



PARCO DELLE MADONIE



ISNELLO



HALIOTIS



Project by *Haliotis Association*
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 Project commissioned by *Angelo Pizzuto, President of the Madonie Park Authority*
 Graphic design: *Haliotis Association*
 Texts and photographs: *Alessandro Torre, Luciano F.Torre*
 P.I.C.: *Pasquale Li Puma*
 Madonie Geopark geological sites map : *NOC 65. Haliotis Association*
 Geological time scale : *Haliotis Association*
 Translation by *Oriana Farinella*



Geological urban path of ISNELLO



Geological urban path of Isnello

This urban trail was created for the valorization of Isnello Gorge, geological site close to the town that shows an important phenomenon of fluvial deepening, result of the hydrographical system evolution of the Madonie.

The water of the Isnello torrent created this ravine carving the dolomitic limestone rocks of the Panormide domain of the Upper Triassic-Lower Jurassic.

The gorge separates the built up area from the higher areas of the Pizzo Dipilo Massif. The faces of the gorge are characterized by steep debris cones resulting from the disintegration of carbonatic rocks caused by exogenous factors.

Along the path, the fault planes close to the valley display the process of the rocks deformation compared to the present morphology.

Along the main Road to Gibilmanna,

after the bridge that crosses the above mentioned torrent, we find small relicts of the paleochannel, an evidence of the old watercourse.

The path

This geological path shows the strong connection between rock and man that we find in the whole Madonie area and in particular path with its suburb we suddenly find mountain landscapes. It is easy to see that in the past the towns were located in areas that for their geomorphological characteristics were suitable for the human settlement; the site was provided with water and natural defenses, very important for the conservation and the development of the settlement.

Observation and rest points

The beginning of the path brings to the ruins of the castle where we can find a breathtaking panorama, and it continues with the churches of Santa Maria Maggiore and St. Michael (visits are possible on request); going through the old town we arrive at the gorge. Here we can see a beautiful natural view, interesting fault planes (rocks breaking characterized by the movement of rock masses) and the natural torrent course that trickling through the narrow gorge characterizes the landscape. The excavation of the dolomitic limestone rocks, caused by the torrent has modeled the faces of the gorge where we can see, on the left, the characteristic debris sedimentations (stones and gravel of different sizes) due to the rock fragmentation caused by the alternation between freezing and thaw and by the surface erosion.



Ruins of the Castle



Fault plane 1

North-west overview from the ruins of the castle



Above:
Tectonic contact

Left:
The internal of the San Michele Arcangelo church

Under:
San Michele Church



The Isnello torrent

SCALA DEI TEMPI		
Era	Periodo	Età in Ma
Cenozoico	Quaternario	
	Olocene	0,011
	Pleistocene	1,806
	Pliocene	5,33
	Miocene	23,03
	Oligocene	33,9
Mesozoico	Eocene	55,8
	Paleocene	65,5
	Cretacico	145,5
Paleozoico	Giurassico	199,6
	Triassico	251,0
	Permiano	299,0
	Carbonifero	359,2
Proterozoico	Devoniano	416,0
	Siluriano	443,7
	Ordoviciano	488,3
	Cambriano	542,0
	Archeano	2500
		4000