

# ETNA

## NATURAL TRAILS



REGIONAL PROVINCE  
OF CATANIA



# ETNA FAR & WIDE

An astonishing natural stage for the variety of protagonists that alternate within it: from lush forests to dark volcanic caves, from fertile cultivated fields to barren lava desert, Etna's nature must be experienced from the inside, immersing oneself in the many paths that furrow the sides of the volcano.

You will thus discover how Etna is the volcano of records: it is the largest in Europe, with a height of 3323 metres, a perimeter of over 250 km for 1260 square kilometres of lava surface; it encloses among its ravines the third largest cave in the world and the first in Europe for depth; it guards the most southerly perennial glacier in our hemisphere, as well as the largest chestnut tree in the world, the Castagno dei Cento Cavalli, over 28 metres high and 52 metres in circumference.

Going up the flanks of the volcano, beyond the fertile cultivated 'dagales', there is a lush wooded belt of oaks, chestnuts, poplars, beeches and birches, enhanced by the extraordinary pictorial effects of the shrub vegetation: the intense yellows of Etna broom, the reddish-brown tones of euphorbia, the fiery red of the dog rose, the lilac flowers of the soapwort. Envied by man, hundreds of animal species live in this splendid scenery: small mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles.

A biodiversity unique in the world, enriched by the eruptive manifestations of one of the most important active volcanoes on the planet: you will admire the fascinating contrast between the green woods and the black lava desert as you look out over the edge of the Valle del Bove, an enormous depression (perimeter 18 km - surface 37 sq km), whose overhanging walls can reach a height of 1,000 metres. Upon reaching the summit, a breathtaking panorama will open up before your eyes: the largest plain in Sicily, the Catania Plain, to the south, the crystalline blue of the Ionian Sea to the east, the green Nebrodi mountains with their extraordinarily alpine landscape to the north, the exciting scenery made unique by the infernal furnace of the summit craters.

# NORTH SIDE



## HIKING

### The summit craters and the 2002 eruption

The excursions to the summit craters start from the Etna Nord - Piano Provenzana tourist resort, at 1810 m above sea level, which can be reached from Linguaglossa along the road "Mareneve" road, which is comfortable and can also be tackled by bicycle (if you are well trained), winding through the Ragabo pine forest, which is full of pitches and equipped places. You can reach the craters either on foot, with the help of Etna guides, or by comfortable all-terrain minibuses, which, after a stop at the 1809 craters (altitude 2400), reach the summit of the volcano, from where you can enjoy a unique and inimitable panorama. But the excursion begins even before arriving: the green of the pine forest, hit by the 2002 lava flow, suddenly bursts open, showing centuries-old trees incinerated like twigs, while from the Piano Provenzana it is possible to follow the path of the now-cooled lava flows with the eye. A spectacle not to be missed.

#### 1 Gurridda Nature Trail

Difficulty: easy

Difference in altitude: 140 m

Length of route: approx. 1.5 km

Walking time: approx. 1h

Viewpoints: 4

Also accessible to the disabled.

The path, which can be reached from the SS 120 between Randazzo and Maletto, crosses an area rich in rivers, watersheds between the Saracena, Alcantara and Flascio, whose waters feed Lake Gurridda, a meeting point for many species of migratory and non-migratory birds: ducks, coots, grey and red herons, lapwings and plovers flock here especially in winter and spring. At the start of the itinerary, there is a rural complex with an old wine cellar where you can taste typical Etna products. In addition to the very particular morphology of the lavas, this trail is characterised by the typical vineyards, lost amidst cool pine forests, the only ones in the world to be completely submerged for a good part of the winter by the overflowing waters of the Flascio. The panorama is splendid: the view embraces the north-western slope of Etna, enhanced by the grandeur of Monte Spagnolo and Mount Maletto.

#### 2 Burò Nature Trail

Difficulty: easy

Starting altitude: 1080 m above sea level

Difference in altitude: 140 m

Length of route: approx. 2 km

Walking time: 1 h approx.

