

Stromboli is an active volcano which reaches an elevation of 924 metres a.s.l. By following the paths which wind along its slopes you can see spectacular volcanic activities such as mild-energy explosions and enjoy beautiful panoramic views while immersed in a natural environment. Set out below is the information necessary for a better understanding of the volcano, its dangers and how to respect the environment during your visit.

Rules of Conduct

In agreement with the local authorities, the Department of Civil Protection has defined the following rules for visitors and residents of the island which give practical advice on how to behave in the event of a potentially dangerous situation.

Landslides on the Sciara del Fuoco

The Sciara del Fuoco is the slope of the volcano where rolling of blocks often take place and where more serious landslides can also develop. For this reason, sailing and swimming is prohibited within a 400 metres distance of the coast facing the Sciara del Fuoco area.

Violent explosions

- Paroxysms, or violent explosions of Stromboli, are accompanied by a loud bang like a cannon blast and the formation of a big black cloud; it is all over quickly, in a matter of seconds or minutes. Running away chaotically could cause worse injury. Most accidents in the past have happened as a result of precipitous flight. In the event of such violent explosions, which can also cause bushfires, you are advised to:
- Seek immediate refuge inside the shelters or in any suitable place if you are in the vicinity of the summit. Remain calm and follow the guide's instructions;
 - If you are in the areas of Vallonazzo or Forgia Vecchia, move sideways out of the valley to higher flanks because of the possibility of an avalanche of hot material;
 - If you are near the coast, make your way inland, because of the possibility of a tsunami wave, and follow the paths indicated by the appropriate signs on the island;
 - If you are in a boat, make out to open sea.

Tsunamis

- Tsunamis at Stromboli are usually preceded by landslides on the Sciara del Fuoco or by violent explosions. If there is danger of a tsunami being triggered, procedures to alert the population will be activated and this may include sirens sounding on Stromboli and Ginostra. In any case, even if the alarm does not sound, if there is a violent explosion, a big landslide or the sea retreats from the shore, you must:
- leave the coastal area immediately (going out to sea if you are in a boat) and follow the paths indicated by the appropriate signs on the island;
 - get to the waiting areas.

The beach which goes from Piscit  in the direction of Sciara del Fuoco only has tsunami escape paths at the beginning and none, due to its natural conformation, at its western end. This last part of the beach is also subject to the phenomenon of falling masses.

Excursions

Excursions are governed by rules based on volcanic danger and respect for the environment. In order to face an increasing demand regarding access to the higher slopes of the island, the Department of Civil Protection and the Azienda delle Foreste Demaniali della Regione Siciliana, have reorganised a network of paths using environmental engineering techniques in accordance with the regulations governing works in protected areas. Access to the paths is subject to rules which may change according to the level of volcanic activity; in any case visitors must be accompanied by authorised alpine-vulcanological guides to reach the summit areas. Once on the island it is necessary to make enquiries at the Advanced Operational Centre of the Civil Protection or to get information from the guides regarding the rules in operation at the time. Climbing the volcano is a mountain excursion which can be tiring due to the steepness of the slopes and their rugged nature, the heat, and should only be undertaken in good physical condition. Being equipped with suitable clothes, walking boots, water and food supplies is necessary for the excursions. It is also important not to move away from the paths and not to pick flowers of protected species.

Accompaniment with guides

The guide, in conformity with the regulation in force, takes the decision on whether or not an excursion can take place, considering the meteorological conditions and the state of volcanic activity. He can lead a single person as well as group of people, always limited in number. Before setting out on an excursion, the guide provides the COA and the Stromboli Carabinieri Station with details about the list of excursionists, the route, the departure time and estimated time of return. Their safe return is likewise communicated.

Checks and sanctions

Personnel from the Police Forces check along the access roads and paths to the volcano in order to ensure compliance with current regulations. Individuals or groups who set out on an excursion without being accompanied by an authorised guide, where such is required, will be subject to payment of a fine and obliged to go back and complete the necessary procedures before being allowed to undertake the excursion.

Changes to rules of conduct

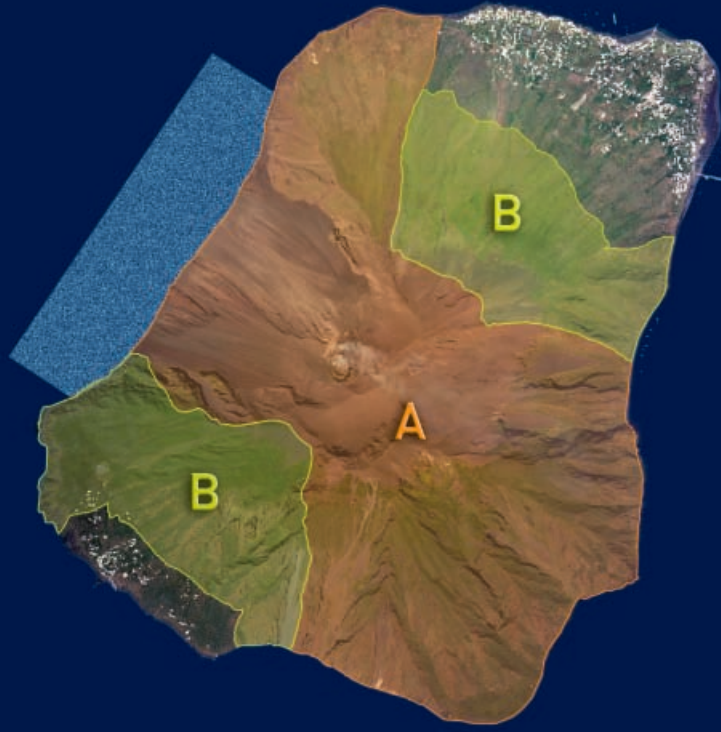
The above regulations are subject to change in the event of significant variation of the state of the volcano. Such changes will be communicated locally and on the Department's web site www.protezionecivile.it

Paths

- A: naturalistic and scenic San Vincenzo - Sciara del Fuoco
 - B: from Ginostra to Portella Ginostra
 - C: from San Vincenzo to Pizzo sopra la Fossa
- Altitude: 400 metres above sea level
- Paths not advised

STROMBOLI ISLAND AND STROMBOLICCHIO, WILDLIFE RESERVE UNDER TOTAL AND CONTROLLED PRESERVATION TERRITORIAL NORMS

- Area A: wildlife reserve
- Area B: area preceding reserve
- No bathing and navigation allowed 400 metres from Sciara del Fuoco coastline



CIVIL PROTECTION
ADVANCED
OPERATIONAL CENTRE



SHELTER
Shelters are refuges built with the most advanced technologies, intended to shield people on the volcano's summit from sudden and violent explosions.

