



Settebello Excursions Presents an Amazing Sailing & Cultural Experience!

Small-group Aeolian Island Adventure Sailing Tour

7 Days/7 Nights aboard a 48-foot Private Catamaran

September 18-25, 2021

Escape the tourist crowds with us during the best weather time of the year! This is a spectacular way to see a rare and beautiful slice of Italy while communing with nature on your own private yacht. In addition to their undeniable physical beauty, the Aeolian Islands to the north of Sicily are steeped in ancient history dating back to the Greeks.

As rare and off-the-beaten track of Italy as this island archipelago is, touring it by private sailing yacht makes it even more special. The UNESCO-protected Aeolian Islands, pertaining to and directly north of Sicily, will enamor you with their gorgeous and starkly contrasting views.

Tour includes:

- ✓ Italian Culture and Cuisine
- ✓ Relaxed sailing with consistent winds and volcanic islands
- ✓ Clear, warm waters ideal for snorkeling
- ✓ Spectacular black sand beaches
- ✓ Europe's second largest active volcano
- ✓ Short passages between the Aeolian islands
- ✓ Opportunities to go ashore on a different island each day to enjoy hiking, restaurants, shopping, and tours
- ✓ Sunbathing



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- ✓ Snorkeling
- ✓ Diving
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Exploring
- ✓ Collective expertise of Tour Hosts top-notch sailing skills, onboard 24/7 Italian certified skipper
- ✓ 7 Days/7 Nights Sailing on a beautiful sailboat supplied by Sunsail
- ✓ Meals: freshly prepared daily breakfast and lunch on the boat
- ✓ One dinner on the boat
- ✓ All docking fees, fuel, and other miscellaneous boat expenses
- ✓ Gratuity for skipper
- ✓ A welcome reception with a Spritz cocktail and refreshments

Price: \$2985 per person – double occupancy

Single supplement: Not available, each room contains one double bed

Not included:

- ✓ *Airfare*
- ✓ *Airport Transfers*
- ✓ *Onshore tours and excursions*

This tour is a good fit for you if...

You love adventure, being on and near the water, being immersed in mother nature, you're active and relatively physically fit, you love exploring, are able to pack light, can go with the flow, get along well others, and are OK with the relatively close quarters that a private yacht of 48 feet entails.

What this tour is and is not: This is a sailing cruise, not a luxury cruise such as one offered by Carnival Cruise Line, et al. We will sail and live on the boat which has limited space and privacy.

Total participants: 10 people, including tour hosts.



About the boat: Thoughtfully designed to deliver functionality and comfort underway, the Sunsail 464 delivers a spacious onboard lifestyle. The well-amenitized Sunsail Lagoon 464 is a newly designed 4 cabin/4 head layout that features a large salon, modern galley and expansive outdoor living areas complemented by interior designs overflowing with natural light and spacious en-suite double cabins for privacy.

OUR ITINERARY-

Day 1 Portorosa

The temperate, weather, and mild winds of northeast Sicily make this Mediterranean base a great starting point for sailing tours. The remarkable, UNESCO-protected Aeolian Islands lie north of Sicily in the Tyrrhenian Sea. A collection of dramatically beautiful islands and dormant volcanoes (plus one still active volcano!) that rise theatrically from the sea, they aptly take their name from Aeolus, god of the winds, who tends to smile on this slice of Italy.

We set sail from Portorosa and explore the full chain of the Aeolian islands. The cruising grounds blend chic ports of call such as Panarea and Stromboli Islands, with the quiet ambience of islands off the tourist track. Explore the imposing volcanoes, abundant castles and historic waterfront villages.

Portorosa is nestled into the northeast corner of Sicily, sheltered under the gaze of the majestic Mount Etna. Spend your first day exploring the town of Tonnarella or reclining on one of Sicily's many beaches. Your boat will be docked in Portorosa where we will conduct an orientation and a welcoming reception with refreshments in the midafternoon.

If the conditions warrant, we will set sail in the late afternoon of September 14th to the island of Vulcano. That evening we will enjoy an orientation/welcome dinner together aboard the yacht. Afterward you will be able to go ashore for the remainder of the evening or simply relax on the boat and enjoy a night's sleep at anchor.

Discovering Portorosa



Tonnarella

Spend your first day exploring the nearby town of Tonnarella (located just a short walk from our boat dock) and/or reclining on one of the many beaches in the area.

Day 2 Portorosa to Vulcano

The day's sailing: 20 nautical miles, 4 hr. Sailing time*

**To be used as a guide only. Based on suggested sailing lanes and average wind speed for area.*

Named for the steaming volcanic peaks that crown this fair island, Vulcano is better known for the therapeutic qualities of its local mud and natural hot springs. Characterized by a harsh, barren terrain, the island also boasts a spectacular black sand beach. Another stunning highlight is Fossa di Vulcano, a smoldering crater encrusted with vivid red and yellow crystals, which make the one-hour hike well worth the effort. From the Fossa, you can then either take a steep path down to the crater floor or walk on the level around the rim and enjoy extraordinary views out over the islands to the north. There is even a volcano museum on the island. The south and northwest coasts are ideal for snorkeling and swimming. We'll anchor in Porto di Ponente for good protection from prevailing easterly winds.

Discovering Vulcano

Grotta del Cavallo

Explore the hanging stalactites, underground lakes, and echoing walls of this large, half-submerged cave on the western shore.

Natural hot spring and therapeutic mud

The Faraglione della Fabbrica (the large rock formations jutting vertically from the water pictured above) is a unique phenomenon. The island's historic violent volcanic activity helped to create natural thermal springs and pools, as well as grottos filled with mud that is said to have therapeutic qualities.



