

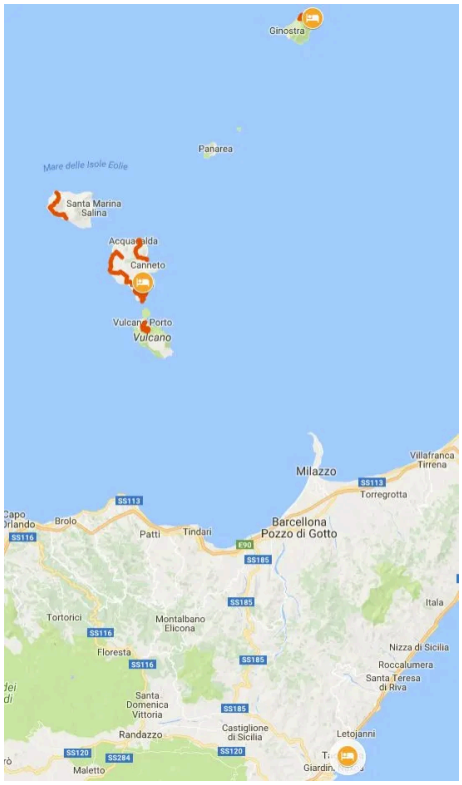
COASTS & ISLANDS SUMMER

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours
level :	
duration :	8 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Sep Oct
code:	ITSW051

Volcanoes of Sicily: Aeolian Islands and Etna - Italy

Volcanoes of Sicily: Aeolian Islands and Etna

8 days, PRICE FROM *€ 783*



This Sicily's volcanoes tour offer a journey across the islands, fascinating lands with many colours: the intense whiteness of the **fishing villages**, the yellow of cultivated fields, the blue and green shades of the sea, the black lava of the Aeolian Islands and its active volcanoes.

Mount Etna, the ever present, awe-inspiring giant colours the mountain sides in red with its lava flows, painting a sight that is unique in the world. You will walk along the cliffs crest, admiring the view of little hamlets built like eagles' nests on the mountain slopes, discovering the traditions of a place where daily life still follows a **slow rhythm**, dictated by the flow of the seasons and ancient traditions.

Naturally, you will be able to taste **Sicilian Cuisine,** with its sharp flavours and the countless influences brought by the many peoples that have contributed to the rich history of this island.

Route

Day 1 Lipari

Your travel starts in **Lipari**, that can be reached by hydrophoil from Milazzo, connected to the Catania airport through train or bus. The white houses and crystal blue sea of the island will brighten your day: if you want to discover its artistic beauties, do not miss the **San Bartolomeo Cathedral** and the Norman Cloister, with its decorated capitals. By night you can join the lively nightlife of the island with a walk to Marina Corta, and taste some great fish accompanied by the tasty local capers.

You will stay in Lipari for four days: **you can freely choose among the itineraries indicated in the days 2-4.**

Day 2 The Island of Lipari, selection of walks, 11 km or 5 km

- **A) The island of Lipari - the southern tip and Monte Guardia, 11 km**

This itinerary leads to the **southern tip of Lipari**: you will climb the **Monte Guardia** to enjoy a beautiful view on the **Volcano Island**, named this way by the Ancient Greeks, who used to believe that the Island housed the God Vulcano's forges.

Distance: 11 km

Elevation gain: +470/-470 m

- **B) The Island of Lipari - from Acquacalda to Canneto, 5 km**

From Lipari you will reach the **Acquacalda beach**, on the northern shore of the island, with a short bus ride. You can stop there for a bath before starting your walk on a steep path winding on the side of a big pumice cave, almost touching **Mount Pilato**, admiring the wonderful view on the archipelago.

You will then descend towards the **Canneto beach**, from where you can take a bus back to Lipari.

Distance: 5 km

Elevation gain: +350/-350 m

Day 3 The Island of Lipari, from Quattropani along the the west coast, 14 or 9 km

From Lipari you can reach Quattropani with a short bus ride: after a visit to the church, which offers one of the best views on the island, you will start a varied walk leading along the coast through quiet old villages and fumaroles, with beautiful views on Salina and Filicudi. The walk ends at **Terme di San Calogero**, the oldest springs of the Mediterranean region.

Distance: 14 or 9 km

Elevation gain: +586/-950 m

Day 4 The Volcano island or the Islands of Salina and Panarea

A) the Volcano Island, 5,7 or 12 km

Vulcano is a small and spectacular island. Here you walk up **through an almost lunar landscape** to the **“Gran Cratere”** the great crater, yellowish from the sulfurous smoke constantly emitted. From the top you have exceptional 360° views of the island and the volcanic archipelago. The descent along green slopes offers **amazing contrasts of colors** with the blue sea and the dark grey rocks. You return to Lipari with the afternoon boat.
If the walk to the summit is closed you can opt for another very panoramic walk from Capo Grillo back to Vulcano port with extraordinary views of the island.