Viewpoints: 4

To reach the path, which takes its name from a nearby lava flow cave, take the "Quota 1000" Linguaglossa - Randazzo road as far as the drinking trough in contrada Santa Caterina and continue along the ESA road for about 2 km to the picnic area



Etna - ski slopes

adjacent to the rural building "Casa ex Giusa". From here begins the path that, for more than two kilometres and with a difference in height of about 140 m, winds through a splendid landscape of terraces, trazzere, dry stone walls and lava stone casudde immersed in a splendid vegetation of stiff euphorbia, broom, and natural pastures. The breathtaking panorama ranges from the impotent cone of Monte Spagnolo to the summit craters, from Lake Gurridda to the Nebrodi Park.

#### 3 From Randazzo to the Piano of the Dammusi

From slargo San Giovanni, on the outskirts of Randazzo, head south towards the Randazzo - Linguaglossa provincial road, which you will find after about 2 km in Contrada Santa Caterina. After crossing the provincial road, continue south on a wide asphalt road and turn left onto the third carriageway, drawn on the lavas of 1981, until you reach the northern slopes of Monte eluso, where the road ends and you will leave your car.

Beyond the gate, a path to the west of the small crater runs along Monte Spagnolo, covered with a cool beech forest, and, through a grove of pine and cedar trees, reaches a Forestry Service barracks, a few dozen metres from which a cart track heads east. Take it and you will reach Monte Santa Maria, after a few hundred metres uphill.



## SEE, TASTE, BUY

From here, continuing to the right, you will enter the great Piano dei Dammusi, a vast lava plateau generated by the ten-year eruption of 1614 and characterised by the large hollow reddish lava strands, flat and smooth hollow planks ("dammusi"), large rounded agglomerates (megatumulus). A few hundred metres further on, you will come to a fork in the road, near which the Grotta dei Lamponi opens up: the road to the right leads to the luxuriant beech woods of Monte Timpa Rossa and the refuge of the same name, at an altitude of over 2,000 metres; to the left, the cart track reaches, in a few hundred metres, the Grotta delle Femmine and the Grotta delle Palombe.

### 4 Nature Trail Case Pirao Monte Spanish Cisternazza

A very interesting trail that runs through the area that was the scene of the 1981 eruption. From the panoramic road "Quota 1000" Linguaglossa - Randazzo, at Pirao, a small partly asphalted road branches off to the left (coming from Linguaglossa), which climbs up the slope and reaches the forest refuge of contrada Pirao, where you leave your car. From here, a wide dirt track leads, after an hour's walk, to the lava field of 1981 and continues through the thicket of the Monte Spagnolo beech forest, the largest on Etna, as far as a disused barracks. On the left, take a dirt track that enters the wood and, after 200 metres, continue along a path traced on recent lava. You pass a fissure that opened in 1992 and continues to emit hot vapours as you enter a dense mixed forest. After a kilometre, you meet the main route of the altomontana track and descend towards the Saletti hut. Continuing on, you reach the Cisternazza, a characteristic cistern completely covered by a circular building, about 200 metres to the right of the main route. Continuing on, in about 20 minutes, you return to the starting point.

On the northern slope of Etna, the main courses are the most popular: the tasty grilled mutton and sausage (seasoned or plain), typical of Bronte, and the stuffed kid from Randazzo. Among the cheeses, 'Piacintinu' from the Nebrodi stands alongside ricotta, 'tuma' and pecorino from Etna. In Linguaglossa, don't miss the delicate polenta made with broad bean flour and mushrooms, seasoned with the robust Val Demone DOP olive oil. The fruit, dried and otherwise, is excellent: juicy apples and pears, pine nuts and almonds in Randazzo and Linguaglossa, the fragrant strawberries, the red gold of the town of Maletto, where an important festival is organised every year in May. The northern side is the side of Etna richest in wine cellars: from Piedimonte to Castiglione, from Linguaglossa to Randazzo, it is a succession of vineyards from whose fruits the excellent Etna DOC, Rosso, Rosato and Bianco, not to be missed. The vineyards near Lake Gurrida, near Randazzo, are unique. They are the only ones in the world to remain, for most of the winter, completely submerged by the overflowing waters of the nearby Flascio river. From these crops comes a splendid ruby red with a very special flavour.



