

Hiking Italy's Volcano Trails

HIKING MT. VESUVIUS, MT. ETNA, AND THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS



TRIP DATES

2024

September 23-October 3, 2024

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Our adventure in Italy's south—the mezzogiorno—with its palm-fringed bays, shimmering aquamarine seas, seaside villages, and mouth-watering cuisine, is framed by a sublime setting: the dramatic volcano-isles of Stromboli, Vulcano, Lipari, and tiny Panarea, as well as magnificent Mt. Etna. After a hike on the crater rim of Mt. Vesuvius and a visit to ancient Pompeii, we ferry to the Aeolian Islands, believed by the ancient Greeks to be the home of Aeolus, the king of the winds. Conditions permitting, our hikes bring us to the summits of Stromboli and Vulcano (from which all volcanoes get their name), while coastal walks on Panarea and Lipari reward us with Roman ruins and vivid views of the blue Mediterranean. The surreal moonscapes of Mt. Etna (10,500'), dominating the Sicilian skyline, are the memorable backdrop for our final hikes. We end our journey in lovely Taormina, with its breathtaking panoramas of sea and sky.



Wilderness Travel

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Itinerary

DAY 1

NAPLES / CUMAE

Meet the group and our Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Palazzo Alabardieri in Naples, from where we drive to the small city of Pozzuoli, following the coastal road around the Bay of Naples. After a short walk in the Campi Flegrei area (“Fiery Ground”), once the crater of a volcano, we enjoy our lunch. Later, we visit the archaeological site of Cumae, the first Greek settlement in southern Italy, famed for its evocative Cave of the Cumaean Sybil, discovered by accident in 1932. A mysterious place of long, trapezoidal galleries cut out of solid rock, the cave was the mythical home of the most famous Sybil (female oracle) outside Delphi in Greece. We gather tonight for a Welcome Dinner in the bustling port city of Naples. Overnight at hotel...LD

Note: We recommend you arrive a day or two early in this remarkable and lively city, the third largest in Italy. The lives of the Neapolitan people are full of song, gesture, color, and chaos—they love to live in the moment! The castles, palaces, baroque facades, museums, and churches are stunning in this city whose inhabitants trace their heritage back to the ancient Greeks. Highly recommended is a visit to the Museo Nazionale (National Museum), where many of the treasures of Pompeii are on display.

DAY 2

VESUVIUS / POMPEII / OVERNIGHT FERRY

With sweeping views of the coast, we hike around the far rim of Mt. Vesuvius this morning. At the top, we gaze into the abyss of the volcanic caldera. Looming over Naples, Vesuvius is small as volcanoes go (just 4,000 feet high) but its eruption in 79AD blew the mountaintop completely off, submerging the cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae in ash and mud.

After lunch at a restaurant on the slopes of Vesuvius, we head to the fascinating remains of legendary Pompeii, engulfed—and as a result preserved intact for later generations—by Vesuvius’ ash. The sheer beauty and extent of the ruins, and the treasures it kept secret for almost 2,000 years, have made it one of the most famous of archaeological sites in the world. The eruption of Vesuvius covered the town and its inhabitants in many tons of pumice and volcanic ash. The disaster remained in people’s minds for many years, but Pompeii was eventually forgotten until explorations of the site began in 1748. Many artifacts considered suitable for the private collection of the Bourbon King Charles III (1759-88) were removed and transported to Naples, where they remain to this day, displayed in the Museo Nazionale. By the mid-19th century, much of the city was unearthed. The surviving art and architecture of Pompeii provides fascinating evidence of how life was lived in ancient Roman days. In this incredible city, we walk on the old Roman back streets and peer into the shops and homes. This evening, we enjoy a delicious pizza dinner in the city where this popular dish was invented. After dinner, we board the overnight ferry for the Aeolian Islands. Greek mythology ascribes these islands to Aeolus and suggests that Odysseus temporarily sheltered here during his



