

The Straits of Sicily

The voyage of Ulysses



Level of Difficulty: medium-easy

Periods: • 8-12 March • 29 April - 3 May • 13-17 September
• 9-13 April • 7-11 June • 4 -8 October

Price per person: € 115,00 for 5 days (+ € 135,00 for transport)
Deposit 30% - Discount for groups of more than 10

A journey to discover the evocative power of the many faces of Sicily. From mighty Etna to the clash of the two seas in the Straits of Messina. From the Peloritani Mountains, the watershed ridge between the Ionian and Tyrrhenian seas, to the lava on Etna, the highest volcano in Europe.

PROGRAM

1st Day - The Port of Sicily: the mountains of Messina, on the peak between two seas
Time: **3 hrs**; Distance: **9 km**; Maximum Altitude: **mt 1124 slm**; Total Altitude Gain: **mt 728** downhill.
At 1124 m. Mt. Dinnamare dominates the city of Messina. We'll follow an ancient road to the small village of Tipoldo and then an old military road which follows the ridge that crosses the entire chain of the Peloritani Mountains to the Alcantara Valley. During our walk we'll be able to see both the Tyrrhenian and Ionian sea at the same time.

2nd Day - Along the River towards the Megaliths of Argimusco
Time: **4 hrs**; Distance: **10 km**; Maximum Altitude: **mt 1200 slm**; Total Altitude Gain: **mt 460**.
From Roccella Valdemone, among secular trees of Malabotta Wood, we go to the Rocks of Argimusco, enormous ancient megaliths sculptured by a secular erosion process. A unique place where pre-ellenic populations celebrated their sacred rites and ceremonies.

3rd Day - The Eruption of 2003 and the View from the Valley del Bove
Time: **3 hrs**; Distance: **5 km**; Maximum Altitude: **mt 2000 slm**; Total Altitude Gain: **mt 200**.
Etna volcano: Sapienza mountain hut (hike up the upper Silvestri crater) Schiena dell Asino and return via the southwest flank of Etna, near Sapienza mountain hut. We'll visit the inactive craters of Mt. Silvestri, site of the 2003 eruption. We'll follow one of the oldest trails on Etna to an altitude of 2000 m., where we can admire the immense volcanic caldera of the Valley del Bove.

4th Day - Sand Dunes and Coastal Lakes of the Nature Reserve
Time: **3 hrs**; Distance: **5 km**; Maximum Altitude: **mt 200 slm**; Total Altitude Gain: **mt 200** downhill.
Marinello Lagoon. From Tinari, where the ancient Greek ruins of Tyndaris overlook the splendid lagoon of Marinello, now a nature reserve. A pleasant, panoramic trail will lead us to the beach for a walk among the dunes and the lovely coastal lakes of the reserve.

5th Day - Alcantara Valley and Taormina
Visit the famous gorge of the Alcantara Valley with its peculiar basalt walls. In the afternoon we'll visit the medieval village of Taormina.

* *Minimun number of participants is required to garateer the itineraries*

PHILOSOPHY OF AN ECOLOGICAL TRIP

Our trip is concentrated in the parks and nature reserves of Sicily because we aim to rediscover both the volcanic landscapes on Etna and the all but forgotten land of the Peloritani Mountains. They are such an important natural resource that they constitute the "missing" park of Sicily. These mountains contain a dense web of roads and trails, used today as in the past by an entire microcosm of shepherds who make good use of the riches the mountains offer. These shepherds also maintain an impressive heritage of traditional rites and ceremonies as well as precious knowledge of local handicrafts.

Pelagos is in association with
Ecotourism Italy.



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