Etna - Pinewood





## HIKING

### 5 Sartorius Mountains Nature Trail

Difficulty: easy  
Starting altitude: 1660 m a.s.l.  
Altitude difference: 100 m  
Trail length: 4 km approx.  
Walking time: 2 h approx.  
Viewing points: 6

This itinerary starts from the Citelli Refuge (which can be reached by following the signs near the village of Fornazzo, near Zafferana Etnea) and develops around the Sartorius Mountains, seven craters lined up in the typical "buttonhole" formation. The landscape is characterised by clearings of spinosanto and birch and larch pine woods, interspersed with volcanic bombs of considerable size. Having passed Monte Frumento delle Concazze, one of the largest adventitious cones on Etna, and the birch forest, one finds oneself before the immense flow of 1865, which originated from the Sartorius Mountains. Descending along their slope, you return to the Citelli refuge, accompanied by the imposing profile of Monte Concazze, right in front of you.

### 6 The craters of 1928

This excursion allows you to visit the craters of 1928, now extinct, from which spewed a mighty river of lava that, making its way through lush cultivated countryside, swept over and destroyed the town of Mascali (later rebuilt further down the valley) in a few days, stopping just short of the sea. From the town of Sant'Alfio, walk to the small sanctuary of contrada Magazzeni in front of which a natural-bed cart track opens up. In just an hour's walk, immersed in the coolness of enchanting chestnut and hazelnut groves, you will arrive at the foot of the eruptive cone, in contrada Ripe della Naca. The crater presents itself in all its impressive beauty: amidst solidified lava, slag and shreds of magma, an easy fissure opens up into which you can descend to admire the shapes that the lava takes on during the solidification process.

### 7 Pietracannone Cubania Nature Trail

Difficulty: easy  
Starting altitude: 1150 m a.s.l.  
Length of trail: approx. 4 km

The path, which starts from the Case di Pietracannone, runs along the eastern slope of Etna, in the territories of the municipalities of Milo and Sant'Alfio. It is an ancient lava paved track characterised by the presence of one of the most beautiful 'snow notches', an enormous pit in which snow was stored in winter to be used during the summer. The path skirts the 1971 lava flow and, after passing a forest track, enters the heart of the lush Cubania pine forest, until it reaches the Paternò Castello refuge.

### 8 Nature Trail Piano dell'Acqua Mount Calanna

Difficulty: medium  
Starting altitude: 830 m a.s.l.  
Height difference: 180 m  
Length of route: 1 km approx.  
Walking time: 1.30 h approx. Observation points: 5

From Zafferana Etnea, follow the signs for the 1991-93 lava flow and take a small lava paved road. After about 800 metres you will come to a small plateau where the itinerary begins. Alongside gorse glades and woods of downy oaks, holm oaks and ash trees, the effects of what was one of the most spectacular lateral eruptions of recent centuries are clearly visible, framed by fertile orchards enclosed in verdant dagales. From the path one enjoys splendid views of the beech forests of the Calanna Valley, the Salto della Giumenta, the Serra delle Concazze, Piano Bello, Monte Fontane, Monte Zoccolaro and Monte Calanna. We are on the edge of the deserted Bove Valley, an enormous depression characterised by walls up to 1000 m high. When you reach Portella Calanna, you can observe the containment dams erected during the eruption to protect Zafferana Etnea.

### 9 Monte Zoccolaro Nature Trail

Difficulty: medium  
Starting altitude: 1472 m a.s.l.  
Height difference: 266 m  
Length of the trail: 1 km approx. Walking time: 2.30 h approx.  
Observation points: 5

Not far from Zafferana Etnea, this steep path reaches the summit of Monte Zoccolaro and offers spectacular views of the Calanna Valley, the Bove Valley and the 1991-93 eruption. The route starts from the 'Belvedere' at the end of the diversions to Monte Pomiciaro on the SP92 Zafferana - Sapienza Refuge. Beyond the poplar forest, which has grown right on the edge of the Val Calanna that opens out to our right, we find a vast orchard of "cola apples", then a chestnut grove, a beech grove, and more ferns and broom. Continuing northwards, we reach Monte Calanna, surrounded by the lavas of 1991-93; from here, where the vegetation gives way to the lava desert, we enjoy a breathtaking view of the Valle del Bove, the summit craters, the Pizzi Deneri, the Serra delle Concazze and the Rocca Musarra outcrop. Continuing the ascent we reach the summit of Monte Zoccolaro, the kingdom

of the golden eagle, fox, hedgehog, weasel and rabbit.