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	11 days
Arrive:	Naples, Italy
Depart:	Catania, Italy
Lodging:	9 nights small inns and hotels, 1 night aboard ferry
Meals:	All meals included except 1 lunch and 2 dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Hiking / Trekking
Trip Level:	1 2 3 4 5 6 8 hiking days on moderate to steep trails, 3-8 hours a day on hiking days, altitudes up to 10,000 feet, van support. This is a strenuous hiking trip. Please read the “What the Trip is Like” section or contact our Europe Team for more details.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike to the summit of Mt. Etna, highest volcano in Europe
- Summit hikes on the dramatic volcanoes of Stromboli and Vulcano
- Explore the stunning Aeolian Islands, surrounded by azure seas
- Taormina, an enchanting hilltown with a preserved Greek theater

Itinerary (cont'd)



travels. Please note: This is a standard transportation ferry and not a first-class ship! We reserve the best-available staterooms with private baths; they will be comfortable but basic...BLD

Hiking Details: 2.5 miles, 3 hours

Transportation Details: 10 hours overnight ferry

DAY 3

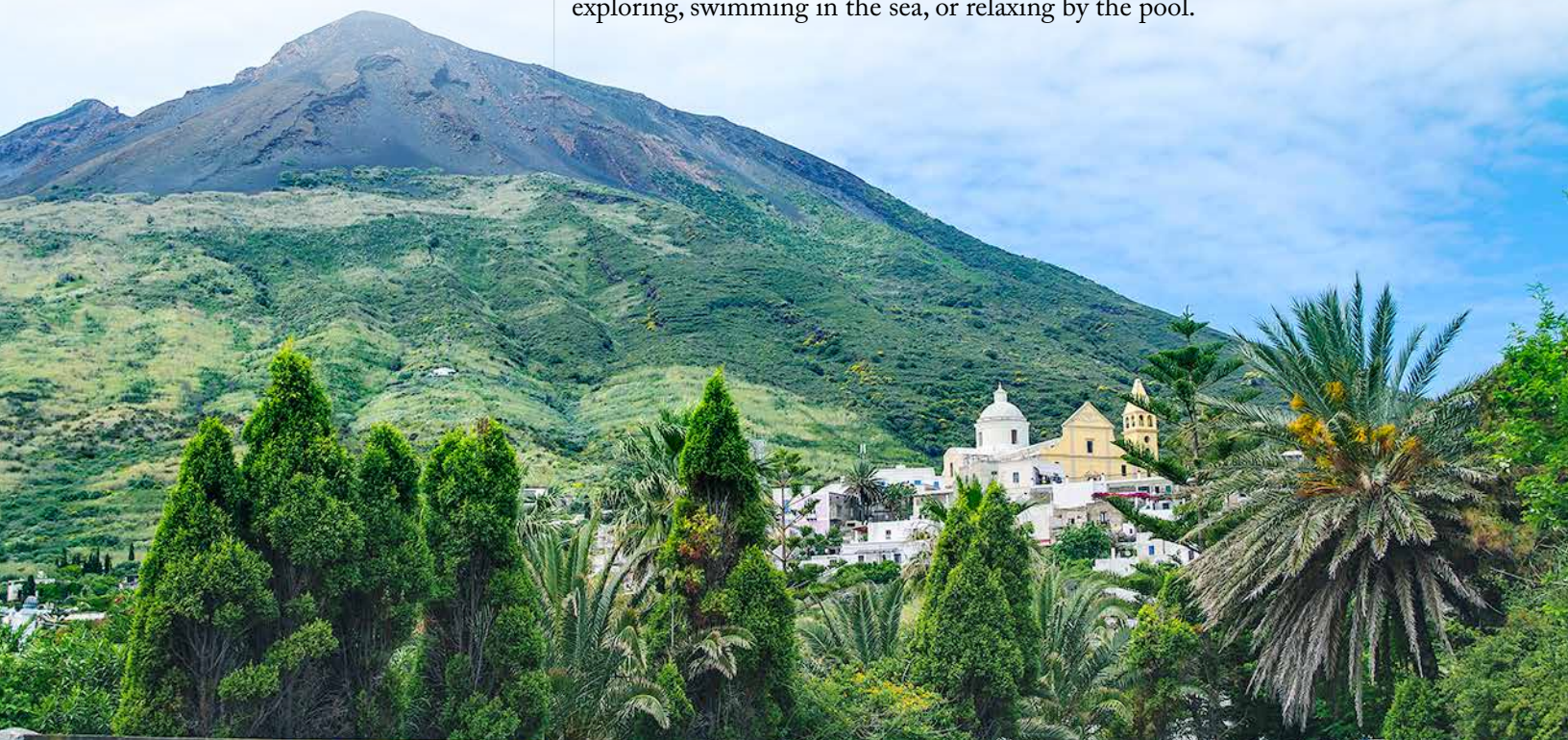
STROMBOLI, AEOLIAN ISLANDS

Our ferry arrives in the morning at Stromboli in the Aeolian Islands (in Italian, the Isole Eolie). The most spectacular of the Aeolian Islands, Stromboli is literally a volcano emerging out of the sea. This volcano-island achieved its modern fame when Italian director Roberto Rossellini and Ingrid Bergman made their film *Stromboli* here in 1949. It was also the crater of Stromboli from which Professor Lindenbrook and his colleagues emerged in Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. A boat ride brings us around the island for wonderful views of its volcanic slopes, dropping us off in Ginostra for lunch.

