MURGEOPARK

BAUXITE MINES - THE RED HEART OF THE MURGIA

The Bauxite Mines, discovered in 1935 and active between the 1950s and 1980s, represent an important ore deposit consisting of aluminum and iron oxides and hydroxides. The site, which evokes Wild West atmospheres, was exploited for the extraction of bauxite, from which aluminum was made.

But where does the characteristic red color of the Bauxite Mines come from? The limestones of the Alta Murgia contain a soluble part, calcium carbonate, and an insoluble part, composed of iron and aluminum oxides that give the typical red color. The red earth deposits of the mines date back to the Late Cretaceous, specifically the Late Turonian-Cenomanian, about 90 million years ago. These deposits testify to a period of emergence of the lost continent Adria, not related to modern karstification but to processes that occurred during the age of dinosaurs, which produced a valuable mineral.

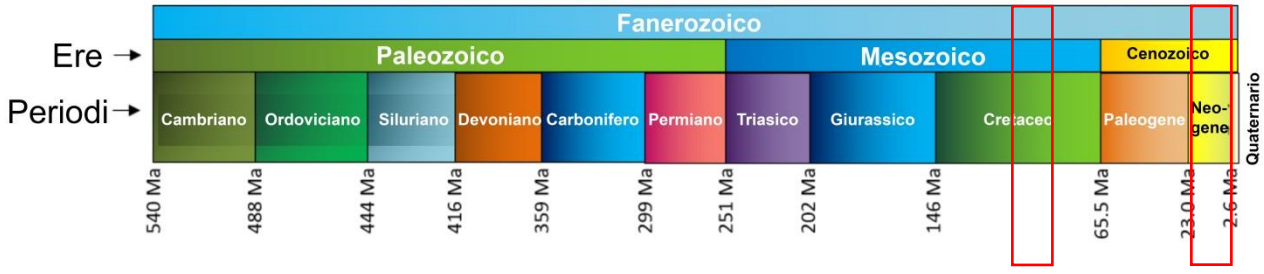
The site has undergone redevelopment with interventions aimed at conserving and restoring the habitats and wildlife species present both inside and in the perimeter area of the large quarries. It is equipped for the public with a nature trail and numerous information panels. Because it is located in an integral park reserve, it is not possible to approach the quarries by car; visitors must walk a short distance from the parking lot to the equipped area.

SP2 Geosite – international significance

Location: Spinazzola

Age: Late Cretaceous - Neogene - Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Karst morphology - Mineralogy - Industrial archaeology - Flora - Fauna.



parco nazionale dell'alta murgia