




THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS | TO YACHT ISLE TO ISLE

Rising out of the Tyrrhenian Sea, some fifteen miles off the Sicilian coast, The Aeolian Islands—Lipari, Salina, Stromboli, Vulcano, Panarea, Filicudi and Alicudi— are volcanic outcroppings that rose one million years ago as a result of a great tectonic shift along the European/African fault line. Their black beaches, crystal clear skies, active volcanoes and isolated reefs are unmatched in beauty.

DAY 1 IN TRANSIT

- 10:30 Arrive Reggio
- 11:15 Board the hydrofoil for Lipari
The quickest way to reach the Islands is by helicopter, but Hydrofoil is less expensive & takes about 3.5 hours.
- 11:45 Arrive Lipari
Transfer to the dock.
Lipari, the capital of the Aeolians, is the largest & most accessible of the islands. It is a perfect base for our island hopping adventure.
- 15:00 Board the Biligú Yacht.
- 16:00 Set sail for Salina
- 19:00 Dinner is served

 **SUGGESTED ROUTE**
 New York [JFK]—Rome [FCO]
 Rome [FCO]—Reggio Calabria [REG]
 Reggio—Lipari

DAY 3 SALINA

Because Salina is the only Aeolian land with an abundance of natural springs, the land is quite fertile. Both capers & grapes grow copiously.

- 09:00 Transfer to the Fossa delle Felci Volcano
At 962 meters at its summit, it should take you about 2 hours to climb.
- 13:00 Lunch @ a local caper farm
- 14:00 Drive to Pollara’s Beach

The setting for the famous film Il Postino, this beach haven is awash with olive trees & wild flowers set against a volcanic cliff.



16:00 Sip wine @ Malvasia Vineyard
18:30 Dinner @ Portobello
Eat under the stars at this superb rooftop restaurant
20:00 Board the Biligú Yacht

DAY 4 PANAERA

The smallest of this chain of islands, Panaera has become the epicenter of the chicest summer scene in the Mediterranean.

10:00 Disembark & Enjoy
Scuba dive to a shipwreck by Lisca Bianca
Stroll along the overgrown cobblestone paths
Loll around the dock at Bar Del Porto
The thermal springs near Punta di Peppe
Enjoy a lazy swim beneath the rocky coves
16:00 Board the Biligú Yacht
19:00 Dinner is served.



DAY 5 STROMBOLI

This very small island is only 12.6 square kilometers and home to a fully active volcano that is in a constant state of mild activity.

10:00 Transfer to the village & walk around
Cars & buses are not allowed on land, so ape-cars are the only means of transportation.
13:00 Lunch @ Pizzeria Punta Bronzo
Located on Via Acquaro Antonino, at the foot of one of the trails to the platform at the Sciara del Fuoco, Punto Bronzi offers a magical setting for enjoying a pizza pie.
16:00 Transfer to the base of the Stromboli Volcano
17:00 Hike to the volcano's 3,000-foot peak with TO's guide, Mario Zaia
We recommend doing this at night. While it is slightly more difficult, the spectacular lava eruptions that occur nightly are worth it. A late dinner will be served upon return.
21:00 Descend the slopes via flashlight
22:00 Board the Biligú Yacht.

DAY 6**FILICUDI**

Filicudi is home to a mere 200 people, and they all know each other. Dock in the quaint little Pecorini harbor.

10:00

La Canna Rock

Enjoy a refreshing swim at

La Canna rock, standing 70 meters-high and jutting out from the water.

12:00

Lunch @ La Canna Hotel's
seaside restaurant

*Dine on fresh antipasti with olives &
capers followed by pasta with fish.*

Ask the sommelier to suggest a local wine.

16:00

Grotto de Bue Marino

Enjoy the late afternoon music festival from the Grotto de Bue Marino a noted sea cave on the island's coast. Italian musicians ride out on a boat to perform from inside the Grotto, while spectators swim and boats watch on merrily.

19:00

Board the Biligú

20:00

Dinner is served.



DAY 7**IN TRANSIT**

12:00

Disembark & depart



to: get ready

The Aeolian Islands are part of Italy, and tourist visas are not required for most visitors, including American citizens. Credit cards are commonly accepted; however, cash machines are only available on the main island of Lipari. Bring plenty; the islands are not cheap.

to: pack

The Aeolian Islands have a hot and dry climate and a very casual feel. Summers can be quite hot and the sun strong, so bring light clothing, bathing suits, sun hats, and plenty of sun block. Sandals suffice unless you are climbing Stromboli, which requires hiking boots. The summit of Stromboli is also quite cold at sunset, so pack layers. If you forget, most necessary items can be procured from an outdoor operator at the base of the volcano.

to: get there

The Aeolian Islands are quite remote, which is what makes them so appealing; however, getting there takes some determination. The most common way is to fly to either Naples or Reggio di Calabria, on mainland Italy. Multiple carriers service these cities. For Reggio, fly Al Italia or KLM, Naples, Al Italia, Lufthansa, Iberia, or Air France. Once in Reggio, take a taxi to the port, and take a ferry or high-speed hydrofoil to Lipari. These ferries also leave from Palermo and Messina on Sicily. Schedules vary and certain routes are only available during summer/tourist months. Check the company websites for schedules. Helicopter transfers are available from Reggio di Calabria airport to Panarea with Air Panare.

to: get around

Once in the Aeolians, inter-island travel is all by boat—ferries depart regularly between islands, and private yacht hires are available through travel agents or high-end hotels. A car is rarely necessary. Most of the islands are quite small and compact. Rentals are available on the larger islands of Lipari and Salina; however, if you want your own wheels, scooters are more readily available. Panarea is car-free. Small motorboats can also be rented directly from the islands' fishermen to explore the stunning coastlines and tiny islets surrounding Panarea and Filicudi.

to: stay there

Most people rent an apartment or villa or charter a boat for their stay. However, each island does offer a few hotels that become solidly booked during high season, so advance reservations are highly recommended. Lipari has the most options, with Villa Meligunis being one of the top hotels on the island. Quiet and elegant, it's in a remodeled villa, with a beautiful rooftop for watching sunsets, and a small pool. La Sirenetta faces the blue sea with its whitewashed façade and beautiful pool.

On Filicudi, La Canna is a standout, built in a traditional Aeolian style on a cliff overlooking Filicudi Bay and the islands beyond. La Canna has a pool and a fantastic restaurant sharing the same view. For a special treat on Salina, stay in the famous, remote house where *Il Postino* was filmed.

to: see and do

Each island in the Aeolian chain has its charm and special feature that makes it worth visiting. Lipari is the largest, with inviting towns and stunning viewpoints. Drive around the island, stopping at the village of Canneto for a beachfront lunch, visiting some ancient churches, then finishing by watching the sunset from one of the island's many vistas. In Salina, a visit to a caper farm or vineyard is a must. No trip to the islands of fire would be complete without visiting the volcanoes of Stromboli and Volcan, the chic bars and nightclubs of Panacea, and diving or snorkeling the pristine waters, artist caves, and seawater grotto on Filicide.

to: eat and drink

In the Aeolian Islands, the cuisine is quintessentially Mediterranean, featuring fresh, locally grown ingredients—olives oils, capers, goat cheeses, and vegetables combined with fresh fish from the sea and meat from local farms. Most restaurants also offer extensive Sicilian and Italian wine selections, and don't forget to sample the rich Malvasia wine