In the late afternoon, we meet the guide who joins us for a climb of the perfect cone of Stromboli volcano. It takes about three hours to climb 2,700 feet to the summit, which we reach around sunset. We enjoy a picnic dinner on the summit and a chance to observe, from a safe distance, Stromboli's explosions. It is quite dramatic to see the spectacle of the red lava fountains and hear the earth breathe and hiss. We hike back down the trail in the dark, arriving at our hotel in the late evening. Overnight at hotel in Stromboli...BLD

Hiking Details: 5.5 miles, 6 hours, 3,050 feet ascent/descent

Note: The Stromboli hike is steep and strenuous, and is dependent on current volcanic conditions. Those who don't want to participate can enjoy time exploring, swimming in the sea, or relaxing by the pool.



DAY 4

PANAREA HIKE / LIPARI

Departing Stromboli by hydrofoil, we head to Panarea, the smallest and most beautiful of the Aeolian Islands. Surrounded by crystalline waters, the island rises to its highest point at craggy Punta del Corvo (1,200'), with its western flank plunging steeply down into the sea. Starting on the western side of the island, we follow trails along rugged cliffs with expansive views of other islands and the vast blue Mediterranean. En route, we pass the remains of a prehistoric settlement on the shores. Our hike begins and ends near the charming village of Cala Junco, set on a stony cove with aquamarine waters. At the end of our hike, a boat ride takes us to Lipari, the largest of the Aeolian Islands. We land at Lipari Town, whose tiny harbor is dwarfed by a castle that crowns the hill. Overnight at hotel in Lipari...BLD

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 3 hours, 1,500 feet ascent/descent

Transportation Details: 2 hours by boat

DAY 5

LIPARI / COASTAL HIKE

Today's hike on Lipari brings us across a beautiful coastal path to the old Roman thermal baths at San Calogero, with glorious views of Vulcano Island and other spiky rock formations that puncture the sea between Lipari and Vulcano. We enjoy lunch en route, and the last part of our hike is on a stone-paved Roman road. Overnight at hotel in Lipari...BLD

Hiking Details: 4 miles, 4 hours, 650 feet ascent, 1,350 feet descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 6

