



## Seminar and excursion on the vegetation, environment and climate history of Italy

The geographical conformation and location of Italy makes this country one of the most interesting place in the world for its unique vegetation and cultural history.

Its location as a crossroad between continental Europe, Africa and the Near East, together with a very diverse climate and complex tectonic history, have helped creating a landscape where species have migrated and adapted from the most variable baseline conditions.

Overlapped onto this complex natural history, humans have shaped and changed the Italian natural ecosystems since very early time. Migration from outside and within Italy have helped creating a mosaic of prehistoric and historic cultures from the Paleolithic to the Roman Empire and much more.

An Excursion is planned in Italy in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Biology at the Sapienza University of Rome.

The whole Excursion will take **12 days** to be decided in the period **from the 27<sup>th</sup> of March to the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2017**. The number of participants for the seminar and excursion is **limited to 12**.

Before the excursion a **preparatory seminar** is planned for 1-2 days in Goettingen during which students interested in participating will prepare on the different topics and most recent advancement in the field of environment, vegetation and climate history of Italy.

A detailed preliminary program can be downloaded at <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/72074.html>

In short: we will start from Göttingen by car and stop in the north of Italy, where we will look at the climate history and vegetation dynamics in the Southern Alps and Ötzi the Iceman museum. We then move to Rome and surroundings where we will visit several volcanic lakes and learn about the geology, palaeoecology and modern vegetation. We will visit Etruscan sites and important palaeontological locations close the coast and learn about Mediterranean vegetation and coastal wetlands.

If you are interested in taking part to the seminar and excursion, please send an e-mail before **18/11/16** to:

Hermann Behling: [Hermann.Behling@biologie.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:Hermann.Behling@biologie.uni-goettingen.de) and  
Siria Biagioni: [Siria.biagioni@biologie.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:Siria.biagioni@biologie.uni-goettingen.de)

## Preliminary program

**Excursion leaders:** Prof. Dr. Hermann Behling, Prof. Dr. Donatella Magri, Dr. Federico di Rita, Dr. Siria Biagioni

**Estimated costs per person:** ca. 800 € (including transportation and accommodation, food and beverages excluded). A contribution of 200 € per person will be given to each participants to cover part of the costs.

### **Day 1** (ca. 10 h drive)

Early morning start from Göttingen.

Arrival in Bolzano in the evening. Night in Bolzano

### **Day 2** (ca. 3 h drive in the afternoon)

Morning: visit of the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology Ötzi the Iceman exposition

Afternoon: visit of the Dolomiti National Park and selected palaeoecological sites. Alpine and pre-alpine vegetation. Night in village close to Belluno



### **Day 3**

Morning: learning how to core with the russian corer in Torbe (Belluno)

Afternoon: free time to visit the Dolomiti National Park

Night in village close to Belluno

### **Day 4** (ca. 8 h drive)

Morning: start from Belluno to Rome, arrival in the afternoon – evening

Night in Rome

### **Day 5** (ca. 8 h drive)

Free day to visit Rome

### Day 6

Bolsena Lake (Lagaccione, Mezzano): Vulsini volcanic district (geology, palaeoecology, vegetation)

Vico Lake: Vico volcano (beech forest, landscape, human impact, paleoecology)

Night at Sasso di Cerveteri



### Day 7

Bracciano Lake: Sabatini volcanic district (vegetation, geology)

Blera (landscape, dry pastures, Etruscan civilization)

Tarquinia (Etruscan site)

Canale Monterano (*Osmunda* refuge)

Allumiere (mixed beech refuge and Mediterranean vegetation)

Night at Sasso di Cerveteri





### Day 8

Caldara di Manziana (*Betula* woodland, geisers)  
Cerveteri (typical wine tasting)  
Polledrara (palaeontological site)  
Fiumicino Plain (coastal pollen site; dune vegetation)  
Night at Sasso di Cerveteri



### Day 9

Monte Catillo (dryland with *Styrax* and *Cercis*)  
Villa Adriana (Roman archaeological site)  
Valle di Castiglione (Mid- Upper Pleistocene pollen site)  
Albano Lake (vegetation, pollen site, landscape)  
typical "frasca" dinner  
Night near Tivoli







### Day 10

Circeo Promontory (Mediterranean vegetation)

Sabaudia (coastal wetlands)

Night near Tivoli



**Days 11-12** (ca. 15 h drive with night stopover in north Italy)

Start from Rome return to Göttingen