



July 19-23, 2026

Second circular

Joint Meeting of the Austrian, German, Italian, and Swiss Paleontological Societies

PALEO4ALPS corresponds to the **XXVI Paleodays of the Società Paleontologica Italiana (SPI)**, the **96th Annual Meeting of the Paläontologische Gesellschaft (PalGes)**, the **30th Annual Meeting of the Österreichischen Paläontologischen Gesellschaft (ÖPG)** and the **Meeting of the Swiss Paleontological Society**. The first joint meeting is intended to create a shared forum at the heart of the Alpine region. The conference is explicitly open beyond the membership of these societies and welcomes participants from all areas of paleontological research worldwide.

PALEO4ALPS aims to unite paleontologists working across a wide range of disciplines, geological time periods, fossil groups, and methodological approaches. By fostering exchange between different research traditions and perspectives, the meeting seeks to stimulate discussion, encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, and promote new scientific collaborations within the paleontological community.

The scientific program addresses both current and emerging topics in paleontology, ranging from Alpine case studies to global perspectives. A broad selection of multidisciplinary symposia provides a platform for integrative discussions. At the same time, field excursions to Bolca, the Dolomites, the Southern Alps, and the Carnic Alps will offer participants the opportunity to engage directly with the exceptional geological and paleontological heritage of the Alpine region.

Venue: Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Piazza Università 1, 39100 Bolzano/Bozen, South Tyrol, Italy

The Free University of Bolzano-Bozen is a young, internationally oriented university located in South Tyrol, Northern Italy. Founded in 1997, it is characterized by its trilingual profile, with teaching and research conducted in English, German, and Italian, and by its strong focus on interdisciplinary collaboration.

The university has established a dynamic research environment with a particular emphasis on sustainability, environmental change, and the interaction between natural and human systems. Through close links with regional research institutions, museums, and international partners, the Free University of Bolzano-Bozen provides an ideal setting for scientific exchange at the interface of local Alpine research and global scientific questions.

Situated at the crossroads of the Alpine region, the university offers an inspiring location for PALEO4ALPS, combining excellent research infrastructure with immediate access to classic geological and paleontological field areas. Hosting the conference at the Free University of Bolzano-Bozen underlines the meeting's commitment to international collaboration, interdisciplinarity, and engagement with the unique natural heritage of the Alps.

Language: English is the official language of the workshop. All presentations, including oral presentations, posters and abstracts should be in English.

Homepage: <https://www.unibz.it/en/events/paleo4alps-2026>

Contact address: paleo4alps@tiroler-landesmuseen.at

Organizers

Evelyn Kustatscher (Tiroler Landesmuseen, Museum of Nature South Tyrol)
Camilla Wellstein (Free University of Bolzano-Bozen)

Organizing Institutions

Free University of Bolzano-Bozen
Tiroler Landesmuseen
Museum of Nature South Tyrol
MUSE

Steering and Scientific Committee (in alphabetical order)

Gerald Auer (President ÖPG)
Luigimaria Borruso (Free University of Bolzano-Bozen)
Massimo Delfino (Vice-President SPI)
Jan-Peter Duda (Vice-President PalGes)
Iris Feichtinger (Vice-President ÖPG)
Annalisa Ferretti (President SPI)
Marie Hörnig (Vice-President PalGes)
Christian Klug (Vice-President SPS)
Evelyn Kustatscher (Tiroler Landesmuseen)
Alexander Nützel (President PalGes)
Torsten Scheyer (President SPS)
Tina Schlüter (headquarters PalGes)
Gianmarco Tavilla (Free University of Bolzano-Bozen)

Camilla Wellstein (Free University of Bolzano-Bozen)

Local Organizing Committee (in alphabetical order)

Iván R. Barreiro, Roberta Branz, Matias Delfosse-Allain, Elisabeth Frank, Joshua Gauweiler, Tina Schlüter

Symposium and excursion organizers (in alphabetical order)

