

LIPARI ISLAND, THE WESTERN SIDE

3-4 hours + bus transfer from/to Lipari town

difficulty: medium, elevation range 350 m

The walk begins from the kaolin quarries, exploited until the 1970s, where there are remains of former strong hydrothermal activity; visit to the paleo-lake of Timpone Pataso, the main site of paleobotanical interest of the island; to the marine terraces along the coast which date back to 100,000 years ago; to the xeric Mediterranean grasslands of *Hyparrhenia hirta* where a large populations of dwarf palm *Chamaerops humilis* occurs; and finally to the archaeological site of thermal bath of San Calogero (16th century BCE-4th century CE).





LIPARI ISLAND, A WALK BETWEEN PUMICE AND OBSIDIAN

3-4 hours + bus transfer from/to Lipari town

difficulty: medium, elevation range 350 m

Monte Pilato, in the NE corner of the island, was the last active volcano of Lipari; entirely composed by pumice deposits (which were exploited until 2007), its last eruption in 13th century CE produced a 2 km-long rhyolite-obsidian flow; the slopes and the crater are currently occupied by a dense Mediterranean acidophilous maquis with *Erica arborea* and *Arbutus unedo* that covers mostly neglected fields.



LIPARI ISLAND, A GLANCE FROM THE SEA

3 hours on private boat

difficulty: none

With almost 30 km of coastal perimeter, the sea tour of Lipari offers the best view for understanding the complex evolutionary history of the volcanoes that have formed the island during the last 300,000 years; the tour also includes a view of some islets selected for the reintroduction of small populations of the Aeolian wall lizard *Podarcis raffonei*, in the framework of an ongoing conservation project for this critically endangered endemic species.



PANAREA ISLAND

5 hours + transfer from/to Lipari with fast ferry/private boat

difficulty: high, elevation range 420 m

Panarea is the smallest of the Aeolian archipelago and forms a peculiar group with several uninhabited islets, disposed around a submarine active crater; it hosts the largest population of *Silene hicesiae* and other endemic or rare plants, as well as a colony of Eleonora's falcon *Falco elenorae*, the most iconic raptor of the small Mediterranean islands; the walk also includes a visit to the Bronze Age village of Punta Milazzese, one of the most important archaeological sites of the archipelago.



SALINA ISLAND, MONTE FOSSA DELLE FELCI

*6 hours + transfer from/to Lipari with fast ferry/private boat and bus transfer from harbour to starting point of the walk
difficulty: high, elevation range 650 m*

Salina is the second largest island of the archipelago and was the first protected area established since 1984. The heart of this natural sanctuary is Monte Fossa delle Felci, the highest point of the Aeolian Islands (962 m a.s.l.); it represents an unexpected ecological context, where the local maquis forms a mosaic with the reforestation and hosts some interesting oro-Mediterranean plant species; also, a chestnut forest covers the top of this extinct volcano. Several endemic invertebrates are known for this site, that also hosts the most important Aeolian population of Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* and other interesting birds.





STROMBOLI, STAYING ALIVE UNDER AN ACTIVE VOLCANO

5 hours + transfer from/to Lipari with fast ferry/private boat

difficulty: high, elevation range 500 m

Among many interesting traits from geological and biological point of views, one of the most remarkable on Stromboli is the occurrence of the largest population of the endemic *Cytisus aeolicus*, which survives on the edge of the areas affected by volcanic activity, while elsewhere it is in decline or has now disappeared due to the massive deforestation.





VULCANO, THE VOLCANO'S EPONYMOUS

3 hours + transfer from/to Lipari with fast ferry/private boat

difficulty: medium, elevation range 390 m

The Fossa crater was the scene of a strong eruption between 1888 and 1890, since then there has been only secondary activity with gas emissions that have had however critical phases of instability (the last one between 2021 and 2022); a remarkable landscape where is possible to see the geological features of this young volcano (5000 years of age) and pioneer plant communities, such as the shrubs of the endemic *Genista tyrrhena*, that colonize the slopes and soils still influenced by the occurrence of fumaroles.