LIPARI / VULCANO HIKE

A hydrofoil voyage brings us to the island of Vulcano, from which all volcanoes get their name. Vulcan (Hephaestus in Greek mythology) was the Roman god of fire and metalworking. He was also the son of Jupiter (Zeus in Greek mythology). We enjoy a hike to the top of Vulcano (conditions permitting), then continue around the crater rim. The path is wide and gradual for most of the hike, and narrower and steeper as we approach the top, a total of about 1,500 feet up and back from sea level. Vulcano's last eruption was in 1890, but it is not dormant. A long crack opened in 1988 and exhales hot gases that create exquisite sulfur crystal structures around the vent. At the base of the volcano is a small pool of bubbling sulfur mud where we can take an optional mud bath, then wash off in the sea nearby. We head back to Lipari in the early afternoon for an optional visit to its great archaeology and vulcanology museums. Overnight at hotel in Lipari...BL

Hiking Details: 4.5 miles, 3 hours, 1,200 feet ascent/descent

Transportation Details: 1 hour by boat



DAY 7

SICILY / MT. ETNA HIKE

An early morning ferry takes us to the port of Milazzo on the island of Sicily. Our morning drive brings us to the foothills of Mt. Etna, with superb views of the peak en route. At 11,000 feet, Mount Etna is the highest active volcano in Europe and one of the world's largest volcanoes. Etna and many villages surrounding it have been protected as national park since 1987. This majestic volcano is over 500 square miles at its base and dominates much of Sicily's eastern half.

With our local Etna guides, we head up to 8,000 feet on the mountain. Our hike explores the north face of Etna, bringing us to the old craters in the Monte Pizzillo areas from the 19th century explosion. We hike among impressive lava formations and tunnels that we can enter and observe from inside. Much of our hike is on rough volcanic terrain and over sculpted lava flows. Our hike ends at the "Bocche del 2002," the mouth of the huge lava flow of 2002. In the late afternoon, we reach our hotel near Etna's slopes. Overnight in hotel...BLD

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 5-6 hours, 1,250 feet ascent/descent

Transportation Details: 3 hours driving, 1 hour by boat

DAY 8

SICILY / MT. ETNA SUMMIT HIKE

We drive the 4WD track on Mt. Etna to about 9,000 feet, then begin our 8-hour round-trip hike to the summit. This is a long and very strenuous day, but well worth it. Crossing lava, sand, and ash up to the summit at 11,000 feet, we are rewarded with incredible views into the main craters and even across to the coast of mainland Italy. Our descent brings us through the phantasmagoric moonscape of the Valle del Bove, an enormous chasm that contains the most impressive lava sculptures on Etna. An alternate, shorter (3-4 hours) hike takes us to the central crater without crossing the rough lava terrain. (Please note: our exact hiking itinerary is dependent on local weather conditions and level of volcanic activity at the time.) We return to our hotel in the late afternoon for a rest before dinner...BLD

Hiking Details (Option 1): 8.5 miles, 8 hours, 1,550 feet ascent, 4,900 feet descent

(Option 2): 5 miles, 3-4 hours, 1,550 feet ascent/descent

DAY 9

ALCANTARA GORGE HIKE / TAORMINA

At the base of Etna this morning, we hike above the spectacular Alcantara Gorge, a 100-foot-deep lava flow that has been water-carved into fantastic formations to create an amazing natural wonder. The views are fantastic. We can descend the gorge, taking time to jump into pools and slide down natural water slides (this part of the hike is weather-dependent and entirely optional), or hike through citrus groves as we follow the river. Departing the gorge, we head to the enchanting town of Taormina, set high above two sweeping bays. Taormina is a



delight and one of Sicily's most picturesque settings, with its main street lined with 15th to 19th-century palazzi. Dinner is on your own this evening so you can choose from one of the town's many restaurants. Your Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations, depending on how fancy or local you wish to go...BL

Hiking Details (Option 1): 3.5 miles, 2 hours, 700 feet descent

(Option 2): 1.5 miles, 1 hour, 300 feet descent

DAY 10

TAORMINA

With balconies overflowing with flowers and breathtaking panoramas of sea and sky, Taormina charms its visitors. From the town's spectacular Greek theater, Mt. Etna dominates a view little altered since the theater was built in the 3rd century BC. This morning, we enjoy a walking tour around town. After lunch on your own, the afternoon is free for independent exploration, shopping, or swimming at the hotel pool. We gather for a festive Farewell Dinner tonight...

