



## Volcano expedition with adventure photographer Ulla Lohmann

99% lava guarantee!!!! Would you like to see an active volcano up close? Then, we have your dream trip! Come with us to the Aeolian Islands and to Sicily to marvel at Stromboli and Etna, to magical places where the violence and primal force of nature can be felt in the immediate vicinity in Europe, where people pray the rosary during eruptions to stop the lava flows. Your adventure awaits!

Picturesque islands, traditional villages where time stands still, turquoise sea, authentic people: the trip offers memorable moments and great photo opportunities at every corner. Your guide Ulla spices your experience with interesting information, from geology to Sicilian way of life. And of course, with lots of tips for good photos: How do you take night photos of the erupting volcano? How do you take beautiful half-half underwater photos? How do you work with filters? What is the best way to approach people? A journey awaits you with many highlights and maybe the picture of your lifetime.

**Included:** 9 days photo workshop, 8 nights with breakfast, transfers, guides, entrance fees

### Highlights:

Experience Stromboli volcano at night: Ascent with a guide  
The island of Stromboli, its buildings, and inhabitants  
Boat trip between the Aeolian Islands  
Ascent of Mount Etna and sunset on Mount Etna  
Lava cave on Etna  
Historic Taormina with sunset at Isola Bella  
The Sicilian way of life and good food  
Accommodation with volcano view and/or sea view (Etna and Stromboli)  
Small and familiar tour group with a maximum of 8 participants  
Your tour guide Ulla Lohmann

**Duration:** 9 days, 8 nights (4 Stromboli, 4 Sicily)

Min. Number of participants: 5

Max. Number of participants: 8

**Hotels:** La Terra dei Sogni (Sicily, 4 nights), Il Gabbiano Relais (Stromboli, 4 nights) – subject to change

**Language:** German, English and French

**Requirements:** Medium. Longest hike: Two-hour one way (optional). Knowledge of photography is an advantage, but not a must.

### Included in the program:

- Photo workshop with Ulla Lohmann
- Multilingual tour guide



- Transfer according to the program including ferry
- 4 nights each in Sicily and Stromboli
- Breakfast for the entire trip

**Not included:**

- Arrival and departure to Catania
- Excursions and admissions outside the program
- Lunch & Diner
- Drinks other than mentioned above and tips
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance

**Program (subject to change due to volcanic activity and weather)**

**Day 01**

Individual arrival in Catania until 1 pm where you will be picked up and brought to our first photo-stop – the picturesque Cyclopes-Rocks of Aci Trezza. From there, we will travel to one of Ullas favorite photo-stops, where the Etna towers above the village.

The next highlight is our 3-course Sicilian diner in our hotel on the foot of Mt. Etna. Maybe we can even see a lava flow!

**Day 02**

Mighty Mount Etna! We will ascent comfortably to with the cable car to La Montagnola at 2504 meters. The views from here are breathtaking! Catania below, smoking Etna towering in the back... from here, we can explore (optional) a side crater and great viewpoint, the Laghetto crater (2580m). From here, we can observe the South-East Crater and warming our feet at the same time! Below us are fumaroles, places where non-poisonous hot gas escape. For those who enjoy a hike, we will descent by foot (1,5 hours, xx meters in altitude). The others can comfortably descent by cable car, have an aperitivo at Rifugio Sapienza or explore Mount Silvestri, a short scroll behind the cable car with a great view. Reunited back together, we will then choose the best spot for hopefully a spectacular sunset. For sure, you will learn lots about volcanoes and photography today. After dinner and depending on the conditions at night, we will be able to comfortable take pictures from our hotel terrace of the Etna with Stars above.

**Day 03**

Depending on the activity of Etna, we will either explore the best spot to view the eruption, get close to the lava flow or spend it on the slopes of Mount Etna to get to know “Mama Etna”. We will either visit 1200 degrees hot lava flows or see weird and wonderful formations of cooled lava, such as a lava tunnel or experience why “Aa Lava” is called like this. Our friend and great fine art photographer Dario Lo Scavo ([www.darioloscavo.com](http://www.darioloscavo.com)) will show us his beautiful gallery with his visual record of all major eruptions. You will understand more about volcanic activities and how to take volcano images. We will explore the area around Etna Norte and take an optional hike, for example to Monti Sartorius with a panoramic view of Mount Etna and the sea. Or you relax at Rifugio Citelli to enjoy their fantastic Late Macchiato. And then, get ready for the sunset and a sumptuous dinner with free wine. There will be another opportunity to take an image with stars above the Etna.