Distance: 5,7 or 12 km

Elevation gain: +290/-290 m (optional +310/-370 m)

B) The Island of Salina, 7 or 9 km

In this trip you will visit **Salina**, the village where the film "The Postman" was shot. You can enjoy a short but challenging walk from the "semaforo" in the village of Porto Rinella, through mediterranean shrubland, rewarding yourself with panoramic views on **Filicudi** and **Alicudi**.

Distance: 7 or 9 km

Elevation gain: +430/-430 m

C) The Island of Panarea: loop walk, 7 km

Panarea is the furthest island reachable by hydrofoil ride from Lipari. The walk runs all around the island passing through the ridge of the ancient vulcano. From there you have a 360° views over the entire Eolie archipelago. Along the way it is possible to make a detour to the famous
prehistoric village.

Distance: 7 km

Elevation gain: +487/-487 m

Day 5 Stromboli and its volcano, 9 km

Today you transfer to Stromboli, at the port your luggage will be taken to the hotel while you stroll through the narrow whitewashed streets to the hotel.
The walk on Stromboli is **a one-of-a-kind and spectacular experience** as this volcano is **constantly erupting**.
This circular walk will lead you up to 272 m. a.s.l from where you can see the lava flow field called the **“Sciara di Fuoco”**: the walk is open to everyone and is normally always accessible.

Distance: 9 km

Elevation gain: +425/-425 m

Day 6 Taormina

Today you will reach Milazzo by hydrofoil, from Stromboli. From there, you will take a train or bus to Taormina, a lively town that you will be able to enjoy for the whole day.

There will definitely be no shortage of attractions: you can walk through the gardens of the **Villa Comunale,** visit the cathedral or the well preserved **Greek Theatre**. Even strolling through the narrow streets of the centre will reveal many surprises, many of which will delight your palate: we suggest you try local cuisine, a perfect mix between the Arab, French and Spanish culinary traditions.

Day 7 **Guided hiking tour on Mount Etna, 3 km**

After breakfast, you will reach Piano Provenzano with a transfer. From there, you will start walking through a mildly challenging itinerary that will take you to the gigantic, majestic Mount Etna. **The walk, along the volcanic slopes**, will at first take you through lush vegetation, then through old and new lava flows, before encountering lava caves. You will also have the chance to taste some local snacks.

In the afternoon, do not miss the unique **Gole dell'Alcantara,** with its bizarre rocky conformations, created by the encounter between lava and the ice-cold waters of the stream that flows within the gorge. You will get back to Taormina around half past six in the afternoon, in time to enjoy the last evening in town.

Distance: 3 km

Elevation gain: +150/-150 m

Day 8 **Goodbye Taormina**

Our services end after breakfast.

Accommodation

Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast



Hotel Oriente - Lipari
Hotel Oriente is centrally located in Lipari, 300 meters from harbour of Lipari. Rooms are spacious, bright and quiet with air conditioning, TV, free Wifi and ample panoramic balcony. Breakfast is rich with savoury and sweet dishes.



Villaggio Stromboli - Stromboli
Hotel Villaggio Stromboli is located on Stromboli Island a few steps from the beach and 400 mettres from the city center. Some rooms overlook the sea and Strombolicchio and are well-furnished, clean and comfortable with satellite TV, ceiling fan, air conditioning, free Wifi. It has a restaurant with terraces overlook the sea.



Hotel Pensione Svizzera - Taormina
The Hotel is located in Via Pirandello the most central panoramic road of Taormina, 5 minutes by foot from the city center and the cable car that brings you to Lido Mazzarò, one of the most renowned beach of the city. Rooms are well-finished, welcoming and clean. Breakfast is rich, served on the terrace.

Practical info

From Catania airport (CTA), you can get to Milazzo by direct bus. As an alternative, you can take a train from Catania railway station to either Milazzo or Messina.

From both Milazzo and Messina, you can reach Lipari by hydrofoil.

On departure, you can get from Taormina to either Messina (direct) or Milazzo (change in Messina) by train.

Train timetables available on www.trenitalia.com.

Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 7 Nights in double room in *** hotels with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- transfer from Stromboli harbour to the hotel and back
- guided hiking tour on Mount Etna, with transfer from and to the hotel in Taormina
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel