



# Tour Information



## Sicily's Aeolian Islands





## Passports

Please ensure your 10-year British Passport is not out of date and is valid for a full six months beyond the duration of your visit. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Italy.

## Visas

Visas are not required for British and EU nationals. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Italian Consulate-General: "Harp House", 83/86 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4BL.

Tel: (0)20 7936 5900. Fax: (0)20 7583 9425.

Email: [consolato.londra@esteri.it](mailto:consolato.londra@esteri.it)

Website:

[http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato\\_Londra](http://www.conslondra.esteri.it/Consolato_Londra)

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200



## Tickets

Included with this documentation is an e-ticket, which shows the reference number for your flight. EasyJet have now replaced all of their airport check-in desks with EasyJet Baggage Drop desks. **Therefore you must check-in online and print out your boarding passes before travelling.** Checking in online also provides the opportunity for you to pre-book seats, if you wish, at an extra cost.

Online check-in is available any time prior to travel using the reference number provided. Please see the enclosed e-ticket for more information or visit; [www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and

non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage allowance

We advise you to check the baggage allowances carefully as you are likely to be charged the excess if you exceed the weight limit. Maximum weights for single bags apply.

With Easyjet your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 20kg plus **one** cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25 cm. Overhead locker space is limited on board the aircraft and on busy flights your cabin bag may have to go in the hold.

Please contact the airline for further information

<http://www.easyjet.com/en/planning/baggage>

## Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

## Transfers

On arrival in Catania, transfer by coach to Milazzo (approx. 2 hours) and onwards by ferry to Lipari (approx. 1 hour 30 mins) before a short steep walk to Rocce Azzurre Hotel.

## Departure Tax

The departure tax is included in the price of your flight tickets.

## Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.



## Accommodation

### The Rocce Azzurre Hotel

The friendly, family-run three-star Rocce Azzurre Hotel enjoys a wonderful location overlooking the sea yet only a few minutes pleasant walk from the charming old town of Lipari.

Facilities at this typically Sicilian hotel include terrace and restaurant with spectacular sea views and lovely Mediterranean atmosphere, attractive and charming public areas including bar and indoor dining area and a sunbathing/swimming platform that practically floats on the sea. There is also a public beach next to the hotel. Rooms are comfortable and spotlessly maintained with private shower, hairdryer, TV, telephone, air conditioning, wi-fi, minibar, safe.

Unfortunately rooms at the Rocce Azzurre do not include coffee/tea making facilities, so we recommend you bring a travel kettle if required.

Please note that to get from the port to the hotel there is no other way than a 400 metre walk up a slight hill (though baggage is taken in a minivan). This walk has to be undertaken to join all the excursions to other islands.

For more information please visit the hotel's website:

<http://www.hotelrocceazzurre.it/en/>



## Food

With an ancient Greek influence and fishing tradition, Aeolian cuisine is based on the simple, local ingredients of fresh fish, capers, peppers, *pomodori* (cherry tomatoes), citrus fruit, olives, and aromatic herbs (myrtle, mint, oregano, rosemary, basil, wild fennel and dandelion).

Seafood is generally served grilled, pan-fried or poached, flavoured with a dash of lemon, olive oil or a sprinkling of herbs. Seafood stews are also popular – *calamari* (squid) with a tomato-caper sauce, *seppie* (cuttlefish) cooked in its own ink, and the famous *caponata* (aubergine, capers, olives, tomatoes and celery). And being in Italy, pasta

features in many dishes, with sumptuous sauces. For a lighter option, fresh salads topped with capers, *polpo* (octopus) and dressed with lemon juice olive oil and herbs are delicious.

Traditional Aeolian desserts are light and refreshing, and include fresh fruit, *granite* (similar to sorbet, sugar, water and flavouring are combined in an exquisite light dessert) and *biscotti*.

Table service is common in most restaurants and bars. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required.



## Drink

The world's largest wine producer, Italy is home to some of the oldest viticulture regions. The wines are named according to their grape variety or after their village or area of origin. Excellent wines are produced throughout Italy and Sicily, with local wines offering great value and quality.

With an ideal climate and soil (thanks to Mount Edna) grapes have been grown in Sicily since the Greeks first colonised the island. The dry white and rosé wines are excellent accompaniments to the seafood dishes. Known as the nectar of the gods, sweet and golden *Malvasia delle Lipari* (or Malmsey) is a delicious dessert wine produced on the Aeolian Islands.

