



KARST LANDSCAPE OF THE MURGIA OF RUVO DI PUGLIA – THE SCIENTIFIC HISTORY OF KARST

The karst landscape of the Murgia Ruvesi is a geo-site of great importance due to the presence of the two main rock formations in Puglia: the Bari Limestone and the Altamura Limestone. This area is characterized by a dense web of rural artifacts, including dry stone walls, jazzi (particular sheep enclosures) and historic masserias such as Masseria Notarvincenzo, Masseria Ferratella, and Jazzo del Demonio, where traditions and legends related to farmers and shepherds are intertwined.

Like many other towns in Puglia, Ruvo has based its economy on limestone mining, as evidenced by its mining district. The area's quarries are home to fossils of extinct bivalves and rudists, and even a marine reptile from the Mesozoic, whose skeleton is preserved in Bari's Museum of Earth Sciences.

The area's "lomas" (wide furrow in the ground typical of the Murge landscape) and caves were described by Apulian geologist Carmelo Colamonico, one of the first to scientifically define karst worldwide, using precisely the karst phenomena around Ruvo as key examples.

In the karst landscape of the Murgia Ruvese there are two active visitor centers that carry out activities to enhance the environmental heritage, including the "Torre dei Guardiani" visitor center.

SP14 Geosite – national significance

Location: Ruvo di Puglia

Age: Early Cretaceous - Quaternary

Interests: Geology- Stratigraphy- Karst- Archaeology- Sustainable Agriculture- Water Reserves- Climate Change