BD

DAY 11

DEPART

Morning transfer to the airport (1.5 hours) at Catania, Sicily, for departure on homeward-bound flights...B



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through 2024

\$6395 (12-15 members)

\$6795 (9-11 members)

\$7195 (5-8 members)

Single supplement: \$1070

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- accommodations
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 2 dinners as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- Land transportation, transfer to the airport on Day 11
- Entrance fees to museums and visitors sites, and sightseeing as noted
- Ferry and hydrofoil transportation during the trip

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, cost of train travel, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, and so on).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Naples, Italy

Suggested Airport: Naples International Airport (NAP)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, by 10:00 am

Meeting Place: You will meet your Trip Leader in the lobby of the Hotel Palazzo Alabardieri in Naples at 11:45 am on Day 1. Please arrive ready for a long walking day.

The easiest way to get to the Hotel Palazzo Alabardieri is to take a taxi ride from the airport, which costs approximately €20. If you wish to stay at the Palazzo Alabardieri Hotel before the start of the tour, we recommend you book a room directly from the hotel website at www.palazzoalabardieri.it. There are also dozens of other wonderful hotels in Naples.

DEPARTURE

Catania, Italy

Suggested Airport: Catania–Fontanarossa Airport (CTA)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 11, after 11:00 am

A group transfer will be provided on Day 11 from the group hotel in Taormina to the Catania Airport. We will leave our hotel at 8:00 am and arrive at the Catania Airport around 9:30 am.

If you have a flight departing earlier than 11:00 am, you will need to transfer on your own from Taormina to the airport. Taxis are available for direct hotel to airport service for approximately €80. Bus service from Taormina to the Catania airport is also available for approximately €10 and buses depart Taormina every few hours. Your Trip Leader can assist you with logistics during the trip.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Italy.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one day prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Accommodations



HOTEL PALAZZO ALABARDIERI

Naples, Italy

Day 1 (1 night)

Set on a pedestrian side street just a few blocks from the waterfront and close to historical sites, restaurants, and high-end fashion shops, the Palazzo Alabardieri offers a warm ambiance and a relaxing place to stay in the bustling city of Naples. Guest rooms in this former palazzo are quiet, clean, and well appointed, and the staff is friendly and welcoming.



OVERNIGHT PUBLIC FERRY

Naples-Stromboli, Italy

Day 2 (1 night)

To get to Stromboli from Naples, we take an overnight public transportation ferry. We reserve the best-available staterooms with private baths; they are comfortable but basic. On the plus side: the view of Stromboli's fiery explosions in the dark (we get there early in the morning) are dramatic and unforgettable.



LA SIRENETTA PARK HOTEL

Stromboli, Italy

Day 3 (1 night)

This family-run hotel is in an idyllic location, at the edge of the village and right across the street from a black sand beach. Guest rooms are simple but have an airy feeling and views of the sea. There is a beautiful saltwater pool with spectacular views of Strombolicchio, a craggy block of basalt rising from the water. Paintings of the volcano done by the owner hang everywhere in the hotel.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Hiking Italy's Volcano Trails* webpage and click on "Accommodations."



GRAND HOTEL ARCIDUCA

Lipari, Italy

Days 4 to 6 (3 nights)

We stay three nights in Lipari, a relatively large town that can get quite lively. Our hotel is located in a quiet neighborhood away from the noise and traffic, above one of the two harbors and within walking distance of everything. The hotel has been recently renovated and has a friendly and helpful staff. A terrace overlooks a small pool set in a garden of fragrant Mediterranean shrubs.



SHALAI RESORT

Linguaglossa, Italy

Days 7 to 8 (2 nights)

This small elegant hotel (just 13 rooms) lies in Linguaglossa, an off the beaten track Sicilian town on the slopes of Mt. Etna. A renovated 19th century building, it blends old world charm with contemporary style. A small “wellness” center features a Jacuzzi, sauna, and spa treatments. The restaurant offers Sicilian specialties.