### **The world's largest chestnut tree and its 'minor' siblings**

The 'Cento Cavalli' Chestnut and the 'Castagno La Nave' Chestnut can be easily reached from Sant'Alfio, following the signs on the SP 84 road. The 'Cento Cavalli' is the sovereign of the Etna woods: its three large trunks, the remaining parts of the only pre-existing trunk, with a total circumference of total circumference of 52 metres by 28 metres in height, make it the largest chestnut tree in the world, as well as one of the oldest, credited with being over 2,000 years old. A few hundred metres away stands the La Nave Chestnut, with a total diameter of 25 metres by 15 metres in height, which can boast the venerable age of 800 years. The two majestic specimens are immersed in a pleasant territory: a stream, the Vallone Molla, surrounded by high dry-stone walls and surrounded by ferns and mosses, crosses the Bosco di Passo Cavallo; all around are luxuriant and fertile meadows, vineyards and hazelnut groves. To reach the Illice del Carrinu (or Pantano) go to Milo and from here to the hamlet of Caselle, where there is an oil mill, next to which a dirt road that can be travelled by car leads to an iron bar. Leaving the car, take a path through a chestnut grove and in a few minutes you will reach the foot of the majestic holm oak (25 metres high by 30 metres in diameter), which, at over 700 years old, is considered the oldest on Etna.

### **Etna's caves**

Etna's volcanic caves are subdivided into fracture caves, produced by the cracking of the ground by earthquakes, and lava flow caves, created by the exhaustion of a lava flow that flowed through them. There are over two hundred of them, some reserved for expert cavers, others easier to explore. These include the Grotta dei Ladroni, the Grotta Cassone and the Grotta dei Tre Livelli, which form a unique system with the 'KTM' located some 300 metres further downstream, the third deepest cave in the world. For the excursion, it is essential to wear a sturdy helmet

to avoid head injuries. The Grotta dei Ladroni can be reached via a signposted path, which opens up 10 km from Fornazzo on the road to Piano Provenzana. Nestled in a grove of birch trees, the cave, easily explored thanks to its smooth bottom, welcomes you into a large hall, the Salone dei Ladroni (Thieves' Hall). On the vault of the gallery that precedes the second hall, the Houel Hall, you will notice some artificial wells, dug by man when the cave became a 'niviera' (a cavity in which snow was stored in winter to allow its use in summer). The other two caves we mention open directly on the edge of the road from Zafferana to the Rifugio Sapienza. The entrance to the Three Levels, 4 km from the Sapienza Refuge in Contrada Case del Vescovo, is partly in reinforced concrete (the supporting structures of the road) and involves overcoming two differences in height of 2 and 7 metres, which can be done with metal ladders. The cave develops upstream, going all the way into the effusive mouths of the flow that produced it (attention: the difference in height is considerable and the ascent very tiring), and downstream for about 300 metres. This last route is very easy and offers a unique spectacle of large galleries, dogtooth stalactites and striations on the sides. The entrance to Grotta Cassone is at Pian del Vescovo, 7 km from the Sapienza Refuge. It is easy to enter and even walking in it is not difficult, as the vault reaches a height of 8 metres and the roadway exceeds 10; the bottom is characterised by rope lavas, while the vault is not lacking in dogtooth stalactites and rolls



*Castagno dei Cento Cavalli - Hundred Horses Chestnut*

sides. Surprising is the section of the gallery that, throughout the 277 metres in which it develops, takes on strange shapes that are always different: oval, ogival, triangular and even keyhole. Other caves include on the south side the Grotta delle Palombe, explored by famous scholars such as Mario Gemmellaro and Wolfgang Sartorius, the Grotta Catanese, the Abisso dei Parmentelli and the Fossa della Lupa; on the east side the Grotta Cassone; on the west side the Grotta dell'Intraleo and the Grotta della Neve; on the north side the very long Grotta dei Lamponi (over 700 metres), Grotta delle Femmine, Grotta Burò and the Queen of Etna's caves, the famous Grotta del Gelo, which contains the southernmost perennial glacier in our hemisphere.



