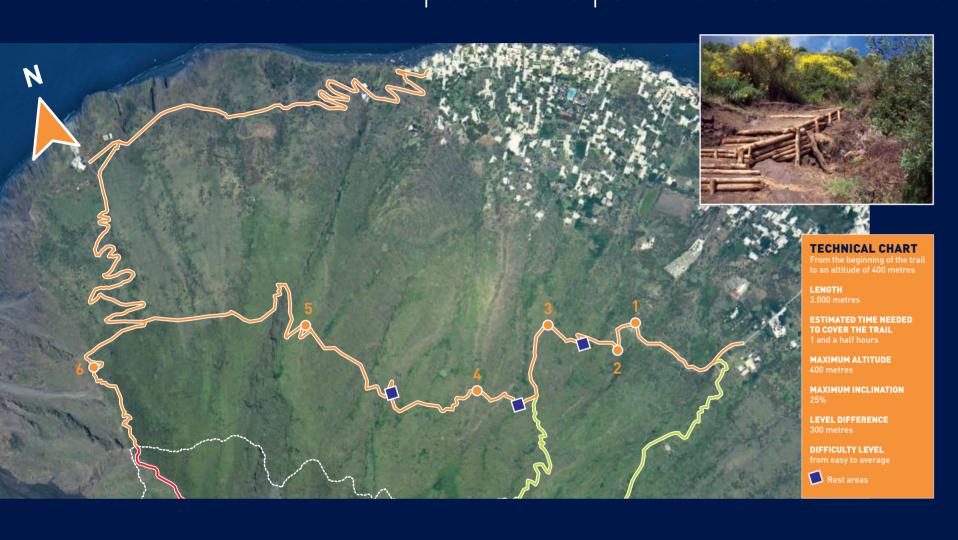


Trail A: naturalistic and panoramic path from San Vincenzo to the Sciara del Fuoco.



VOLCANIC AND HISTORICAL SITES 1. At this point the trail passes the old cemetery which has-

n't been used since the early 1900s, after which it was replaced by the new cemetery.

2. From this point the rocky outcrop named Strombolicchio is easily visible. The rocky pillar is formed by solidified lava within a conduit of an ancient volcano which rose approximately 500mts above the present sea level. The marine erosion has removed the ancient edifice leaving the more resistant part of the structure intact. These kind of rocky towers are identified with the word "neck", a scientific term in volcanic science.

3. From this position the hiker has a panorama of the northern part of the village of Stromboli, which is partially built on a fan shaped flat surface formed by a lava flow (the San Bartolo flow). Following the coastline, the lava flow formed a rocky cliff extending from Piscità to Ficogrande. The flow was emitted probably during the Roman era, from an effusive vent which opened due to a fracture on the slope's

4. In this area the trail crosses the San Bartolo lava flow, emitted by a vent located at higher altitude. The absence of a surfacing layer of volcanic sand and the freshness of the lava surface attest the recent origin of the flow. The outer ridge descending toward sea level, covered by euphorbia plants, is what remains of the lava channel which poured

5. The Vallonazzo represents a fluvial incision which

separated the eruptive material from the Vancori deposit- a ring shaped path, by returning back down by the cobbleed earlier than 13,000 years ago from Neostromboli's lava stone mule track which connects the Labronzo Semaphore eruption between 13.000 and 5000 years ago.

about 50 metres, it is possible to look over the Sciara over sandy and rocky tracts with only a few brief steeper depressed area originates from a niche formed by a major to rainfall and improve the trail's practicability. The problandslide which occurred approximately 5000 years ago, lem of crossing over the small dry creeks has been resolved causing sliding of the north western slope of the vol- by the installation of small wooden and basalt stone bridges. cano into the sea. The present slope which is almost at Wooden benches and tables have been placed along the trail a 45° gradient, is quite unstable as testified by the rolling to use in the rest areas and to enjoy the panoramic views

The dry stone walls built for terracing and delimitation of The trail path begins at an altitude of 100 metres, start-

private properties are visible in this area from 100 to ing from the San Vincenzo square, taking the road bor-300 metres a.s.l.. The numerous dry stone walls can be seen along the greater part of the trail, testifying the past intensive agricultural cultivations along the mountain side of olives, grape-vines, capers, prick ly pears and fruit trees.

to the Piscità locality. The trail's average width is that of 1 and a half metres, and unfolds in its central part mostly at 6. Proceeding upward along the stone mule track for an even level, ranging from an altitude of 200 to 250 metres, del Fuoco. The Sciara is a sunken area delimited by ver-sections. The sections of sandy tracts are characterized tical walls rising up for tens of metres, inside which mate- by steeper gradients have been terraced using chestnut rial erupted by volcanic activity has been deposited. The wood and basalt stone steps in order to contain erosion due

dering the church. Shortly after its starting point, the path curves to the right, cutting a slightly rising course in the valley which separates the COA from the cemetery ridge, proceeding up to the old cemetery at an altitude of 125 metres. From here the trail leads through a few bends to an old holm-oak tree which has survived many bushfires. Under rest area for hikers to use, and enjoy