Beatrice Azzarà, Bettina Bachmann, Andrea Baucon, Matteo Belvedere, Jordan Bestwick, Faysal Bibi, Christine Böhmer, Francesca Bosellini, Michael Buchwitz, Nicoletta Buratti, Pietro Calzoni, Alessandro P. Carniti, Giorgio Carnevale, Diego Castanera, Marco Cherin, Carlo Corradini, Silvia Danise, José Bienvenido Diez Ferrer, Danijela Dimitrijevic, Claudia Dojen, Stefano Dominici, Doris Döppes, Jan-Peter Duda, Orla Bath Enright, Iris Feichtinger, Annalisa Ferretti, William J. Foster, Fabio Franceschi, Peter Frenzel, Elena Ghezze, Luca Giusberti, Joachim Haug, Anneke H. van Heteren, Baran Karapunar, Wolfgang Kiessling, Christian Klug, Nicole Klein, Kristína Kocáková, Silvia Kolomaznik, Lutz Kunzmann, Evelyn Kustatscher, Shao Longyi, Giuseppe Marramà, Gregor Mathes, Christian Meyer, Gianmarco Minniti, Johannes Müller, Doris Nagel, Thomas A. Neubauer, Alexander Nützel, Elpiniki Maria Parparousi, Cesare Papazzoni, Luca Pellegrino, Fabio Massimo Petti, Catalina Pimiento, Anna Pint, Herwig Prinoth, Ella Quante, Gernot Rabeder, Mike Reich, Joachim Reitner, Riccardo Rocchi, Iván Rodríguez-Barreiro, Guido Roghi, Ingrid C. Romero, Valentina Rossi, Emanuele Ruiu, Haidra Saleh, Daniele Scarponi, Torsten Scheyer, Dustin Schmidt, Elke Schneebeli-Hermann, Simon Schneider, Werner Schwarzhan, Giovanni Serafini, Lara Sciscio, Lukas Schweigl, Leonardo Sorbelli, Amalia Spina, Manuel Steinbauer, Andrea Villa, Camilla Wellstein, Martin Zuschin.

Fieldtrips (registration will open soon)

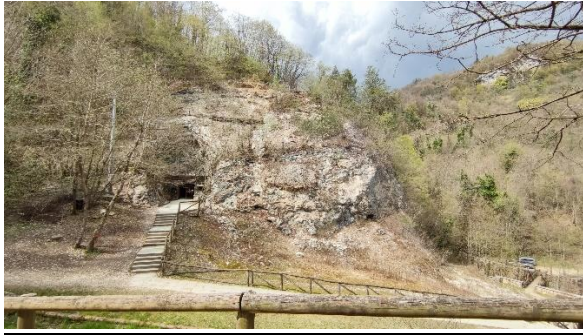


Pre-conference field trip to the Carnic Alps

This three-day excursion will begin in Trieste on the morning of Thursday, July 16th (8:00 a.m.) and end in Bolzano in the late afternoon of Saturday, July 18th.

Several classic and new sections and outcrops of different Paleozoic ages in the central Carnic Alps will be visited, most of which are accessible via easy walks. Only the famous Cellon section can be reached with a 20-minute hike on a steep, well-marked trail. The participation fee

includes transportation, two nights' accommodation in a double room in Mauthen, Austria, and all meals. Participants are responsible for their own accommodation in Trieste before the excursion and in Bolzano afterward.



Pre-conference field trip to Verona and Bolca

This one-day excursion will start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. in Bolzano on Saturday, July 18th. We will visit the Museo di Storia Naturale di Verona where the historical collections of Bolca are preserved and then the classic outcrops of Bolca. The fee includes transportation, light lunch at the site, and museum entrance. The excursion can be joined at the Verona Museum at 10:00 a.m. and therefore can be a convenient transfer to Bolzano for those who arrive at Verona Airport.



Pre-conference field trip to Lavini di Marco

This one-day field trip will take us to the famous dinosaur footprint site of Lavini di Marco. Due to the season, the outcrop will be visited early in the morning, followed by a visit to the MUSE in Trento. The fee includes transportation, lunch, and entrance at the MUSE.



Post-conference field trip to the Dolomites

This three-day excursion will begin in Bolzano/Bozen on the morning of Friday, July 24th (8:00 a.m.) and end in Bolzano in the late afternoon of Sunday, July 26th.

Several classic sections and outcrops, important for the understanding of the evolution of the geology of the Dolomites, will be visited, most of which are accessible via walks and short hiking. Only the famous Bletterbach trail has a 150 meters steep part to get out of the valley, but by well-marked trail. The other sections you will be able to visit are Seceda, Bulla/Pufels and the Pralongià outcrops of the famous Sanct-Cassian Formation. The fee includes transportation, two nights' accommodation in a double room, and all meals and entrances to visitor centers and museums.

Preliminary program

July 16-18: pre-conference field trip to the Carnic Alps

July 18: pre-conference field trip to Bolca

July 18: pre-conference field trip to Lavini di Marco

July 19: Early Career Researchers (ECR) Day, Opening Ceremony, Ice breaker party

July 20: Scientific program, poster session

July 21: Scientific program, poster session, evening open talk for the public

July 22: Scientific program, Social Dinner

July 23: Scientific program, Closing Ceremony

July 24-26: post-conference field trip to the Dolomites

ECR Day – New Technologies and Media in Paleontology: Research, Networking, and Outreach

The Early Career Researchers (ECR) Day will bring together students, early career researchers and paleontophiles for a day dedicated to open discussion, networking, and emerging perspectives in European paleontology. Organized jointly by representatives of PaiP (Paleontologists in Progress, Società Paleontologica Italiana) and the Early Career Researchers Working Group of the Paläontologische Gesellschaft, the event will address the challenges and opportunities faced by the new generation of paleontologists and explore how digital technologies are transforming research, communication, and museum practice. The program will include interactive roundtables on the role of early career communities in European paleontology and on the opportunities and limitations of artificial intelligence, expanded reality and the virtual realm in paleontological research, museology and paleoart. The day will be closed by the inauguration of the paleoart exhibition *Ancient Horizons: Reimagining the Lost Worlds of Europe*, featuring artists from across Europe and highlighting the dialogue between scientific research and visual reconstruction of the deep past.

