



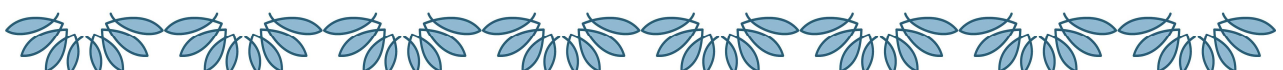
## Jurassic to Pleistocene brachiopod beds of Sicily

This is a 4-day excursion to visit Lower Jurassic to Pleistocene successions where the most important brachiopod assemblages of Sicily have been collected. These successions crop out along the north-eastern side of Sicily across different landscapes with beautiful sea views. In addition, this excursion offers the possibility to visit the Gemmellaro brachiopod collection stored in the homonym museum in Palermo; the excursion will end with an exciting ascent of the Mount Etna volcano.

### DATES AND BRIEF ITINERARY

*Post-congress excursion: 15-18 September 2018*

- Day 1** *September 15<sup>th</sup>* Departure to Altavilla Milicia (Palermo) and visit of Pliocene-Pleistocene succession with shell beds of molluscs and brachiopods. The succession consists of yellow sands with *Amphistegina*, more or less fossiliferous. Visit to the G.G. Gemmellaro Museum of Palermo University where the rich Upper Permian to Upper Jurassic brachiopod collections of Gemmellaro are kept; among them is the famous collection from the Permian of the “Valle del Sosio”. Guided tour of the Royal Palace of Palermo and the Palatine Chapel – UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free dinner. Overnight stay in Palermo.
- Day 2** *September 16<sup>th</sup>* Departure to Monte Kumeta, which offers an example of the complex syndimentary dynamics along a stepped pelagic escarpment adjacent to a structural high, with Pliensbachian brachiopod associations. In the afternoon, departure to Cefalù to visit the historic centre. The town is a major tourist attraction in the region and the cathedral has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Dinner and overnight stay near Cefalù.
- Day 3** *September 17<sup>th</sup>* Departure to Capo Milazzo (Messina) where Upper Miocene (upper Tortonian) to Holocene successions crop out, from which many taxa established by Philippi, Costa and Seguenza (*Sphenarina*, *Terebratula*, *Terebratulina*) originate. At Capo Milazzo, brachiopods are included in the so called “yellow calcareous marls” (YCM) deposited in bathyal settings during the early Pleistocene. In the afternoon visit the La Montagna outcrop near Messina. Dinner and overnight stay at Nicolosi (Catania).
- Day 4** *September 18<sup>th</sup>* Visit of Mount Etna, one of the largest active volcano in the Mediterranean region and Europe, reaching an elevation of 3.350 m a.s.l. Etnean magmas show peculiar petrologic and geochemical features, related to very complex structural settings. In the afternoon a visit of Taormina, one of the most important international tourist centre of Sicily, known for its natural landscapes, marine beauty and its historical monuments; in the evening arrival at Catania and end of the field trip.





## ORGANIZERS

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## DEPARTURE LOCATION

Palermo Airport, 1 p.m.

## RETURN LOCATION

Catania, 7 p.m.

## EXCURSION FEE AND DEADLINES

January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018: deadline for pre-registration on the website.

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018: **payment of 730 euro in double room, 820 euro in single room.**

Guide book, travel from Palermo to Catania during the excursion, meals and hotel accommodation in double/single rooms are included in the field-trip fee, except for the dinners of the 15<sup>th</sup> in Palermo and 18<sup>th</sup> in Catania. Please specify in advance if you need a double or a single room.

Please note that, the flight from Milano to Palermo is not included in the fee and should be organized individually. The average cost of a flight Milano-Palermo starts from 40 Euros. You can book it yourself online from many European airlines or ask for a quote to the travel agency ERAVEL (<http://www.eravelservice.com/>; [sales@eravelservice.com](mailto:sales@eravelservice.com)).

## ACCOMMODATION

Hotel, bed and breakfast

## TRANSPORTATION

Minibus

## NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

18– 27 participants

## PHYSICAL DIFFICULTY

Moderate. The outcrops are located at altitudes ranging from sea level to 2.500 m a.s.l. Field and trekking equipment is recommended, as well as sunscreen cream and hat. Windbreaker and a sweatshirt are recommended for the Etna Volcano.

**Neither the organizers nor the field excursion leaders can offer insurance covering illness or injury for individuals. Participants are advised to take out their own personal health and travel insurance for their trip.**

**The Conference organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents or loss of or damage to private property of participants, either during or indirectly arising from the field trips.**





## CONDITIONS

The weather in Sicily is still fantastic in September. You can expect clear blue skies with sunshine and temperatures up to 26°C during the warmest part of the day. The temperature cools down to 19°C after sunset. On the Etna Volcano temperatures are lower, due to higher altitude.

## CULTURAL ASPECTS AND GASTRONOMY

The architectural heritage of Sicily shows all the dominations and different cultures that have occurred over the centuries on the island: Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, French and Spanish all came, conquered and left. It is possible to see all this by traveling “The Arab-Norman itinerary of Palermo, Monreale and Cefalù”, a pedestrian route that crosses two civilizations of great artistic content and declared a "World Heritage Site" by UNESCO.

On the magnificent vestiges left by the two and a half centuries of Arab domination that enriched the city and other areas of Sicily with splendid monuments, the Catholic Norman domination added its own style, resulting into a unique style called Arab-Norman. Towers and portals with pointed and round arches and Byzantine mosaics coexist with Arab ornaments such as horseshoe arches and ceilings adorned by the characteristic *muqarnas*. There are other spectacular attractions in Palermo, *Capital of Culture for 2018*, like the Teatro Massimo Vittorio Emanuele, the largest in Italy and one of the largest of Europe, and the historic markets (Vucciria, Capo, Ballarò and Borgo Vecchio), authentic pictures of the past which is still living in the present.

Sicily has beautiful sea views, like Capo Milazzo (Messina), and several historic towns, as Taormina, the pearl of the Mediterranean, where famous people such as J.W. Goethe, A. Dumas and O. Wilde have sojourned. Located on a rocky promontory above the sea, Taormina has beautifully restored medieval buildings, breathtaking views and a giddy network of winding streets strewn with shops, bars and restaurants.

Even the Sicilian cuisine is the result of tradition, culture and domination. Here, the food plays a sacred role and it is really difficult to eat badly either on the street or in well-known restaurants. Sicilian street food is famous in the world: arancina, bread with pannelle and cazzilli, bread with spleen and “sfincione”, “granita” accompanied by brioche with "tuppo" and “cartocciata catanese”. Tourists should not miss “parmigiana di melanzane”, sarde beccafico, pasta with sea urchin, cassata siciliana, cannolo with ricotta and marzipan paste.



Altavilla section; brachiopods in sands.



Capo Milazzo peninsula



Altavilla section

