



## RAVINE OF LATERZA – THE GREAT MURGIAN CANYONS

An imposing panorama stands out from the Canyon that extends near the town of Laterza. The overhangs originated from the erosion of rocks in connection with the uplift of the Murge. The Ravine of Laterza is unique in Italy and represents a natural cross-section of the entire geology of the Murge and Premurge. Walking along it allows direct observation of the relationship between the rock formations and the landscape, offering a complete overview of the geology of the area.

In the past, man has also inhabited this impervious place, creating rock settlements equipped with paths, ladders, terracing and water collection systems, as well as numerous underground structures and settlements. As in nearby Gravina in Puglia, each lithological change allows us to observe an evolution in past human habits, which aimed to optimize life in a sustainable way.

The geodiversity of the Ravine of Laterza also encourages high biodiversity, with each substrate hosting a distinctive fauna and flora. In the 12-km-long protected oasis, with walls more than 200 meters high, there are species of great interest such as the egyptian vulture, the cricket hawk, the black stork, as well as badgers, porcupines and weasels.

SP17 Geosite – national significance

Location: Laterza