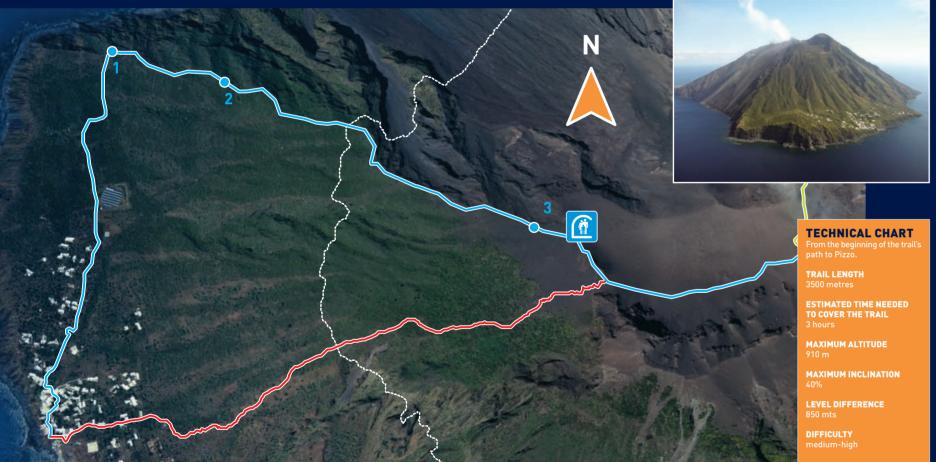
tion gently curving, through small trenches, reaching a mation regarding the dangers of the volcano and its maximum altitude of 290 metres up to Vallonazzo's surrounding areas, we suggest a visit to the COA and border at an altitude of 250 metres. The view of the vil- to the INGV visitor centre. lage below and the natural landscape shaded by a rich vegetation of broom bushes and holm-oak trees makes the path particularly enjoyable. The hiker is taken by surprise on arriving at the right side of the Vallonazzo. From here he can admire the majestic beauty of the ravine rapidly descending and widening below. By descending about forty metres and climbing up again another 20 metres the hiker crosses towards the other side, emerging at ar altitude of 230 metres. After about a 10 metres climb uphill, the path bends again to the right keeping at a horthickets and cistus bushes meeting up with the stone mule track, at an altitude of 230 metres.

cenzo and Strombolicchio. Leaving the tree behind, the DANGERS

hiker continues to climb up a small hill, along the way The trail was designed with the objective of using the passing a holm-oak tree grove to the right. The trail then mountainside better in order to minimise the exporeaches the western side of the Nel Cannestrà rocky sure to danger from the possible risks of volcanic exploridge, abruptly cut on the west side by an almost verti- sions, bearing in mind, however, that volcanoes are cal rocky cliff. At this point the hiker can enjoy the view dangerous by their very nature. The Vallonazzo is potenfrom Piscità all the way to San Vincenzo. The underly-tially the most dangerous area (Site 5) as during the ing valley below is covered by a thick vegetation of pre- 1930 eruption hot debris and gaseous material coursed dominately holm-oaks. From here the path rises uphill, down it like an avalanche. It is therefore recommendfollowing the direction of the mountainside over black ed while crossing the gorge area, not to stop and remain lava scoriae, and bordering the valley which descends there but move on as quickly as possible from the valtowards the San Bartolo locality. The trail then takes a ley area, in case of a great explosion. Over those rarsharp bend, at an altitude of 250 metres, at the crossroad er sections of the trail where it passes near rocky cliffs where the new path leads upward to the craters and a there are wooden railings provided; however the rest point has been set up in an area shaded by a few size- hiker must always pay careful attention, especially able broom bushes. The trail winds in a westward direc- in conditions of poor visibility. For more updated infor-



Trail B: from Ginostra to Portella Ginostra



SITES OF HISTORICAL AND VOLCANIC INTEREST 1. Immediately above the coastline in its central part,

the Sciara del Fuoco presents a specific morphology created by marine erosion. The frequent rolling of boulders into the sea is partially due to volcanic activity and partly caused by erosion and the coast line's retreat.

2. The rocky vertical cliff-faces arising alongside the slope of the Sciara are called "dykes". They represent ancient fractures filled with lava, which after solidifying underground, have surfaced again due to the erosion.

