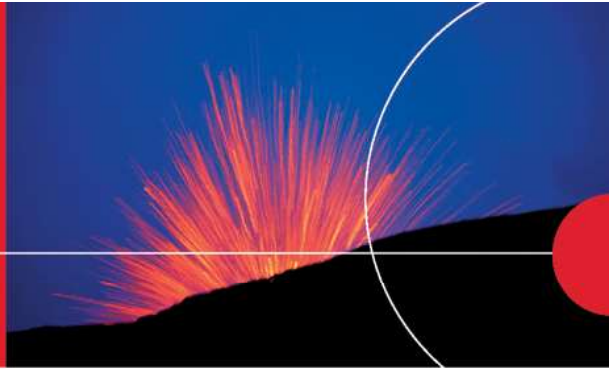




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ETNA

the highest
volcano in Europe



Mount Etna is the highest volcano in Europe. It extends for approximately 1.250 square km and reaches the height of 3.350 m a.s.l. For its repeated eruptions over the last few years, it can be considered to be one of the most active volcanoes in the world. From its height 3.350 m Mount Etna dominates the Island of Sicily, its 3 surrounding seas and tip of the Italian Peninsula, Calabria.

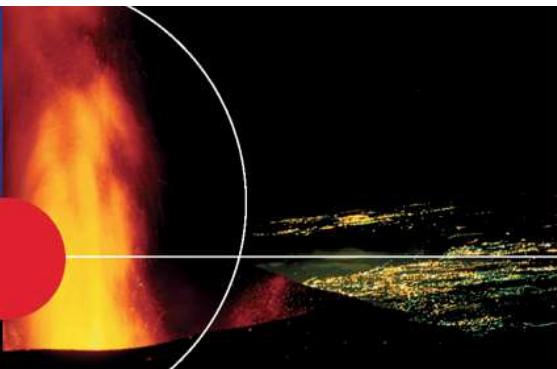
Mount Etna offers varied and captivating sightseeing opportunities with the view of external craters, formidable lava flows, forests, citrus groves and almost ever-green vineyards. All of which ignite both scientific interest and tourist enthusiasm the world over!

Three modern highways that connect Messina, Palermo, Siracusa to Catania, make it easy to reach Mount Etna from any part of the Island.

The Etna Cableway and off-road vehicles make it possible to get to the top of the volcano for exciting summer excursions and a one of a kind winter experience; to ski only a stone's throw away from the sea.

Excursions to Mount Etna are among the most interesting attractions available to tourist. Access to the volcano is simple from the S.P. (Provincial Road) coming from Nicolosi and Zafferana.





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ETNA

only emotion

A typical excursion begins from the height of 1.923 m, from Nicolosi Nord-Rifugio Sapienza, by means of a modern cableway, built by Leitner group, you will reach the altitude of 2.500 m the same route may also be taken by off-road vehicles.

The second part of the excursion starts at this point, continuing on only by vehicles, the Mercedes-Benz Unimog.

With these, you will go on authorized crater confines accompanied by our expert and experienced drivers. You can now enjoy an incomparable panorama extending out over the sea from where you and also admire the impressive Central and South-Eastern craters, ancient and recent lava flows which characterize the surrounding area. The Mount Etna guides will take you as close to the active volcano as local safety regulations allow.

1983 AND 1985 ERUPTIONS - Southern slope - These two eruptions did not affect other towns or villages, but caused damage to tourist facilities on the southern side of Mount Etna (Nicolosi). Lava flows from both eruptions destroyed the modern cableway and skiing facilities. As well as the provincial road 92 Nicolosi-Rifugio Sapienza. During the 1983 eruption volcanologists tried to divert the lava flow with the use of explosives for the first time.

2001 ERUPTION - Southern slope - This flow was as devastating as the one in 1983. It also destroyed the cableway and skiing facilities. The Provincial road Rifugio Sapienza-Zafferana, was interrupted by the lava flows which arrived to Mount Silvestri Square.

2002 ERUPTION - Southern and Northern slopes - This eruption was characterized by two craters. One on the Southern slope, whose lava flows covered the ones from 2001 and the other on the Northern slope, whose flow, in only a few days, destroyed the tourist facilities of the Northern side of Mount Etna - Piano Provenzana - pride of the town of Linguaglossa.