ASHBEE HOTEL

Taormina, Italy

Days 9 to 10 (2 nights)

The 25-room Ashbee is a renovated private villa built in 1907 by Charles Robert Ashbee, a renowned Arts & Crafts architect. It has a sublime location—perched on a cliff above the sea. Guestrooms vary in size but all are elegant and comfortable, with private terraces opening onto tranquil gardens. The bar offers a jaw-dropping view of the Sicilian coast.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information about our Trip Leaders, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/italy-volcano-vesuvius-aeolian-etna-hiking-tour/wildernesstravel.com/trip/kilimanjaro-climb-guided-hiking-tour/



SEBASTIANO LEONE

Sebastiano Leone knows that traveling is always better when you're being led by your senses, whether it's on a cultural exploration in Sicily, where he knows all the local hotspots and best places to savor authentic local cuisine and wines, or in the alpine regions on a hike amid beautiful mountains. His love for people and nature make him an excellent Trip Leader and wonderful travel companion. When not guiding, Sebastiano works for the Sicilian government on environmental projects and lives in Siracusa with his family.



DANIEL WINDHAM

Daniel Windham, while born in the Appalachian foothills of Georgia, has spent more than two thirds of his life in northern Italy, and 20 of those years leading European hiking trips for WT. His youthful passion for nature and mountains led him to choose a career as a guide, and he came to Italy to run a mountain hut in the Alps with his wife, who is Italian. In the Europe off-season, he guides climbs of Aconcagua in Argentina and has also climbed some of the highest peaks in the Himalayas. Dan is fluent in Italian as well as Spanish.



STEFANO BALDI

Stefano Baldi, of Tuscany, has led hiking trips in Europe for us for nearly 15 years. He has spent most of his life living in the beautiful rural countryside of Tuscany, except for a few years in Florence as a student. His love for nature led him to found an agricultural co-op with friends in the 1970s, and a decade later, he started his own farm in the hills north of Florence, where he now lives with his wife and two daughters. When not leading trips for us, Stefano grows organic vegetables, keeps bees, and raises Cinta Senese, the traditional small boars of the Siena region, now endangered. He spent five years restoring two old houses on his property, one of which is now an agriturismo accommodation.



LEILA THOMPSON

With a solid repertoire of outdoor skills including rock climbing, river guiding, and mountaineering, Leila Thompson surely lives the life of an adventurer. Since the early 1990s, she has led trips for us in Nepal, India, Tibet, Republic of Georgia, Canada, and Europe, and shows no sign of stopping. “One of the most wonderful things about guiding for me is starting a trip with a group of strangers and finishing with a group of friends,” she says. When she is not guiding, Leila works as aY nurse at the local hospital in Bend, Oregon, where she lives with her husband (and fellow WT guide!) Sean Morrissey.



TANIA MASI

Born in Florence, Italy, of an American mother and a Florentine father, Tania Masi was raised with an appreciation for both American and European cultures. Her passion for hiking has started at a very early age and today she holds an International Mountain Leader license from Austria. She speaks nine languages, has a Masters in geography and is an avid climber. “Mountains are my antidote to the modern frenetic speed: they are made of beauty, challenge, solitude, and silence.” When not leading trips, Tania loves to explore new mountain faces to climb. She currently lives in southern Tuscany with husband and daughter.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated a Level 4 (Moderate to Strenuous) according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 8 miles a day, being on your feet for up to 6 hours a day, and hiking on uneven surfaces including downhill over loose scree. You will also need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group, as with the exception of a couple days, there are no alternative hiking options available. Submitting any of the volcanoes, especially Mt. Etna, is never a given, due to the unpredictability of weather and volcanic activity. We do our best to provide you with these opportunities, but ask that you have a flexible attitude in case of inclement weather or volcanic conditions. Please keep in mind our trip offers ample equally fascinating activities!

