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DISCOVERING THE BEAUTIES OF THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

The Aeolian Islands appear soon after passing Cefalù to those who travel on the winding coastal road along the Tyrrhenian. Their shapes on the horizon are an irresistible enticement, and actually they're easy to reach: all you need is a short cruise.

Although grouped in an archipelago, the seven islands (included in the World Heritage List in 2000) are different from each other in size and characteristics. On each of them you can do interesting excursions. In Lipari, for example, you can visit the very interesting Aeolian Museum and the vantage point of Quattrocchi, with one of the most beautiful sea views of Sicily. On Salina, you can visit the cellars where the precious Malvasia liquor is produced and farms where they grow capers.

While Filicudi and Alicudi are more remote and secluded and therefore ideal for those who do not want to do anything but rest, the most fashionable will choose Panarea, with a bay, Cala Junco, which is perhaps the most beautiful of the entire archipelago. Do not neglect Volcano, the third largest island of the Aeolian Islands, known for the presence of curative mud in which you can dive, possibly before venturing up the fumigant slopes of the volcano that gives the island its name. No eruptions, though, but a constant emission of smoke (fumarole) and warm water under the surface of the sea.; nor Stromboli, isolated and wild, where the still active volcano erupts every 15-20 minutes, a truly breathtaking sight.

All the islands, finally, are surrounded by clean and rich sea: do not forget snorkel, mask and fins, which are essential to admire the richness and variety of the seabed.