3. Volcanic bombs are fragments of fluid lava of large dimensions launched into the atmosphere during explosive phenomena. When the fragments fall to the ground they are crushed and remodel themselves in round shaped fragments. When landing on the sloping mountainside, the larger and fluid bombs may cause small "lava flows".





Following upward from Punta dei Corvi the trail leads to Portella Ginostra at an altitude of 800 metres, along the western side of the Sciara del Fuoco, proceeding onwards to the Pizzo. The path is well defined and easy to follow, from Ginostra to Punta dei Corvi at an altitude of 100 metres. From this point on, the trail follows an old track used by the Ginostra inhabitants for the cultivation of capers, and winds onward on a gravel and soil base, at times half -hidden by the cistus and broom bushes.

The lack of shady areas makes the climb uphill very strenuous, especially during the late morning hours and the afternoon, due to its sunny exposure. During the climb the hiker can enjoy the beautiful panorama of the Sciara del Fuoco and the vil-

From Portella Ginostra it is possible to proceed along the rocky crest going north for 200 metres, and observe the eruptive activity of the South West crater from this vantage point. The descent from this path is not recommended because of its steep inclination and the unstable condition of the soil underlying this tract; instead, from Portella Ginostra, it is recommended crossing the Valle della Luna walking along the well defined path all the way up to Portella delle Croci, descending towards Stromboli following the trail, and returning to Ginostra via the sea.

TRAIL PATH

From the terrace in front of the church, we proceed upward along the mule track to the left of the Mastro Giovanni Gorge. Passing through Ginostra is very pleasant: the houses, all built in strictly Aeolian

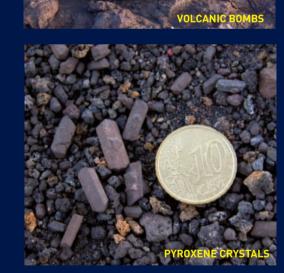


architectural style are few, and surrounded by

terraced cultivation areas bounded by dry stone walls in which grow olive trees and prickly pears. At about 50mts in altitude there is a crossroad, pro ceeding to the left winding along black lava and stone steps up to about an altitude of 120 metres, there is a wooden signboard indicating the trail's starting point called Piano di Vigna . A few metres higher on, the trail levels out crossing the wide divide between the Timpone del Fuoco from the volcano, keeping the 80kw solar panelled power station to the right (built by Enel in 2003 it provides electricity to the village of Ginostra). After a few hundred metres, the path approaches Punta dei Corvi at an altitude of 100 metres, bringing into view the Sciara del Fuoco. From Punta dei Corvi the trail abruptly moves upward in a winding fashion, on a stone and volcanic bomb formed terrain. The climb upward continues keeping the Sciara panorama in sight, crossing low, dry stone walls built for the cultivation of capers, which were traditionally cultivated almost as high up as 600 metres. The final stretch between 730 and 800 metres represents an authentic museum of volcanic bombs deposited by paroxysmal explosions.



The trail is not particularly dangerous, although it could be subject to fallout of volcanic bombs and stone blocks in case of paroxysmal activity (high intensity explosions).



Trail C: from San Vincenzo to Pizzo sopra la Fossa



SITES OF HISTORICAL AND VOLCANIC INTEREST 1. The rocky ridge part of the trail leading from the old

cemetery upward to an altitude of 500 metres is made up of eruptive products called "del Cannestrà". The material consists of lava flow and masses of welded scoriae spatter erupted by a fissure of the north-east slope of the volcano in the era between 10.000 and 6.000 years ago.

2. The large amounts of black sand covering the eastern slope of the volcano have been progressively formed over the last thousand years due to the continuous explosive activity and carried by the winds blowing from west to east. By looking at the sand closely it is possible to see crystals of a prism shaped mineral called pyroxene. Pyroxene crystals form in the seething magma inside the craters and are "released" during explosions.

3. In this area the trail passes by spectacular examples of sculpted and modelled lava formed by the wind's erosion. The erosion results from a combined action of polishing and sculpting, when sand is violently hurled against rocks during wind storms.

4. The rocky ridge of Liscione is formed by lava charcterized by a vivid red brick colour. The red hue is due to a patina of iron oxide generated by the chemical action of rain and acid dews (sulphuric and hydrochloric acid) on the rocks.

5. From this point a splendid view opens onto the crater area and the higher section of the Sciara del Fuoco, crowned by a wide area on the right, called "Pianoro",

where during the 2003 eruption an extensive lava field in width and presents soil characteristics ranging from formed. On February 27, 2007 Pianoro was invaded by the first lava flow originating from the base of the north eastern crater, and was subject to wide fracturing phenomena; this area, in fact, appears tens of meters lower compared to 2003.

