Day 8: Stromboli

After breakfast on Day 8 of our Sicily tour, those continuing the adventure to the Aeolian Islands take a private transfer to Milazzo. Here, we board a hydrofoil ferry and set off for a 2-hour ride to the island of Stromboli, known for its volcano and dramatic landscape. Upon arrival, we check in to our seaside hotel.

Our journey begins at sunset with an easy walk and exploration of the western side of the island, where we hike about one hour each way to the viewpoint of the Sciara del Fuoco—the blackened lava scars from eruptions down Stromboli’s northern flank. During active periods, explosions occur approximately every 20 minutes, and particularly strong eruptions spew red-hot rocks that tumble into the sea. This evening, we enjoy dinner together at a restaurant in town.

Accommodations: Hotel Miramare or Villagio, Stromboli
Meals: B, D

Day 9: Sunset Hike

We have two options for this morning. One is to enjoy a few hours at your leisure, simply relaxing or walking on the beautiful black sand beach of Ficogrande. For those interested in joining an excursion, we can arrange an
optional small boat tour for $55 per person (subject to change based on the current rate of exchange), which lasts 2-3 hours and circles the island, stopping in front of scenic villages and a lighthouse.

The early afternoon is free to relax and enjoy a leisurely lunch independently before we before meet for a guided sunset hike to the top of Stromboli. This hike lasts approximately five hours total, including stops to rest, take in the views, and enjoy a picnic dinner. A viewpoint above allows for safe viewing of volcanic activity and eruptions, which is particularly magical to see at dusk against a darkening sky. Please note: This is a moderate hike, as we are ascending and descending approximately 2900 ft. There are some steep sections, and the trail can be covered with a layer of sand and volcanic ash.

Accommodations: Hotel Miramare or Villagio, Stromboli
Meals: B, D

Day 11: Hike to Vulcano

A 10-minute boat transport takes us to Vulcano this morning, known for its black beaches and thermal springs. We’ll set off on a 3-hour hike to the center crater, where we may be able to see fumarole eruptions. Once on top, we can walk the entirety of the rim for spectacular views of the crater below, the blue waters of the Mediterranean Sea, the cliffs of Lipari, and other islands off in the distance.

We transfer back to Milazzo by hydrofoil (about 40 minutes) and have a private overland transfer to Catania (about 1.5 hours). Upon arrival, we have time to freshen up and perhaps explore town before a final celebratory dinner together this evening.

Accommodations: Katane Palace Hotel, Catania
Meals: B, L, D

Day 10: Explore Lipari

We begin today with a hydrofoil ride of just over an hour to the largest island, Lipari. An easy 2-3 hour hike takes us along the south side of the island, where we reach a viewpoint from which we can see the island of Vulcano in the distance.

In the afternoon, we head into town and explore the main village. Here, we visit Lipari Castle and the Archeological Museum, where we'll see ruins dating to Neolithic times, a cathedral, and exhibits of artifacts dating as far back as the 5th century BCE. Highlights include remnants from an ancient shipwreck and the world’s largest collection of miniature Greek theater masks.

This evening, we will dine together in town.

Accommodations: Hotel Meo or Bougainville, Lipari
Meals: B, L, D

Day 12: Departure

After breakfast, you can transfer to nearby Catania Airport for international flights home, or continue with independent travel. Taxis are readily available from the hotel, or we can arrange a private transfer (at an additional expense) on your behalf.

Meals: B
ACCOMMODATIONS

NIGHTS 1 & 2 (MAY)

Hotel Miramare
via Vito Nunziante, 3
98050 Stromboli, Italy
Tel: +39 090 986047 | info@miramarestromboli.it

Family-owned and operated since 1928, the Hotel Miramare is beautifully-located on the black beach of Ficogrande, with panoramic views of azure water.

NIGHTS 1 & 2 (OCTOBER)

Hotel Villaggio Stromboli
Via Regina Elena
98050 Stromboli, Italy
Tel: +39 0963 669093 | info@villaggiostromboli.it

Built in 1949, the Hotel Villagio Stromboli is oceanfront and located between two lava flows. The hotel is located near the port and has three large terraces, as well as an onsite restaurant.

NIGHT 3 (MAY)

Hotel Mea
Via Paolo Borsellino e Giovanni Falcone
98055 Lipari, Italy
Tel: +39 090 981 2077 | hotelmealipari.it

Located on the lively island of Lipari, the Hotel Mea is situated above the coast with lovely sea views, an onsite restaurant, and infinity pool, and is walking distance to the center of town.

NIGHT 3 (OCTOBER)

Hotel Bougainville
Via Balestreri
98055, Lipari, Italy
Tel: +39 090 981 2757 | info@hotelbougainvillelipari.com

Enjoy the Mediterranean stylings of this well-located hotel with easy access to the port and Lipari Castle. Amenities include an outdoor pool and an onsite restaurant and bar.

NIGHT 4 (MAY AND OCTOBER)

Katane Palace Hotel
Via Camillo Finocchiaro Aprile 110
95100 Catania, Italy
Tel: +39 095 747 0702 | info@katanepalace.it

Conveniently located in the heart of historic Catania, the Katane Palace Hotel boasts an onsite restaurant, a lovely courtyard, friendly staff, and spacious, clean rooms.
THE BASICS

Duration: 5-day trip
Tour start: Taormina, Sicily
Tour end: Catania, Sicily
Accommodations: 4 nights in boutique hotels
Trip rating: 1 2 3 4 5
Easy . . . . . . . . . . . . . Strenuous
Land cost: $2,295 per person (double occupancy)
Single supplement: $300

What’s Included:
- Expert leadership
- All accommodations
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All on-tour transportation
- All activities noted in the itinerary
- All gratuities except for those for your guide and driver, which are at your discretion

WEATHER
The climate on the Aeolian Islands is typically Mediterranean, with hot summers and short, mild winters. The weather in late spring and early fall is usually very pleasant, with daytime temperatures that range from low 60s to upper 80s, and the 50s and 60s at night. While these months are not in Italy’s “rainy season” there can be cool breezes or showers at any time. Please come prepared to walk rain or shine. We will always walk unless weather conditions make it dangerous to do so. You may obtain more detailed information at www.weatherbase.com.

LEADERSHIP
You will have an English-speaking local guide with you for the duration of this trip.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS
After breakfast on Day 8 of our Sicily tour, those joining us in the Aeolian Islands take a private transfer to Milazzo, where we board a hydrofoil ferry to the island of Stromboli. On Day 12, we can provide a private transfer to nearby Catania Airport (airport code CTA) for 1-4 people at an additional cost of $65 (subject to change based on the current rate of exchange). Taxis are also readily available from your hotel.

TO MAKE A RESERVATION
You can call Boundless Journeys at 800-941-8010, request a reservation online, or contact your travel agent. We will confirm your spot with a deposit of $500 per person and the payment of internal airfare, payable by check or credit card. The balance for your trip is due 90 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY
If you need to cancel your trip, the following schedule applies and is determined by the day that we receive written notification.
- Minimum fee is $100 per person
- 90 to 61 days before departure: 25% of the trip price
- 60 to 46 days before departure: 50% of the trip price
- 45-0 days prior to departure: 100% of the trip price