## SEE, TASTE, BUY

The honey, whose production hub is located in the Milo - Sant'Alfio - Zafferana Etnea triangle, is excellent. With the most varied fragrances (chestnut, orange blossom, thyme, eucalyptus, acacia, etc.) it is used for the production of delicious sweets, together with excellent dried fruit: hazelnuts, pistachios, pine nuts, almonds and walnuts. In Zafferana, don't miss the 'sciatore' biscuits covered in the finest chocolate, and the pizza alla siciliana, a fried calzone filled with 'tuma' (typical cheese) and anchovy. The cured meats and cheeses are omnipresent: don't miss the provola and pecorino cheese from Etna.

An excellent digestive at the end of the meal is the fragrant limoncello di Santa Venerina, made from the citrus fruits of the verdant Riviera dei Limoni. Accompany your meal with the superb Etna DOC Rosso and Rosato, produced in the many wine cellars of Viagrande, Zafferana and Santa Venerina. The white DOC wines of Milo, known as 'Superiori' for their fragrance and finesse, deserve a special mention.



*Lava furnace*



*Etna - Autumn*









# MOUNT ETNA - 3357 m

## Map legend



Mount



Alpine Shelter



Cableway



Area of interest



Cave



Forest



Ski lift



Viewpoint



Trail - Itinerary



Point of interest



Craters



Altomontana trail



Nature trails



Craters trail



Main roads



Secondary roads



Highways



Circumetnea railway



Railway

# SOUTH SIDE



## HIKING

### The summit craters and the 2001 and 2002 eruption

The excursions to the summit craters start from the Rifugio Sapienza (1920 m a.s.l.) then continue by cable car to 2500 m and then, by off-road vehicles, to the Torre del Filosofo at 2900 m, which is the base of the central crater.

From here, in less than an hour, you reach the summit, to discover the infernal spectacle of the three summit craters. Black tongues of lava will accompany you during the ascent from Nicolosi to the Rifugio Sapienza: these are the extreme offshoots of the 2001 eruption, sprung from an adventitious cone, which opened a few hundred metres from the tourist facilities, clearly visible from the Rifugio, as well as the course of the lava flows, now cooled, that swept over the ski facilities and invaded part of the square, now rebuilt and functioning.

### 10 Mount Salto del Cane

From Nicolosi, take Via San Nicola and proceed in the direction of Etna south. About 3 km beyond the second fork for Pedara, a small uphill road opens up on the right, half-hidden by a thick chestnut grove, where you will leave your car. After passing through a small gap next to a gate, you will plunge into the dense chestnut forest, which, a few hundred metres further on, gives way to apple and pear orchards, crowned by a few old farmhouses. Now take a path to the left. In a few minutes in complete silence, you will reach the edge of the crater, a chasm at the bottom of which are huge blocks of tuff. You will be able to admire the lush vegetation of its walls covered with a dense forest of holm oaks, poplars, downy oaks and a few sturdy beeches embellished with broom and dog roses. The panorama is breathtaking and sweeps over the lavas of 1614, to the right, the Monti Silvestri, the Montagnola and Mount Ercina, formed during the 2001 eruption.

### 11 Monti Rossi

From Nicolosi, follow the signs for the 'Monti Rossi' Equipped Tourism Area which will take you to a large roundabout where you will leave your car. Pass the metal barrier and walk along the uphill path. After a few hundred metres, you will find yourself in a large clearing, embellished by a large volcanic 'bomb' and equipped with a brazier. volcano and equipped with a brazier and wooden picnic tables. From here a narrow uphill path starts, surrounded on the uphill side by a containment system made of interwoven wood. At the end of the path, you can either turn right on a steep slope to reach the top of the first of the two craters, from which there is a breathtaking view of the Catania Plain, or continue straight ahead: the path descends and then ascends again towards the second summit where you will find a Forestry Service lookout tower and a large metal cross. Halfway along the edge of the crater, gilded with broom, a path on the right heads down the valley and leads a few hundred metres from the starting point. From here, via the road of the same name, you can reach the Grotta delle Palombe, reserved, due to its morphology, only for the most experienced and well-equipped cavers.