6. Active craters. The crater area made up of a number of vents is located at an altitude of approximately 700 metres. During the 2007 eruption, the entire area was subject to fracturing and extensive landslide phenomena which have deeply modified its morphological structure.

7. The Gorge of Rina Grande. The Forgia Vecchia gorge and the rocky ridges of the Schicciole host a rich vegetation of Aeolian cistus consisting of 300 plants which represent 60% of the entire species uralistic scenic trail which leads from the San Vin-

allows for easier access to the top of the mountain from path behind, and the trail suddenly takes an upward the north eastern side, by following the Nel Cannestrà bend to the left. The path winds in a zigzag fashion along ridge, above the cemeteries and the Liscione ridge, a moderately steep path surrounded by cistus and broom overlooking the Scari locality. The ascent to the top bushes, and occasionally passes through dry stone walls from this area, traditionally considered as the safest built for agricultural terracing purposes in the old days. by Stromboli's inhabitants, is the least exposed to At 340 metres altitude, the hiker arrives in an open area. fall out of boulders and volcanic bombs hurled by parox- in the middle of which is an holm-oak tree, which has ysmal explosions. The path is well designed and survived many of the island's bushfires. From here the easily accessible, it is slightly narrower than one metre track continues upward leading from a small valley cov-

sandy, to rocky to mixed. The ascent along the rocky ridge of Liscione is of medium difficulty thanks to the inclusion of several bends. The absence of shaded areas above 500 metres may cause problems especially during the morning and early afternoon due to the heat. Along the entire route a beautiful view of both Stromboli and Strombolicchio can be admired: the approach to the crest dividing Sciara del Fuoco from the eastern slope is particularly impressive, when the excursionist suddenly finds himself facing the fuming craters in constant activity. The descent differs from the climb taking advantage of the sandy expanse of the Rina Grande making the 400 metres slope less stren-

Initially the uphill trail to the craters follows the natcenzo Church to Punta Labronzo. Arriving at the rest area equipped with benches, located in a shady area, landscaped by large broom vegetation at an altitude of The path designed and finished in December 2004 250 metres, the hiker leaves the level grounded scenic

ceeding over sandy ground, in a relatively humid environment, and protected from the wind, is at times covered in ferns. The top of the ridge of Nel Cannestrà is reached at 500 metres altitude, where there is a small saddle. This saddle marks the limit between the area of vegetation below and the arid area above on the higher slopes covered with dark sand and rocks and dotted with grass tufts. From the saddle the path cuts horizontally to a slightly inclined, wide plain of black sand tacking east, and reaching the lower part of the Liscione ridge. From this point onward the ascent proceeds on stable rocky ground, following bends and crossing lava rocks sculpted by the wind's force. Once at an altitude of 570 metres, the hiker may witness the first black scoriae resulting from the volcano's recent paroxysms covering the red lava, which form the main back bone of the Liscione. Beyond 700 mts a.s.l., the trail returns to a sandy-stony ground until the crest is finally reached at 810 metres, overlooking the primordial spectacle offered by the active craters and the Sciara del Fuoco. The choice of the best site from which to observe eruptive activity depends on the direction of the winds blowing the sulphur dioxide charged fumes. The descent is generally taken following a diagonal path cutting through the south eastern side of Pizzo Sopra railings. la Fossa up to Portella delle Croci, located in the saddle between the rampart of the Vancori from the eastern buttress of Pizzo. From here the descent becomes easier, even going at a faster pace along the sloping plain of the Rina Grande sands, a solitary red lava boulder is approached at an altitude of 450 metres turning

ered in broom vegetation and cane thickets and pro-

slightly to the left toward north east, and horizontally climbing over the extension of the Liscione ridge brings the village of Stromboli back into view. From this position, known as the "shoe cleaning" area because of the excursionists' habit of emptying out sand and ash from boots and shoes filled during the descent phase, you then approach a small solitary "Cistus aeolicus" tree without losing altitude, up to the Nel Cannestrà ridge point. From here the descent becomes increasingly steep, and leaving the old Naval Observatory to the right, one reaches the cemented road.

The track, designated of medium difficulty, permits reaching the Pizzo without encountering major difficulties by following a gradual path leading up to the craters, which avoids as much as possible the exposure to fallout of boulders and volcanic bombs. The Rina Grande is potentially the area of greatest danger, having been subject to an avalanche of hot debris during the 1944 eruption. It is therefore advisable to descend the area without stopping, and to move away as quickly as possible from the lower area in case of great explosions, reaching higher zones. In the few areas in which the trail passes by rocky cliffs there are no wooden

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 possiblity 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 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 tthe coastal area immediately (go-

ing 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 Piscità 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.

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