Day 3 Vulcano to Filicudi

The day's sailing: 23 nautical miles, 4.5 hr. Sailing time

Filicudi is the wildest and most beautiful Aeolian Island, with its stunning Blue Grotto and a network of hiking trails allowing visitors to explore the island's scenic interior. The Scoglio della Canna (Cane Reef), a rock obelisk located off the northwestern coast, is also worth a visit.

At Capo Graziano, a short walk southeast of the port, you can explore the remains of a prehistoric village, dating back to 1800 BC. Hiking trails across the Island are spread over a huge network, leading to the abandoned village of Zucco Grande and to Fossa Felci, a mountain in the center of the Island.

Discovering Filicudi

The Grotta del Blu Marino

Around the western shore of Filicudi lies this huge sea cave, an absolute must-see for adventurers. You will marvel in the scale and depth of this natural wonder.

La Canna & Punta Zotta

Rising from the sea licking a giant lava-rock finger pointing to the heavens, La Canna rock formation is home to the rare Eleonora falcon. It's an excellent place to snorkel, and we can drop anchor in the bay of Punta La Zotta before heading to the rock.

Day 4 Filicudi to Salina

The day's sailing: 14 nautical miles, 2.5 hr. Sailing time

Renowned for its vibrant plant life and lush vegetation (rare for such volcanic land), Salina boasts three of the highest peaks in the area, as well as three villages and a handful of smaller hamlets. The abundant greenery is supported by the numerous freshwater springs.



Embrace the slower pace of life on this island and rent a bike or scooter to explore Salina and her mighty peaks: Monte Fossa delle Felci (962m); Monte dei Porri (860m); and Monte Rivi (850m). Once at the top, you'll revel in sensational views that stretch across the entire Aeolian archipelago. Salina has good amenities, and several restaurants line the waterfront in Santa Marina Salina featuring delicious local seafood dishes as the star attraction.

Rinella

Movie buffs can pay a visit to Rinella, located on the south of Salina island. Set amidst a picturesque bay, Rinella's small harbor was the setting for the beloved Italian movie, "Il Postino."

Sunset in Pollara

Pollara on the western coast has excellent views and sunsets, and it benefits from protection from easterly, northeasterly, and southeasterly winds.

Round off your day with a stop off at the lovely town of Malfa on the north of the island on your way back to our boat, anchored in Santa Marina Salina, where we'll spend the night.

Day 5 Salina to Stromboli

The day's sailing: 22 nautical miles, 4.5 hr. Sailing time

Rising up an imposing 924m from the sea and second only to Mount Etna as Europe's largest active volcano, Stromboli belches imposing clouds of steam skywards. This dramatic lava mountain plunges all the way down to 2000m below the surface, and at night you can see the red-hot flow weaving its way to the sea. There are two small villages on opposite sides of the volcano, and Stromboli has the blackest beaches of all the Aeolian Islands.

Discovering Stromboli

Stark contrasts



The black rock of this towering volcano contrasts neatly with the island's traditional white houses, to a stark and magical effect. Take a 30-minute walk up to the observatory and restaurant, and dine in style, complete with fantastic views of the erupting volcano. [Nicknamed *Iddu* (meaning *he* or *him* in Sicilian, the volcano erupts approximately every 20 minutes.)]

Ginostra and sweet cannoli

The town of Ginostra is a lovely walk from the port to the town's main piazza where there are many excellent restaurants and bars. Local food blends influence from Neapolitan and Sicilian cuisines, and the traditional sweet cannoli are a must-try.

Day 6 Stromboli to Lipari

The day's sailing: 25 nautical miles, 5 hr. Sailing time

On our way to Lipari, we'll stop off in Panarea (the smallest but by far the most picturesque of the islands in the group) or visit the island of Basiluzzo (an uninhabited island close to Panarea, and an ideal stop-off for swimming, snorkeling, and fishing).

Lipari is both the largest and oldest of the Aeolian Islands. The population is concentrated on the eastern side of the island, where vineyards produce some really good local wine. About half of all residents live in Lipari Town, which is home to the Aeolian Museum, showcasing treasures from the islands throughout the ages.

Discovering Lipari

Lipari cathedral

The amazing 13th-century cathedral features fully preserved Norman architecture and is a must-see for all visitors to Lipari.

Stop for lunch at Basiluzzo

South of Stromboli lies the tiny, unassuming and uninhabited island of Basiluzzo, the smallest Aeolian island, a craggy and isolated outcrop perfect for a secluded lunch and a swim.



Panarea

Plot a course for Panarea, and weave past the glamorous port town to arrive at the quiet anchorage of Zimmari Bay. Take a trip ashore and climb the Punta del Corno for panoramic views.

Day 7 Lipari to Portorosa

The day's sailing: 22 nautical miles, 4.5 hr. Sailing time

From Lipari, we'll plot a direct 22nm route back to Portorosa, or we'll opt for a more relaxed route, winding our way back to base. We can visit the Vulcano National Park for a scenic final stop or set a course for the Milazzo Peninsula.

Upon our return, we'll complete a quick but thorough debriefing, after which you're free to enjoy your final night on Sicily as you please. You may choose to spend the last night sleeping on the boat and checking out the following morning.

On your way to Portorosa

Vulcano National Park

Pop into the Vulcano National Park for a scenic final stop or set a course for the Milazzo Peninsula.

**This planned sailing itinerary is naturally subject to weather and wind conditions, which could warrant changes, for example, the necessity to visit the islands in a different order.*

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