E. Boegan" Cave Commission of Trieste. It was not until 2011 that the depth of 260 meters was reached thanks to the opening of a new tunnel leading to the current bottom. Like many Apulian sinkholes, Faraualla's Grave is an important access to the underground and has undergone several waste reclamation works to preserve its integrity, by the Aspiring Global Geopark, the Italian Army and the Apulian Speleological Federation.

The legends surrounding the Faraualla Grave are full of fascination. It is told, for example, of a stick dropped by a shepherd and later resurfaced in the sea of Taranto. In the past, the chasm was considered a bad omen because of the vapors it emanated during the winter period.

K6 Geosite – national significance

Location: Gravina in Puglia

Age: Late Cretaceous - Neogene - Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Karst morphology - Groundwater protection - Flora – Fauna

