

Vertebrate Palaeontological Excursion – Monte San Giorgio



Vai Mara/Meride

Supervision: Prof. Dr. Torsten Scheyer, Dr. Gabriel Aguirre

When? Fall Semester 2026; **07.-08. November 2026** (weekend)

Where? Vertebrate Palaeontology of the World Heritage Site of Monte San Giorgio in Ticino/CH and Lombardy/IT (Lugano, Meride, Serpiano, Besano)

For whom? The excursion is primarily aimed at advanced undergrads or Masters students. The number of excursion participants is limited to 10. Please note that in case of a surplus of applications, preference will be given to applicants that conduct a thesis or other work at the Department of Paleontology.

credit points? BIO UZH: 1 ECTS, requires submission of excursion report, (acceptance pending positive evaluation of report)
ERDW ETHZ: 1 ECTS, requires submission of excursion report (acceptance pending positive evaluation of report)

Registration? Please register in the secretary office of the Department of Palaeontology with Heike Götzmann (room KO2 E65) until Friday, October 16th, 2026 at the latest, stating:

- Surname, Name
- Matriculation number
- Telephone number
- E-mail address

!! Students of earth sciences UZH and ETHZ have to register additionally

Please note: Please make an appointment with Ms Götzmann by email or telephone via: <https://www.pim.uzh.ch/apps/cms/pageframes/staff.php?show=77>

An excursion fee of **CHF 100** must be paid when registering. The contribution covers the costs for transport to and from Ticino, museum admissions, excursion handout and accommodation.

For the excursion:

We will explore the Triassic and Jurassic and the history of quarrying and excavations around Monte San Giorgio. As such, we plan for the two days a visit of the Natural History Museum in Lugano, hikes along the geological trails at Monte San Giorgio, a visit of the Museum of Fossil from Monte San Giorgio in Meride, and of the outcrop of Arzo close to Meride, as well as a visit to the museum in Besano.

!! Because Monte San Giorgio is World Heritage Site, it is strictly forbidden to collect fossils without explicit permission.

All participants must also take care of private travel and/or accident insurance.

If all excursion participants and museum guides speak German, we will consider conducting the excursion in German, otherwise it will be held in English.

What should you bring?

- Passport (for traveling to Italy)
- Sturdy shoes/boots
- Notebook and pen
- Rain/sun protection
- Backpack and lunch rations for both days
- Camera for taking photos
- necessary medication (EpiPen, etc.) – please inform us if you have a medical condition, we should be aware of

During the two days, the meals are not included in the excursion fee and you have to bring your own lunches - since it's the weekend, we won't go shopping. On Saturday evening, we plan on staying at an accommodation/hotel close to Cantello (IT) and have dinner in a restaurant.

Departure: Saturday, **November 7th**, 2026 at **9 am** from the entrance area of the Natural History Museum/Department of Paleontology (PIMUZ), Karl Schmid-Strasse 4 (UZH Main Building KO2). Please be there a little earlier so that we can leave on time. Arrival in Zurich will be on Sunday in early evening, depending on the traffic.