Program (19 July 2026)

10:30–12:30: Roundtable: Early Career Researchers and fossil enthusiasts in European Paleontology

12:30–14:00: Lunch break

14:00–15:30: Roundtable: Artificial Intelligence in Paleontology and Paleoart

15:30–15:45: Break

15:45–17:30: Workshop: Challenges and Perspectives in Modern Paleontological Museology (virtual museums, AI, augmented reality)

17:30–17:45: Break

17:45–18:15: Opening of the Paleoart Exhibition *Ancient Horizons: Reimagining the Lost Worlds of Europe*

More details will be provided in the next circular. For questions, please contact paip@paleoitalia.it

Paleoart Exhibition *Ancient Horizons: Reimagining the Lost Worlds of Europe*

This paleoart exhibition aims to bring together selected paleoartists (around 20-25) from across Austria, Italy, Germany, and Switzerland, to offer a diverse and contemporary visual exploration of life in the deep past. Through a wide range of artistic styles and media, the exhibition aims to highlight how paleoart bridges scientific knowledge and creative interpretation, transforming paleontological data into compelling visual narratives. Artists will be asked to contribute with works depicting ancient organisms and paleoenvironments from Europe, to highlight the diversity and richness of the old continent fossil record. The exhibition aims to showcase the richness of European paleoart and to foster dialogue between scientists and artists to strengthen the overall European paleontological community.

Registration

Registration at this webpage: <https://www.conftool.com/paleo4alps/index.php?page=login>

Registration fees

Categories	Early bird (until April 30, 2026)	late bird (after April 30, 2026)
Students (Bsc, Msc, PhD), member of one of the organizing societies	200,00 Euro	250,00 Euro
Students (Bsc, Msc, PhD), not member of one of the organizing societies	220,00 Euro	270,00 Euro
Citizen scientists (paleontofili/Sammler, unemployed)	250,00 Euro	300,00 Euro
Regular, member of one of the organizing societies	300,00 Euro	350,00 Euro
Regular, not member of one of the organizing societies	350,00 Euro	400,00 Euro
Daily registration	150,00 Euro	150,00 Euro
Accompanying persons	100,00 Euro	150,00 Euro

Participation in the Early Career Researchers (ECR) Day will be free of charge.

Registration fees cover admittance to all scientific and outreach activities within the conference, the ice breaker party, refreshments during coffee breaks, the social dinner, and conference materials (digital abstract book).

Registration fees or accompanying people cover admittance to all outreach activities, the ice breaker party, and the social dinner.

We are trying to organize daycare systems for children. If this is feasible it will be communicated as soon as possible including the arising costs.

Abstracts submission

Each participant may at maximum submit one abstract for poster and one abstract for oral communication. The abstract will have a maximal length of 2,000 characters (including spaces and references that should be limited), text in English. Citations should appear as follows in the text: (Mead, 2018), (Mead & Hunger, 2020), (Ehret et al., 2012).

References should be cited as follows:

Ehret D.J., Hubbell G. & MacFadden B.J. (2009). Exceptional preservation of the white shark *Carcharodon* (Lamniformes, Lamnidae) from the early Pliocene of Peru. *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*, 29: 1-13.

Fraas E. (1904). Neue Zeuglodonten aus dem unteren Mitteleocän vom Mokattam bei Cairo. *Geologische und Paläontologische Abhandlungen*, 6: 197-220.

Mead J.G. (2018). Beaked whales, overview. In Würsig B.G., Thewissen J.G.M. & Kovacs K.M. (eds), Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals, 3rd Edition. Academic Press: 80-83.

Abstracts submission at this webpage:

<https://www.conftool.com/paleo4alps/index.php?page=login>

Travel and accommodation in Bolzano/Bozen

Bolzano/Bozen is located in the heart of the Alpine region and is easily accessible by public transport and by car from Italy, Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. The city is well connected to the European rail network, with regular train services from Verona and Innsbruck, providing convenient links to major international railway hubs. International participants can reach Bolzano/Bozen via several nearby airports, including Innsbruck, Verona, Venice, Milan, and Munich. From these airports, Bolzano/Bozen can be accessed by train or bus connections, with travel times ranging from approximately one to three hours, depending on the point of departure.

Bolzano/Bozen offers a wide range of accommodation options, including hotels, guesthouses, and budget-friendly lodging within walking distance or short public transport connections to the conference venue. As July is a peak travel season in the Alpine region, participants are strongly advised to book accommodation well in advance.

Deadlines

Deadline fieldtrip registration: April 30, 2026

Abstract submission: April 30, 2026

Deadline registration: April 30, 2026

Final program: June 30, 2026