### 12 The Bove Valley

This is a large depression, created by the sinking of an ancient volcanic edifice (the Trifoglietto), whose overhanging walls can reach 1,000 metres high: to the north, the valley is enclosed by the Pizzi Deneri, Rocca della Valle and Serra delle Concazze mountains, while to the south it is surrounded by the ridges of the Schiena dell'Asino, Serra del Salifizio



Etna - aetnensis birch tree

and the craters of Monte Pomiciaro and Monte Zoccolaro. On the walls, one can observe the 'dykes', magmatic intrusions laid bare by soil erosion, while the bottom, completely devoid of vegetation, offers the viewer various shades of grey, depending on the different ages of the lavas that pour in and overlap. It is a lunar landscape, two parts of which, the Piano del Trifoglietto (at the foot of the Serra del Salifizio) and the Val Calanna (above Zafferana Etnea), until not long ago were verdant with pastures and orchards: both were submerged during the eruption of 1991-93. One of the best places to admire the Valle del Bove is from the ridge of the Schiena dell'Asino.

Once past the Etna Sud - Rifugio Sapienza station, continuing along Provincial Road SP 92, just opposite the junction with the 401 road to Pedara, there is a Forestry Service gate beyond which a dirt track opens uphill. Once you have passed the pine grove, you will find yourself in a wide lava glade covered with spinosanto bushes; on your right you can observe a splendid panorama as far as the Ionian Sea. A few hundred metres more and you will reach the summit of the Schiena dell'Asino, at the end of the Serra dell'Acqua gully. In absolute silence, the enormous lunar basin of the Valle del Bove opens up right before your eyes: quiescent eruptive vents, dykes, lava flow channels, caves, sand gullies, thick layers of tuff. One of the most fascinating and wildest natural environments on Etna.

### 13 Monte Nero degli Zappini Nature Trail

Difficulty: easy

Starting altitude: 1740 m a.s.l.

Height difference: 200 m

Length of the trail: 4 km approx.

Walking time: 2.30 h approx.

It starts from Piano Vetore, near the Grande Albergo dell'Etna, not far from the Etna tourist station Sud - Rifugio Sapienza. The path develops over ancient and recent lava flows, hornitos, gorse glades and shady pine woods; numerous passerines, birds of prey, black titmice and small

mammals such as the hare and fox. You will immediately encounter 'the cannon', a kind of lava cylinder created by the cooling of lava around a log. After passing a pine and beech forest and a small stream, the path comes to a golden gorse clearing. Further on, a wide forest track leads to the large New Gussonea Botanical Garden, which is not to be missed. From here, following an asphalted road back to the starting point, it is possible to observe the effects of the first historical attempt, in 1983, to change the course of a flow.



## SEE, TASTE, BUY

Don't miss the tasty Etna mushrooms from Nicolosi, roasted on the grill, trifoliated or as a condiment for exquisite first courses, finished with fine Ragalna olive oil, the excellent cured meats, such as 'suppizzata' (a lightly seasoned salami), and cheeses, such as 'tuma' with pepper and Etna ricotta, the best in Sicily, to be enjoyed on its own or as an ingredient in hundreds of tasty recipes. Don't miss Etna apples, small, sweet and fragrant, and dried fruit: pine nuts, hazelnuts and almonds with which, in Belpasso, excellent, internationally famous torroncini are produced.



Silvestri Craters



# WEST SIDE



## HIKING

### 14 Monte Gallo Natural trail Galvarina Refuge

Difficulty: medium/easy  
Route length: 11 km  
Walking time: 3 h approx.

