

AEOLIAN ISLANDS

A Little Slice of Paradise

If you are looking for a little slice of paradise, consider visiting the UNESCO-protected Aeolian Islands. These islands are close to home, but have the essence of a faraway land with its gorgeous blue waters, active volcanoes, and stunning beach options.

✔ **Vulcano**

This island is the very first stop in the chain of Aeolian islands. If the visibly active crater doesn't grab your attention, the sulfur fumes certainly will. Some main draws to this island include:

- ✔ Relaxing in the mud baths
- ✔ Exploring Gelso port
- ✔ Climbing Fossa di Vulcano
- ✔ Sightseeing from Capo Grillo
- ✔ Spiaggia Sabbia Nera

✔ **Lipari**

The largest and liveliest of the islands, Lipari also tends to be the most heavily visited island during the summer months. This island is the second stop in the chain of islands, so it is one of the quicker islands to visit from Milazzo. It offers many must-sees, including:

- ✔ Lipari Town Centre
- ✔ Parco Archeologico
- ✔ Cattedrale di San Bartolomeo
- ✔ Quattrocchi

✔ **Panarea**

Is synonymous with exclusive and expensive. This island invites jet setters and wealthy clientele with the promise of "la dolce vita." This small and upscale island is best known for:

- ✔ Walking along the streets of San Pietro
- ✔ Cala Junco (Cove/Beach)
- ✔ Spiaggetta Zimmari
- ✔ Spiaggia Fumarola
- ✔ Islets of Panera (tourable by boat)
- ✔ Hike to Punta del Corvo

✔ **Stromboli**

One of the most popular and well-known of the Aeolian Islands, Stromboli offers vacationers with plenty of outdoor activities and recreation, with its primary attraction being Stromboli Crater. This highly active volcano is best appreciated at nighttime when the crater offers evening eruption displays. To enjoy the display, some visitors choose to watch the show from tour boats, while the more adventurous nature lovers, choose to climb Stromboli. Other sights offered on Stromboli include:

- ✔ Sciarra del Fuoco Viewpoint
- ✔ Spiaggia di Ficogrande

✔ **Salina**

This emerald green island is a much quieter and tranquil island in comparison to its sister islands. It is the second largest island, boasting plenty of little whitewashed towns to visit, lush landscape to explore, and beaches for sunbathing. Main island towns to visit while visiting Salina include:

- ✔ Santa Marina Salina
- ✔ Malfa
- ✔ Pollara
- ✔ Lingua
- ✔ Rinella

✔ **Filicudi**

One of the oldest Aeolian islands, Filicudi is also one of the least developed islands. The main attractions of this island is its natural beauty and stunning coastlines, including:

- ✔ Grotta del Bue Marino
- ✔ Scoglio della Canna
- ✔ Prehistoric Village

✔ **Alicudi**

This Aeolian island is the furthest away from mainland Sicily, making it a more remote option for summer vacationers. This island offers those who want to get away from it all a more rustic experience with no roads or cars.

How to reach the islands:

The best way to reach these little islands is by sea. Visitors can utilize car ferries or hydrofoils that leave frequently out of Milazzo. While ferries are less expensive, the hydrofoils are a quicker option to reach your end island destination. If you'd like to leave your car on the Sicily mainland, there are plenty of parking garages in Milazzo that will drop you off at the port.