



Turismo alternativo in Sicilia

Via G. Garibaldi, 387 - 95029 Viagrande (CT)

Tel/Fax: +39 095.9891489

www.natoursicily.it

mail@natoursicily.it / info@natoursicily.it

THE DAILY EXCURSIONS

IN THE ETNA PARK

1° EXCURSION (SOUTH ETNA)

NICOLOSI – 1983 ERUPTION – HIKING ALONG 'MONTE NERO DEGLI ZAPPINI' NATURE TRAIL – HIKING ALONG 'SILVESTRI CRATERS' ERUPTIVE FISSURE - 1991-93 LAVA FLOW FRONT – HONEY AND WINE TASTING IN ZAFFERANA ETNEA.

Excursion tour which combines Etna's southern flank's volcanic history and its natural catastrophies. From **Nicolosi**, the town thought to be the doorway to Etna, going up to Stazione sud (1995m a.s.l.) Crossing **Monti Rossi**, the eruptive fissure which led to the important 1669 eruption, which covered the towns on Etna's southern flank, even reaching Catania. Going across the plateau where the 2001 lava stopped and a series of switchbacks crossing the evocative **1983 lava flow**, with fabulous phototaking opportunities. The first hike will be from Piano Vetore (1735m a.s.l.) along the '**Monte Nero degli Zappini**' nature trail, a first chance to know Etna's most important volcanic and botanic features, amid various lava flows, hornitos, lava caves and Etna's endemic plants. Going by minibus to **Stazione Sud**, a place which has often been marked by recent eruptions. The second hike will be along all the 1892 eruptive fissure, which the **Silvestri craters** (2000m a.s.l.) originated from. Then, before getting to **Zafferana Etnea**, another stop to see the effects of the **1991-93 eruption**, which seriously threatened the town. **Honey and wine tasting.**

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: *Easy*

CLIMBING: *100 metres*

DESCENDING: *100 metres*

WALKING TIME: *about 4 hours*

2° EXCURSION (NORTH-EAST ETNA)

FORNAZZO – ETNA BIRCH WOODS – HIKING ALONG 2002 ERUPTIVE FISSURE TRAIL – MONTE TIMPA ROSSA REFUGE - HONEY AND WINE TASTING IN ZAFFERANA ETNEA.

This interesting nature trip highlights the presence of nordic woodland on Etna, which is most unusual in the Mediterranean. From **Fornazzo**, we'll go by minibus up the Mareneve road which leads to Etna Nord, Piano Provenzana. During the drive, we'll focus on the various kinds of woodland which vary according to

altitude, paying particular attention to **Etna's birch woods**, which can only be found on this side of Etna (1600m. to 1760 m a.s.l.) We'll then go to Etna Nord, **Piano Provenzana** (1820m a.s.l.) along the road which was rebuilt after the devastating 2002 eruption. The hike climbs offroad up the eruptive fissure up to 2000m a.s.l.. From here, we'll cross the **2002 lava flow** field and then the **1923 eruptive fissure**, with views over the Ionian and the Sicilian Tirrenian coasts. Going along the fissure, we'll be able to see the various hornitos (small lava scoriae cones) which follow the outline of the fissure. Then, crossing lava fields of various volcanic eruptions which leads to the **Timparossa refuge** (1800m a.s.l.) hidden in dense beech woods at the base of the mountain. After a break, we'll take the same trail to see a Lava bomb field and finally the **2002 craters**.
Honey and wine tasting in Zafferana Etnea town.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

CLIMBING: 250 METRES

DESCENDING: 200 METRES

WALKING TIME: ABOUT 5 HOURS

3° EXCURSION (ETNA TOUR)

NICOLOSI – 1983 ERUPTION– HIKING ALONG 'SILVESTRI CRATERS'ERUPTIVE FISSURE – CASSONE CAVE – FORNAZZO – ETNA BIRCH WOODS – HIKING ALONG "MONTI SARTORIUS"- 2002 LAVA FLOW - HONEY AND WINE TASTING IN LINGUAGLOSSA FARM.

Excursion tour which combines Etna's southern and north-eastern flanks volcanic history and its natural catastrophies. From **Nicolosi**, the town thought to be the doorway to Etna, going up to Stazione sud (1995m a.s.l) Crossing **Monti Rossi**, the eruptive fissure which led to the important 1669 eruption, which covered the towns on Etna's southern flank, even reaching Catania. Going across the plateau where the 2001 lava stopped and a series of switchbacks crossing the evocative **1983 lava flow**, with fabulous phototaking opportunities. Going by minibus to **Stazione Sud**, a place which has often been marked by recent eruptions. The second hike will be along all the 1892 eruptive fissure, which the **Silvestri craters** (2000m a.s.l.) originated from. Going down by minibus towards the town of Zafferana Etnea, where we will stop to visit the **Cassone Cave**, a perfect example of a lava tunnel.

Then, we reach the village of Fornazzo by minibus and we'll go by minibus up the Mareneve road which leads to Etna Nord, Piano Provenzana. During the drive, we'll focus on the various kinds of woodland which vary according to altitude, paying particular attention to **Etna's birch woods**, which can only be found on this side of Etna (1600m. to 1760 m a.s.l.).

The second hike will be along the '**Monti Sartorius eruptive fissure**'.