The route starts from Piano Fiera on the slopes of Monte Gallo, which can be reached from SP 92 Adrano - Monte San Leo and continuing for 12 km on the deviation for Monte Intraleo. Go past the Forestry Service barrier, which prevents access to cars, continue for a short distance and turn right. The path, initially flat, climbs up through the thicket of a pine forest, skirting Monte Albano. A little further on, near a lava flow, you come to a fork, at which you turn right, towards the Rifugio della Galvarina, renovated in 1991, ideal for a short break. Here, a cool larch pine forest stretches like a carpet over the steep western face of Etna, carved by deep gullies. From the Rifugio, turn back for about 600 m, continuing towards Monte Leporello, among old craters and ancient lavas, until you reach a fork, where you turn left to return to the starting point.

### 15 Nature Trail Piano dei Grilli

Difficulty: easy  
Length of route: 12 km  
Time required: 3 h approx.

From Bronte, take a small lava paved road and, after crossing a typical pistachio grove and a clearing of lavas dating back to 1651, you will come to a small forestry barracks, the starting point of the itinerary, which is splendid in spring, when the wide prairies it crosses are coloured with the golden yellow of broom and the holm-oak and downy oak woods come back to life. The breathtaking panorama sweeps from the north-west slope of the volcano, with hundreds of volcanic cones large and



Etna - view

small, to four major adventitious cones, Monte Minardo, Monte Peloso, Monte Tre Frati and Monte Ruvolo, with uncontaminated nature. Another point of interest are certainly the 'pagghiari in pietra', small, circular rural buildings in which shepherds sheltered from the weather, built with lava blocks placed one on top of the other.



## SEE, TASTE, BUY

The ruler of the crops on this side is the Bronte pistachio, whose unique fruit, whose excellent quality surpasses any other crop in the world, is excellent to savour on its own or as the basis of the very tasty pistachio pesto (to be combined with fresh Paternò pastries) and as the basic ingredient for excellent cakes, ice-creams and nougats. In Adrano, the fresh vegetables stand out: broccoli, broad beans, artichokes, fennel to be enjoyed simply warmed up or in salads, dressed with delicate Etna olive oil; in Paternò, try the stuffed aubergines, a whole range of excellent dry pastas and, among the cheeses, dry ricotta and a tasty caciocavallo cheese, complemented by excellent cured meats. As far as fruit is concerned, there are peaches, apricots, medlars, pears, Etna apples (the very sweet 'puma maurina', green Bronte apples), table grapes, prickly pears (omnipresent and from which an excellent 'mostarda' is made), and, above all, the splendid Paternò PGI blood oranges, which are the most important of all. PGI of Paternò, unique in the world, which can also be enjoyed in salads, with oil and vinegar.



Etna - eruption



*Lava concretions*

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## **INFORMATION POINTS OF THE REGIONAL PROVINCE OF CATANIA**

Via Etnea, 63/65 - Catania - 095 4014070

International Airport 'V. Bellini  
Fontanarossa Catania  
095 0937023

Tourism Office Regional Province of Catania  
[turismo@provincia.ct.it](mailto:turismo@provincia.ct.it)

Information on hospitality in the Province of Catania  
<http://turismo.provincia.ct.it/ospitalit/>

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### **Ente Parco dell'Etna, Regional Park**

095 82111- [ufficiostampa@parcoetna.it](mailto:ufficiostampa@parcoetna.it)  
[www.parcoetna.it](http://www.parcoetna.it); [www.parks.it/parcoetna](http://www.parks.it/parcoetna)

**Funivia dell'Etna S.p.a.** - Nicolosi  
095 914141 - 095 914142

**Mountain Guide Group** - Etna Sud  
095 7914755 - 389 3496086

**National Mountain Rescue Corps** - Etna North  
347 9028236

**National Mountain Rescue Corps** - Etna South  
340 3961735

### **Italian Alpine Club (C.A.I.)**

Piazza Municipio - Linguaglossa  
095 7153515

### **Mountain Guides - Etna North**

Via M. Amari - Linguaglossa  
095 7774502 - 348 0125167

### **S.T.A.R. - Society for the Management of Excursions to the Craters**

095 371333 - 347 4957091 - 346 6002176

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### **Texts**

Catania APT Archive



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CATANIA  
<https://turismo.comune.catania.it>