

ITALY

September 2011



Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, the Aeolian Islands (also known as the Lipari Islands) are situated just above Sicily at the southern edge of the Tyrrhenian Sea, an arm of the Mediterranean 475 miles in length and 60 miles wide. Corsica and Sardinia to the north-west, Elba Island to the north, and the boot of Italy to the east make up its borders. The Aeolian archipelago – Lipari, Salina, Stromboli, Panarea, Filicudi, Alicudi, and Basiluzzo – is rugged, beautiful, and mostly undeveloped. Thirty nautical miles from Stromboli, the easternmost of the Aeolians, is the Calabria region of southern Italy and the picturesque harbor of Tropea. This harbor is ideally located for the start of a Calabria sailing vacation. Sailors enjoying a more lengthy Calabria yacht charter can also visit Palermo, the capital of Sicily, and the Egadi Islands to the west of Sicily. Regardless of the itinerary, a fine blend of magnificent sailing, snorkeling in crystal clear water, scenic hiking trails, upscale dining, boutique shopping, and intriguing sightseeing in picturesque towns with roots dating back to ancient Greece and Rome is guaranteed to inspire fond memories for years to come.

I am currently planning this trip to be either a 10 or 14 day adventure.

A very rough estimate of cost at this time is \$1,600 - \$2,000
and does not including airfare, food and incidentals.

The cost will depend on the exchange rate of the Euro at time of booking



Tropea to Panarea Island – 40 nm. Your Calabria itinerary typically began the previous day, Saturday afternoon at 3:00 P.M., when you arrived at the Moorings base to check in, provision the boat (if you hadn't elected to have us do it for you), and receive your pre-cruise chart briefing. Now that you've enjoyed a restful night aboard, it's time to head out onto the shimmering Tyrrhenian Sea to your first port of call, lovely Panarea Island. Panarea is interesting for its exclusive boutiques, restaurants, nightclubs, and private villas. Its quiet streets and gorgeous beaches are picturesque and inviting. Exploring the archaeological site of Punta Milazzese, a Bronze Age village, is intriguing. There's a superb anchorage nearby just to the east. A delightful day stop on the way to Panarea is at the rocky island of Basiluzzo, where you can go ashore to check out the views and the ancient Roman ruins.



Panarea Island to Lipari Island – 10 nm. Continuing your sail south, the next port of call is at the largest of the Aeolian Islands. The heights are a mix of white from pumice, black from basalt, and green from the lush vegetation covering the slopes. It's truly spectacular as you sail along the coast. Ashore are five villages, each with its own eclectic mix of shops and restaurants. Breathtaking beaches are inviting for swimming, snorkeling, and sunbathing. Scuba diving is also fascinating on the various dive sites in and around Lipari. You can arrange for a guided diving excursion for all skill levels.



Lipari Island to Vulcano Island – 2 nm. Your Calabria sailing itinerary takes you south once more on a very short passage to the appropriately named Vulcano. No fewer than three volcanic peaks rise from its interior, though only one is still showing evidence of activity, Fossa di Vulcano, which is famous for its hot springs. Thermal gardens are one of the main attractions on the island. They are renowned for their therapeutic properties. On Vulcano's south coast are magnificent beaches popular for swimming, snorkeling, and sunbathing. There are numerous bays with beautiful and secure anchorages.

Salina Island to Stromboli Island – 21 nm. A pleasant passage to the northeast sets the stage for a wonderful day of sailing as you make your way to impressive Stromboli, the second largest active volcano in Europe besides Sicily’s Mt. Etna. You’ll see its prodigious heights and the smoke and steam at the summit well before you reach the small harbor of Ginostra, where you can anchor just outside and go ashore to explore and dine at one of the excellent restaurants. A guided tour of the volcano is highly recommended.



Vulcano Island to Salina Island – 13 nm. Setting a course to the northwest past Lipari puts Salina Island dead ahead. You are in the midst of the Aeolian Islands, with the coast of Sicily astern. The deep blue sea sparkles with sunlight and a balmy breeze fills the sails. This is bareboat Calabria sailing at its very best. Salina is the second largest of the Aeolian Islands next to Lipari. In spite of its name, which derives from the salt works that were once an important part of the economy, the island could well be called a Garden of Eden. It’s the only major island to have abundant water sources, which in turn has made it verdant and inviting. Renting a car, bicycle, or motor scooter is a charming way to see much of the island as you ride down picturesque roads in a place seemingly forgotten in time.



Although Palermo isn’t among the world’s earliest cities, it does have a storied past reaching back through time more than 2,700 years. Phoenician traders were the first to arrive at the stunningly scenic inlet on the northwest coast of present-day Sicily. A promontory extends seaward and has been described as the most beautiful in the world, and it’s not an exaggeration. Cruising in Palermo waters is your first exposure to the incredible beauty of the region. The port was strategically important to the many seafaring nations that occupied it because of its central location, allowing access to North Africa, France, Italy, Turkey, and Greece. The ancient Greeks called the inlet Panormus, meaning All Port. Over the centuries grand cathedrals, palaces, monuments, public squares, and parks were built within the embrace of the surrounding mountains. As the capital of Sicily, Palermo is a magnificent city well worth taking the time to explore.



If you are interested in joining us on this trip, please send me an email at: sailor1590@yahoo.com and I will keep you advised as I research this trip and more details become available

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