

STROMBOLI ISLAND

The Aeolian island have provided the science of volcanology with examples of two types of eruption (Vulcanian and Strombolian) and this have featured prominently in the education of geologists for more than 200 years.

Stromboli, one of the few permanently active volcanoes on earth, is the most northerly of the Aeolian Islands. Its peak stands at 924 meters above sea level, but actually rises over 2000 meters above the sea floor.

This volcano is actually quite complex and it reflects its own history, distinguished by the formation and subsequent destruction of a series of volcanic edifices.

The life of such edifices seems to end with a sector collapse, that is a voluminous landslide, leaving a huge collapse scar (also called amphitheater).

After the most recent collapse, which took place approximately 5000 years ago, a new edifice started forming inside the last collapse scar, known as "Actual Stromboli", whose active flank constitutes the "Sciara del Fuoco." The summit craters of this edifice reach an approximately 750 m height, that is more than 150 m beneath the volcano highest peak. Right above the crater area raises the Pizzo Sopra la Fossa (Ledge above the Hole), the observation point, where many visitors can enjoy an amazing view inside the craters.

The active craters are in permanent activity, which has been going on for



EXCURSION

Arranged on a daily basis, departure time may vary depending on the season but approximately take place three hours before sunset. Height: 918 meters - Traveling time: 6 hours and 45 minutes to climb - approximately 1 hour break on the summit peak - 2 hours to descend - plus several breaks for explanations.

To embark on this excursion you need to be in good physical condition, be motivated and used to climb.

That's why you must equip yourself with the proper gear: Trekking Boots, A change of T-shirt, Sweatshirt or/and fleece, Electric torch, Water (1 liter and half per person) Fruits, Sandwich, Dried fruits.

The guide will provide you with a mandatory safety helmet for the areas around the peak and anti-dusk mask (necessary to descend in the driest months).

many centuries, and which usually consists of small eruptions taking place at different intervals, with explosions of fragments of incandescent lava and variable quantities of ash up to some hundred meters above the mouths.

Eruptions with emissions of lava flows (overflows from the craters or opening of new effusive mouths outside the craters) happen at irregular intervals (on average, once or twice per decade) and put a temporary stop to the persistent Strombolian activity on the summit craters.

Lava flows can reach the sea. Such effusions can last between a few day and many months (2002-2003 eruption: 206 days).

Explosions, more violent than the usual Strombolian activity, called "paroxysms", represent the most dangerous phenomenon connected to the Strombolian activity. During the strongest paroxysms, the falling of pyroclastic incandescent material can cause fires within the vegetation located on the volcano flanks.

Over the last hundred years, the strongest paroxysms happened in 1919, 1930 and 2003.

The most ancient part of the Stromboli volcanic system is Strombolicchio, the huge rock rising on the north-eastern side of the island, representing what in geology is called Nek, that is a volcanic formation created by the solidification of the magma inside a volcanic pipe, resurfaced after the erosion of the volcanic cone.