



MURGEOPARK

PONTRELLI QUARRY – THE DINOSAUR LAGOON

Seen from above, they look like tiny dots, but they are more than 20,000 well-preserved dinosaur footprints left by Earth's giants 85 million years ago.

Pontrelli Quarry is a disused deposit in Altamura and among the most important sites with dinosaur footprints in the world. The footprints are spread over an area of nearly 15,000 square yards, imprinted in limestone rocks that originated from mud accumulated during the Upper Cretaceous, in an ancient tropical lagoon

The study of trace fossils has identified two herbivorous genera: the Hadrosaurs and the Nodosaurus. Both of their footprints have been classified as new types of footprints: **Apulosauripus federicianus** for the Hadrosaurs, while that of the armored dinosaurs is still being determined.

A visitor center with open space use facilities, educational trails and an outdoor amphitheater is being set up inside the quarry. The cliffs of the quarry are home to important nesting species such as the Peregrine Falcon, Imperial Crow and several species of bats. In addition, the perimeter area of the site holds historical artifacts yet to be discovered.

AP7 Geosite – international significance

Location: Altamura

Age: Late Cretaceous - Santonian

Interests: Paleontology - Geology - Stratigraphy - Archaeology - Industrial archaeology.