Apéritifs such as *Campari* and *Punt e Mes* are excellent appetisers, while Italian liqueurs include *Grappa*, *Stregga*, *Galliano*, *Amaretto*, *Sambuca* and *Limoncello*.

### Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

**Breakfast** – daily

**Dinner** – daily



## Destination

“We were in the centre of the Mediterranean, amidst the eastern archipelago of mythological memory, in the ancient Strongylos, where AEolus kept the wind and the tempest chained up.” (Jules Verne)

Named for Aeolus, the ruler of the wind in Greek mythology, the seven Aeolian Islands peek out of the sparkling aquamarine of the Tyrrhenian Sea just north of Sicily. One of the most traditional regions of Italy, life here is laid back, unpretentious and rustic, the locals and tourists alike feeding off the natural beauty of the rugged, volcanic landscapes.

The Islands are rich in both culture and nature – life has existed on the island since the Neolithic Age, while approximately 900 plant species have been recorded on the islands, including four endemic species. The dramatic scenery of the islands have inspired film makers for decades, and the archipelago was chosen as the location of the charming film *Il Postino*.

Your days are free to either explore independently or join one of the reasonably priced local tours, which our representative can arrange for you. This is a fascinating, unique region of Italy, just waiting to be discovered.

For more information about the Aeolian Islands:  
[http://www.eoliando.it/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.eoliando.it/index_eng.asp)

### Places of interest in the Aeolian Islands:

#### Lipari

Despite being the largest of the Aeolian Islands, Lipari has a population of only 10,000! The town of Lipari has some notable buildings including the churches of *Anime del Purgatorio*, *Saint Antonio*, *the Immaculate*, *Addolorata* and the 11<sup>th</sup> century *Cathedral*. It also features an impressive *castle* and strong city walls. Other sights include the *Neolithic Village* and *Greek-Roman necropolis* at *Contrada Diana* and the excellent *Aeolian Archaeological Museum*. The charming town also has a range of shops, cafes, restaurants and bars centred round the attractive port, about 5 -10 minutes' walk from your hotel.

#### Vulcano

As its name suggests, the island has a long volcanic history and an exceptional landscape as a result, including two craters. Although the last eruption took place in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, volcanic activity is still evident with the boiling sea-water phenomenon caused by underwater jets of gas bubbling up through the sea, which is now considered to be therapeutic, as are the mud-baths in the Porto Levante area, that attract thousands of visitors annually. The island is also characterised by caves, black volcanic sand beaches, old lighthouses and dramatic mountain scenery.

#### Stromboli

Almost entirely mountainous and the most active volcanically of the islands, mysterious and wild Stromboli is best observed at sunset from the safety of a boat. Almost daily, and best viewed in the evening, the volcano issues a spectacular light and fire display, with red hot stones and ashes thrown high into the sky. Evidence of ancient civilisations is to be found here, too, together with the charming villages of more recent times.

#### Salina

The second largest of the islands, Salina is the most cultivated and has a landscape characterised by vineyards and olive groves – the island boasts a unique wine, the sweet and aromatic *Malvasia*. Evidence of ancient civilisations has been unearthed here as is the case elsewhere on the Aeolian Islands, offering a fascinating glimpse into the past, whilst the present settlements of *Santa Marina Salina*, *Rinella* and *Malfa* have changed little over the past two or three hundred years.

#### Filicudi

Consisting of three extinct volcanoes, *Filicudi*, once known as Phoenicusa or the island of ferns, is famed for its stunning coastline of high, jagged cliffs and beautiful grottoes, including the *Bue Marino* (sea ox). It also boasts a picturesque harbour and the delightful *Capo Graxiano* peninsular where a Bronze Age settlement has been unearthed.

## Alicudi

The most westerly of the islands, Alicudi is the least-populated (150 inhabitants) and has a total area of 5.2 square kilometres. Its ancient name was Ericusa, because of the abundance of wild heather that grows there and a settlement dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century BC has been discovered near the port. The west of the island is totally uninhabited with a dramatic coastline of enormous sheer rocks rising to an extinct volcanic peak.