Going down by minibus towards the town of **Linguaglossa**, where we will stop for a nice tasting of Etna tipical products.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Easy

CLIMBING: 100 metres

DESCENDING: 100 metres
WALKING TIME: about 4 hours

4° EXCURSION (WEST ETNA)

NICOLOSI – C.DA MILIA – MONTE INTRALEO – HIKING AT PIANO FIERA – MONTI DE FIORE – MONTE EGITTO – MONTE SCAVO REFUGE – MONTE PALESTRA REFUGE – ADRANO WOODS – PIANO FIERA.

A long hike discovering the little known flank of Etna, through various woodlands, pinewoods and vast lava fields. From **Nicolosi**, climbing up towards **C.da Milia** by minibus, amid fruit orchards, bearing mostly apples and pears. Once past the mighty Monte Intraleo, we'll go to the carpark at **Piano Fiera** (1500m a.s.l.). Hiking through pinewoods which cover the ancient Monte Nespole craters, to then go along the 1974 lava fields originating from **Monti de Fiore** (1730m a.s.l.). Continuing through various woodlands and ancient lava flows to the Monte Egitto crater. Going along a vast **1651 rope lava field** trail, to reach the **Monte Scavo refuge** to then go to the **Monte Palestra refuge** (1900m a.s.l.), then crossing the great **Adrano woods** trail, which will take us back to Piano Fiera.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: HARD BECAUSE OF DISTANCE COVERED

CLIMBING: 400 METRES

DESCENDING: 400 METRES

WALKING TIME: ABOUT 6 HOURS

Services fees (from Catania area)

- **From n. 2 PAX > 75€ X PAX**
- **From n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 60€ X PAX**

(from Taormina area)

From n. 2 PAX > 85€ X PAX

- **From n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 70€ X PAX**

(from Siracusa)

- **From n. 2 PAX > 120€ X PAX**
- **From n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 80€ X PAX**

IN THE NATURE RESERVES OF IBLEAN PLATEAU

1° EXCURSION

NOTO – TORRE VENDICARI NATURE RESERVE

A tour recommended for 'birdwatching' fans. The **Vendicari nature reserve** is a wetland and a passing place for migratory avifauna, which is among the most important in the Mediterranean. The hike sets off from the entrance in a southerly and northerly direction of the reserve, across marked trails which follow the sandy and rocky coast, allowing us to visit the lagoons and some ex-salt wetlands

and to recognise the native flora of salty and dune habitats. Furthermore, it will be possible to watch the migratory and stationary fauna through binoculars in special huts, such as wild ducks, herons, pink flamingoes and many other birds. Besides, it'll be interesting to visit ancient buildings and archeological remains like the **old Tuna factories**, disused since 1943 because of the war. The **Sveva tower**, which takes its name from its shape. It was actually built during the Spanish domination of the island in the 1300s against pirate raids. The **Hellenistic age fish factory** which is built from pools carved into stone near the sea, for the preparation of 'Garum', a sauce made from leftovers from fish caught.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

CLIMBING: 0

DESCENDING: 0

WALKING TIME: 4 HOURS

2° EXCURSION

SORTINO – THE ANAPO RIVER NATURE RESERVE – THE CALCINARA STREAM – THE PANTALICA NECROPOLIS – CASTELLO DEL PRINCIPE.

Pantalica represents an area of Sicily where the union between 'nature and history' is clearly shown. Evocative limestone canyons ('cave' in local dialect) hide endless clearwater streams, lush river vegetation and vertical rockfaces dotted with some **5000 tombs carved into the rock** that can be found amid the varied Mediterranean craggy bush vegetation: thus describing in a few words the largest European necropolis, recently listed as a UNESCO site. A beautiful trail carved into the rock will take us to visit the ancient **pre-Hellenic and Byzantine settlements**, the **Pipistrelli (bats') cave** and the old disused railway line, next to wonderful mirror like pools adorned by lush vegetation.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: MEDIUM

CLIMBING: 235 METRES

DESCENDING: 235 METRES

WALKING TIME: ABOUT 5 HOURS

Services fees (from Catania and Siracusa area)

From n. 2 PAX > 120€ X PAX

- **from n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 80€ X PAX**

(from Taormina area)

- **Da n. 2 PAX > 130€ X PAX**
- **Da n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 90€ X PAX**

IN THE SICILIAN APPENNINES

1° EXCURSION

MONTALBANO ELICONA – THE ARGIMUSCO FORTESS – THE MALABOTTA WOODS

A fascinating tour amid the Peloritani and Nebrodi mountains, of natural, scenic and historical interest, featuring an aspect of a mysterious nature. The hike starts from the **Rocche dell Argimusco** plateau, amid gigantic varied shaped megalithes created by rain erosion and as discovered in recent studies, shaped by man in pre-history. There are views of the Eolian islands, the Sicilian appennine ridges and the eastern slopes of the mighty Mount Etna. We'll then go to the **Malabotta woods**, a nature reserve that keeps unspoilt, part of the primitive leafy forest which covered most of Sicily in ancient times. Finally, we'll visit the medieval village of **Montalbano Elicon**, which is listed as one of the most beautiful medieval villages in Italy and boasts a majestic Swabian-Aragonese age castle.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: EASY

CLIMBING: 180 METRES

DESCENDING: 180 METRES

WALKING TIME: ABOUT 4 HOURS

Services fees (from Catania and Taormina area)

From n. 2 PAX > 120€ X PAX

- **From n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 80€ X PAX**

(from Siracusa)

- **Da n. 2 PAX > 130€ X PAX**
- **Da n. 3 PAX A 8 PAX > 90€ X PAX**

THE "SERVICES FEES" INCLUDE:

- The Environmental Hiking Guide service;
- The transport service by minibus to and from the accommodation where the customer is staying.