



CURTOMARTINO CAVE – WATER AND MAN

Curtomartino Cave is located in the Acquaviva delle Fonti area and is one of the most famous karst cavities in Puglia. It was formed about 2 million years ago and is being studied by Italian and foreign researchers thanks to the remains of *Homo sapiens* coeval to the Neanderthal period found inside. Characterized by a rich variety of stalactites and stalagmites, it is an easily accessible horizontal cave that has provided shelter for humans since the Late Paleolithic. It is among the most visited hypogeal sites in Puglia, along with the Castellana and Zinzulusa caves.

Water springs found in the depths of the cave, due to the presence of surface water tables, are rare in the karst territory of the Murgia and have helped shape the landscape, giving the town of Acquaviva its name. This feature has become an identity element for the town, which is dotted with wells in streets, squares and several buildings in the historic center. The municipality organizes guided tours and interactive trails related to its city water springs.

K12 Geosite – national significance

Location: Acquaviva delle Fonti

Age: Early Cretaceous - Quaternary

Interests: Geology -- Stratigraphy -- Archaeology -- Human evolution -- Climate change – Water springs