## Panarea

The tiny island of Panarea, at just 3.4 square kilometres, is the smallest Aeolian island, but attracts the Italian jetset including Prime Minister Berlusconi who has a villa here. Its attraction lies in its unspoilt natural beauty and picturesque white-washed houses, whilst there is also fascinating evidence of past occupants dating back to the Neolithic Age. There is also evidence of Roman occupation at the islet of *Basiluzzo* where ruins of Roman houses have been discovered along with mosaics.

## Excursion price list

A range of optional tours are available on this tour, with prices per person as follows (subject to change locally):

<b>Lipari &amp; Salina</b>	<b>€40</b>
Depart 10.00    Return 17.30	
<b>Alicudi &amp; Filicudi</b>	<b>€55</b>
Depart 09.30    Return 18.00	
<b>Vulcano</b>	<b>€30</b>
Depart 10.00    Return 13.45	
<b>Coach tour of Lipari island</b>	<b>€30</b>
Depart 10.00    Return 13.00 (alternatively 15.00 – 18.00)	
<b>Panarea and Stromboli</b>	<b>€50</b>
Depart 14.00    Return 22.00	

Your tour manager will advise which tours operate on which days (according to weather conditions and other factors, the day of operation may vary from week to week).

All tours should be paid for in cash to your tour manager.

## Reading/film suggestions

### *Il Postino* (The postman)

The charming film directed by Michael Radford was partially filmed on the island of Salina – the dramatic volcanic scenery is the perfect backdrop for the delightful fictional story of poet Pablo Neruda's life in exile on a small island.

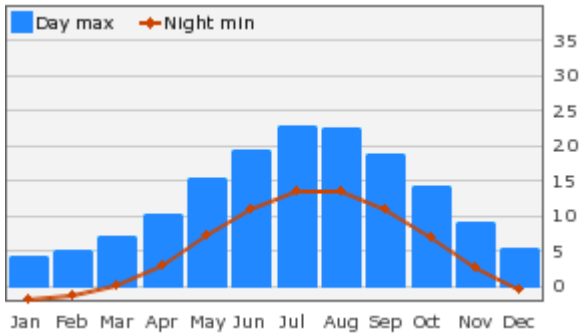
### Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.



## The Basics

**Climate** – The weather in the Aeolian archipelago should be pleasant, but there is always the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.



**Time** – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar)

**Language** – Italian

**Religion** – predominantly Roman Catholic

**National holidays** – New Year's Day (01 Jan); Epiphany (06 Jan); Easter Monday; Liberation Day (25 Apr); Labour Day (01 May); Republic Day (02 Jun); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' Day (01 Nov); Immaculate Conception (08 Dec); Christmas Day (25 Dec); St Stephens Day (26 Dec).

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

**Credit cards** – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find plenty of bottled water for sale too)

**Shops and museums** – You will see appealing shops selling souvenirs, artisanal produce and traditional food and drink. Opening hours on small islands tend to be from 0900-1300 and 1600-1900.

Although very common in tourist towns in Italy, please note that street vendors selling all kinds of designer knockoffs are illegal and could land you with a hefty fine. Care should also be taken when buying antiques since Italy is renowned for skilled imitators.

**Clothes & Shoes** – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

**Camera** – Bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

**Bath plugs** – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

**Telephones/mobiles** – You should be able to use your mobile phone in Italy, depending on your operator and contract.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



## Health

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**



### Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

**Keep receipts for insurance claims.**

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

### Mosquitos

Like most Mediterranean islands, you might get a few mosquitos about in the evenings so it is worth taking some repellent.

### Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



## Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

The EHIC replaced the old E111 in 2006. Valid in all EEA countries, the card lets you get state healthcare at a reduced cost or sometimes for free. It will cover you for treatment that is needed to allow you to continue your stay until your planned return. It also covers the treatment of pre-existing medical conditions.

Please note that the EHIC **is not** an alternative to travel insurance. It will not cover any private medical healthcare or costs such as being flown back to the UK, or lost or stolen property. Therefore, it is important to have both an EHIC and a valid private travel insurance policy. It is also important to note that each country's healthcare system is slightly different, so the EHIC might not cover everything that would be generally free on the NHS.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For more information about the EHIC please visit:  
<https://www.ehic.org.uk>



## Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Rome

Via XX Settembre 80/a

00187 Rome

Italy

Email: [italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk](mailto:italy.consulate@fco.gov.uk)

Tel: +39 06 4220 2431

Fax: +39 06 4220 2334

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1700.

Outside these hours, emergency consular assistance is available on +44 (0) 207 008 1500.

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