#### **Day 04**

Time to enjoy the nice breakfast and to pack. Afterwards, we will leave for Milazzo. We will show you the place with the best pistachio ice cream in Sicily near the port where we take the fast ferry to go to Stromboli.

Upon arrival at Stromboli, you will feel it straight away: The clocks tick differently here. People don't have a watch, but they do have time. We will check into our exclusive boutique hotel. Here, the rooms are far away from standard. Federica Masin has designed each one and fitted it out with lots of love and her fantastic volcano paintings. If you booked a single room, you have your own bathroom and your own entry, but the common area with kitchen and living room will be shared with another person.

We will enjoy a homemade meal from Federica's fantastic kitchen and leave afterwards to ascent to the "Osservatorio" (45min, 120 m altitude gain) to photograph and observe the eruptions of Stromboli from a secret photo spot nearby. Be prepared for a moment of goose bumps and uttermost respect if you see your first eruption! I am looking forward to sharing this unforgettable moment with you.

If you don't feel like walking back to the village, you can take a shuttle. Tipp: Leave the window open at night to hear the waves and the volcano.

#### **Day 05**

Morning to relax! Your breakfast will be brought to your room, and you have time to enjoy at your own leisure. Later, we meet to learn more about Stromboli volcano and for a review of last night's photographs. After a late lunch at our hotel, we climb the volcano, accompanied by a guide from Magmatrek, as high as is allowed at the time of our trip. Currently, the hike takes us to a viewpoint at 350m, has an altitude gain of 450meters all together and takes about 2,5 hours one way, including rest points and photo stops. Most of the time, it is an easy path and only in the end, it will be a bit steeper. Don't worry, our great guide has experience with hiking pace and rest points, and we can help you if needed. We will walk slow and if you are of average fitness, the hike should not be a problem at all. (Test at home if you can walk 2-3 hours with breaks and ascending a small hill). Our volcano guide and friend is ready to share his extensive knowledge about Stromboli with you and his experience living with an active volcano every day. The hike is optional! If you don't like to walk this long, you can take the same route then yesterday (45min, 120m altitude gain) or call a shuttle service to take you to the Osservatorio where you can enjoy a great pizza and witness the eruptions from a good photo spot. As soon as the sun sets into the Mediterranean Sea, the spectacle starts: The eruptions of Stromboli. Memorable moments and great photos guaranteed! For those up at the highest viewpoint: We will bring you back to a safe spot where you can stay for as long as you want to enjoy nature's greatest force. Another unforgettable night... as every night spend with the volcano and great company.

#### **Day 06**

Sleep in- or for those early birds- time to photograph the sunrise! Late morning, we meet again for a photo discussion, to learn about traditions on Stromboli and for inspiration how to approach and photograph people in the picturesque village, where photo opportunities wait at each corner. We will then leave for a boat trip around the island with a stopover at "Strombolicchio", an old volcanic cone in the middle of the Sea- not only a great photo spot, but also a wonderful place to take a swim! Our next stop is Ginostra, a small village of 40 inhabitants nestled on the slope of the mighty volcano. Not many tourists visit and you will feel the authentic life at every corner. After another



swimming stop with a swim-trough cave and interesting rock deposits, our tour continues to the "Sciara del Fuoco", a talus scree where the lava stones from Stromboli tumble into the water with a characteristic hissing sound and where the birds wait for their pray. You will be surprised by the dimensions of it all! In the evening, we will climb up to the volcano again, this time via a shorter route (Optional- there is also the possibility to take a shuttle to the "Osservatorio" and back or to relax at the hotel). You can stay for as long as it takes you to create your dream image.

## Day 07

This day serves as a reserve day, but it will also be filled with wonderful pictures and experiences. I would like to introduce you to the image processing of volcanic photos, and you will see that volcanoes are addicting: You too will not be able to wait until we can ascend to Stromboli again and enjoy the unique spectacle of huge explosions and glowing lava at night.

## Day 08

We get up very early in the morning, which leaves us also time to photograph the sunrise with the colors of the coming day. Today, it is unfortunately time to say: Bye-bye Stromboli, bye- bye wonderful people on the Island!