Average Hiking Day

- 4-5 miles
- 4 hours
- 1,100-1,300 feet gain/loss

Challenge Day

- Day 8: 8.5 miles, 8 hours, 1,550 feet gain, and 4,900 feet loss; alternative option of 5 miles, 4 hours, and 1,550 feet gain/loss

TERRAIN

While the length of our hikes is not exceptionally long, there are steep ascents and descents. Much of our hiking is on volcanic terrain that can be rough with patches of soft

ash, sharp rock, and ridges and pockets of lava flows that can make footing tricky. Mount Etna is at about 11,000 feet and can be the most challenging. The possibility of reaching the summit (and the summits of some of the other volcanoes) is very dependent on weather and volcanic activity.

GETTING IN SHAPE

We strongly urge you to train for your trip, as your enjoyment will be highly dependent on your level of fitness. The best training for a hike is to hike, especially over hills or rough terrain. Next best are running, swimming, bicycling, or other cardiovascular exercise. Stair climbing machines are excellent preparation for hiking uphill. Your feet should also be well prepared—make sure your hiking boots are sturdy, comfortable, and thoroughly broken-in. Altitude sickness is generally not a problem on this trip, as we don't spend extended periods of time at elevation.

WEATHER

The weather in southern Italy and Sicily in late spring and early fall is usually very pleasant, with temperatures in the 70s°F and 80s°F during the day, and in the 60s°F at night. Cool breezes, strong winds, and showers can occur at any time, and it can get very cold on Mt. Etna—there's even a possibility of encountering snow on the trails in April.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We spend most of our nights in small, picturesque inns, full of Italian charm and ambiance. All hotels are chosen

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	HOURS	MILES	ELEV. GAIN/LOSS	HOURS
1				45 mins
2	3 hours	2.5 miles		40 mins, 10 hours overnight ferry
3	6 hours (opt)	5.5 miles	+3050'/-3050'	
4	3 hours	5 miles	+1500'/-1500'	2 hour boat ride
5	4 hours	4 miles	+650'/-1350'	1 hour
6	3 hours	4.5 miles	+1200'/-1200'	1 hour boat ride
7	5-6 hours	5 miles	+1250'/-1250'	1 hour boat ride, 3 hours driving
8	a) 8 hours b) 3-4 hours	a) 8.5 miles b) 5 miles	a) +1550'/-4900' b) +1550'/-1550'	45 mins
9	a) 2 hours b) 1 hour"	a) 3.5 miles b) 1.5 miles	a) -700' b) -300'	35 mins
10				
11				1.5 hours to airport

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Naples	55/41	55/41	61/45	64/48	73/54	79/61	86/66	86/66	81/61	72/55	63/46	55/43
Sicily	54/41	54/41	55/43	61/46	66/54	73/59	79/64	79/66	75/63	70/57	63/50	55/45
Taormina	59/50	61/50	64/54	68/55	75/63	84/70	90/75	90/77	84/72	77/64	68/59	61/54
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Naples	3.2	3.9	3.2	3.9	2.4	1.2	1.2	1.2	3.2	5.1	5.5	3.9
Sicily	2.6	1.6	1.3	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.7	1.1	1.9	2.6	3.1
Taormina	2.9	2.6	1.9	1.3	0.6	0.6	0.9	2.0	4.0	3.2	3.9	3.5

for their history and central location. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. We will also spend one night aboard an overnight public ferry, and while we reserve the best available rooms with ensuite baths, the rooms are very small and basic. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

CUISINE

Most lunches are at local restaurants, with a few served picnic-style during our hikes. Dinners are at restaurants in town. We have an opportunity to sample a variety of Italian specialties, including fresh fish, pasta, and couscous. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but many restaurants in Sicily don't open until 7:30pm, so the evening meal will be at 7:30pm at the earliest.

TRANSPORTATION

For most of the trip, our van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need for the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day). We will be taking an overnight ferry at the beginning of the trip, so you will need to be able to transport your luggage.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Europe Manager or email us at europe@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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