



Aeolian Islands

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Best Places to Eat

- A Cannata (p147)
- Ristorante Villa Carla (p147)
- La Sirena (p156)
- Le Macine (p140)
- Trattoria da Paolino (p149)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel Signum (p259)
- Hotel Raya (p260)
- Casa del Sole (p260)
- Diana Brown (p258)
- Capofaro (p259)

Why Go?

Rising out of the cobalt blue seas off Sicily's northeastern coast, the Unesco-protected Aeolian Islands (Lipari, Vulcano, Salina, Panarea, Stromboli, Filicudi and Alicudi) are a little piece of paradise, a magical outdoor playground offering thrills and spills at every turn. Stunning waters provide sport for swimmers, sailors and divers while trekkers can climb hissing volcanoes and gourmets can sup on honey-sweet Malvasia wine. The obvious base is Lipari, the largest and liveliest of the seven islands, but it's by no means the only option. Salina boasts excellent accommodation and good transport links, while Stromboli and Vulcano entertain nature lovers with awe-inspiring volcanic shenanigans and black-sand beaches. Ultrachic Panarea offers luxurious living at lower prices in the off-season, while Filicudi and Alicudi have an end-of-the-line appeal that's irresistible for fans of off-the-beaten-track adventure.

Road/Sea Distances (KM)

Messina	50			
Milazzo	35	40		
Santa Maria Salina	20	80	65	
Stromboli	45	75	70	45
	Lipari	Messina	Milazzo	Santa Maria Salina

DON'T MISS

The scenic boat ride back from Spiaggia Valle i Muria to Lipari at sunset, passing by the awe-inspiring sea-rock formations of Lipari's western shore.

Best Hikes

- ➔ Stromboli Crater (p151)
- ➔ Pianoconte to Quattropani (p138)
- ➔ Zucco Grande (p156)
- ➔ Filo dell'Arpa (p157)
- ➔ Punta del Corvo (p149)

Best Views

- ➔ Quattrocchi (p138)
- ➔ Capo Grillo (p143)
- ➔ Fossa delle Felci (p145)
- ➔ Sciara del Fuoco (p153)
- ➔ Pollara (p146)

Resources

- ➔ **Eolie Booking** (www.eoliebooking.com) Book a shuttle bus from Catania Airport to Milazzo.
- ➔ **Estate Eolie** (www.estateolie.net/en) English-language news and practical tips on all seven islands.
- ➔ **Eolnet** (www.eolnet.it/eng) A grab bag of Aeolian resources, including weather reports, Aeolian recipes and more.

Getting Around

Transport in the Aeolians means settling into a slower rhythm. Siremar and Ustica Lines run frequent hydrofoils connecting all seven islands; ferries ply the same routes, costing less but taking twice as long. Lipari, Vulcano and Salina are the only islands with significant road networks; here, rental scooters and local buses are your best means of locomotion; rental cars are available but pricey. Walking is a joy on all seven islands, thanks to scenic footpaths and limited traffic.

THREE PERFECT DAYS**Pamper Yourself on Salina**

The Aeolians' greenest island struts its stuff at meal-times with garden-fresh produce, abundant seafood and locally grown Malvasia wine. Hotels here are among the islands' cushiest too. Wake up late to cappuccino with an ocean view, indulge in a *ciclo benessere* (spa treatment) at Hotel Signum (p259) in Malfa, pack a picnic to photogenic Pollara (p146) or visit one of the local vineyards, then dine at Villa Carla (p147). A Cannata (p147) or any of the island's other standout restaurants.

Scale a Pair of Active Volcanoes

It's not every day you can climb two active volcanoes in less than 24 hours. Here's how: catch the 7:50am hydrofoil from Lipari to Vulcano, and reach the island's steam-belching summit by midmoming, before the heat and the hordes of day trippers arrive. Return to Lipari's Marina Corta (p136) for lunch, then hop on a tour boat to Stromboli in time to join your trekking party in the late afternoon. By sunset, you'll be oohing and ahing over the stunning fireworks of Europe's most active volcano. Trek back down for pizza in the piazza, then ride a boat home to your familiar Lipari bed.

Island-Hop Till You Drop

No matter what island you wake up on, a boat tour can expand your horizons in a hurry. Local operators typically offer tours to multiple islands in a single day, offering a taste of the Aeolians' varied personalities even to those with limited time.

Getting Away from It All

- ➔ **Stay on Stromboli's forgotten western shore** Far from the tourist bustle, tiny Ginostra village has just enough infrastructure to save you from sleeping on lava rocks.
- ➔ **Flee to Filicudi** This gorgeous island rarely gets very busy, even in peak season.
- ➔ **Sail out to Alicudi** For sheer solitude, nothing trumps Alicudi, one of the Mediterranean's most isolated spots.