We leave the island by slow ferry. The ride with the cargo boat is a great way to see the aeolian islands and photograph from an elevated point of view. Five hours long, we can marvel at the turquoise water and enjoy the different Aeolian Islands: Panarea, Salina, Lipari, Volcano- the island which gave its name to what we love so much: Volcanoes.

On arrival in Milazzo, a stopover in my favorite "Gelateria" is mandatory before we drive back to La Terra Dei Sogni, our hotel from the beginning of our trip. Depending how you feel, we can stop for a swim at the beautiful Alcantara river along the way and visit a traditional mill or relax in the afternoon at the hotel pool. During the final dinner with view of the Etna, we have time to review a fantastic journey end experience lived together.

## Day 09

Transfer to the airport or with the shuttle bus from the hotel or from us.

**Note:** The program may vary due to condition of the volcano, the weather and external circumstances.

**We are happy to help with flights or if you want to stay longer.**

Price and tariff status: July 2022. Minimum participants: 6 people. Price, program, fuel, flight changes as well as the cancellation of the trip due to external circumstances, such as the pandemic situation, reserved. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the travel price can be increased by 10% up to 21 days before departure, but this is done in consultation with the participants.

## Cancellation policies:

- Up to 8 weeks before the start of the trip: Free of charge
- Up to 6 weeks before the start of the trip: 25%
- Up to 4 weeks before the start of the trip: 50%
- Up to 2 weeks before the start of the trip: 75%
- Afterwards: 100%



## Overview and requirements of the hikes:

### Day 2:

Etna: Laghetto Crater – OPTIONAL

This hike is optional. You can also Observe and photograph Mount Etna from the gondola mountain station

Distance: 3km (round trip)

Elevation difference: 80m in the ascent and descent

Altitude: 2500m – 2580m

Requirement: Medium (loose volcanic sand)

Effort: Medium

Duration: about an hour without photo stops

Etna: Descent from the La Montagnola mountain station to the Rifugio Sapienza - OPTIONAL

This hike is optional. You can also take the gondola back down and have an aperitif or explore the Silvestri side crater (10 minutes walk).

Distance: 5km (one way)

Difference in altitude: 0m in the ascent, 565m in the descent

Altitude: 2500m – 1935m

Requirements: Easy (unpaved road) or medium (loose sand), depending on your ability.

Effort: Medium (high altitude)

Duration: approx. 1.5 hours without photo stops

### Day 3:

Etna: Monti Sartorius – OPTIONAL

This hike is optional. You can also stay at Rifugio Citelli (1740m) and enjoy a latte macchiato.

Distance: 3km (round trip)

Elevation difference: 80m in the ascent and descent

Altitude: 1600m – 1680m

Requirement: Easy to moderate (a short but steep climb of over 50m in loose sand)

Effort: Low

Duration: about an hour without photo stops

### Day 4:

Stromboli: Observatory

Distance: 2.6km (one way only)

Elevation difference: 120m in the ascent and descent

Height: 0m – 120m

Requirement: Simple (unpaved road)

Effort: Easy to medium (it can get hot in the sun)

Duration: about 45 minutes without photo stops

Alternatively: boat trip at your own expense (approx. 45€).

### Day 5:

Stromboli: Guided hike to the highest possible viewpoint (Nov. 2023 up to 400m)

Distance: 8km (one way)

Difference in altitude: 600m in the ascent and descent



Height: 0m – 450m)

Requirements: Medium to difficult (small paths with rocky passages, partly steep, possibly hot)

Effort: Moderate (if you are of average fitness), Strenuous (if you are not into hiking)

Duration: about 3 hours one way including breaks

Alternatively: boat trip at your own expense (approx. 45€) or hike to the pizzeria, requirements as Day 4.

**Day 6 + 7:**

Stromboli: Hike to the highest possible point without a guide (November 2023 up to 290m).

Distance: 3.5 km

Elevation difference: 290hm in the ascent and descent

Height: 0m – 290m

Requirements: Easy to medium (mostly paved road, about 200m on a narrow path, possibly hot)

Effort: Easy (with average fitness), Medium (not used to hiking)

Duration: approx. 1.5 hours without photo stops

Alternatively: boat trip at your own expense (approx. 45€) or hike to the pizzeria, requirements as Day 4.