



MURGEOPARK

DETRITAL SCARP OF MINERVINO MURGE

Called the “balcony of Puglia” for its enchanting views, Minervino Murge is one of the most striking municipalities in the Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, offering a magnificent viewpoint from which the Murgia and Premurge landscape can be admired.

The detrital escarpment is a geosite of great significance, characterized by a varied biodiversity living among the cracks in the rock. From the viewpoint of the escarpment the geological evolution of the Adriatic region can be observed: to the north, the view sweeps over the Tavoliere delle Puglie, the Gargano and the Apennine chain; to the south, over Mount Vulture and, on clear days, even over the Mount Pollino.

Karstification can be seen over much of the territory through the “lams” (wide furrow in the ground typical of the Murge landscape) and numerous scattered caves, such as the Cave of St. Michael the Archangel. This large natural cave, located at the base of the settlement, was occupied since prehistoric times, perhaps as a temple dedicated to the goddess Minerva. Today it is one of the most striking examples of a large rock church on the entire peninsula.

Minervino Murge is one of the few towns in Italy to host a large lighthouse not located on the sea. It is also notable for the ancient village “Scesciola,” whose name derives from Arabic and means “labyrinth.” The picturesque views and town traditions inspired director Lina Wertmüller to shoot the film “I Basilischi” in 1963.

An equipped trail with signage has been created in the area by the Italian Alpine Club and numerous volunteers, thanks to the public call “GeoEventi” promoted as part of the candidacy for UNESCO Global Geopark status.

QU2 Geosite – national significance

Location: Minervino Murge

Age: Early Cretaceous - Neogene - Quaternary

Interests: Geology - Stratigraphy - Tectonics - Karst - Flora - Fauna

