

ETNA

Reading Landscapes, Risks and Heritage in a Volcanic Region

Program — Daily Breakdown

Day 1 – 26/08/26 – Arrival & Introduction (Nicolosi)

- Arrival at Catania, transfer to Nicolosi (B&B La Porta dell'Etna).
- Introductory lecture: *How to Read a Volcanic Landscape*.
- Evening walk to **Monti Rossi cones** (1669 eruption site).
 - **Topics:** eruption history, impact on Catania, geomorphology of cinder cones.
 - **Heritage link:** Nicolosi shaped by lava and eruptions.

Day 2 – 27/08/26 – Volcanic Risk & Monitoring

- Morning: **INGV Catania (volcanological observatory)**.
 - Meet volcanologists, explore monitoring instruments.
 - **Topics:** hazard monitoring, early warning systems, crisis management.
- Afternoon: **Gole dell'Alcantara**.
 - Basalt columns carved by the Alcantara river; spectacular gorge landscapes.
 - **Topics:** cooling of lava flows, fluvial erosion in volcanic terrains.
 - **Heritage link:** use of the river for irrigation since antiquity.

Day 3 – 28/08/26 – Agriculture, Economy & Risk

- Morning: **Bronte pistachio orchards** ("Pistacchio Verde di Bronte").
 - **Topics:** adaptation of agriculture to lava terraces, economic significance.
 - **Heritage link:** centuries-old cultivation practices and PDO label.
- Afternoon: **Randazzo & Romeo del Castello vineyard**.
 - Vineyard partly destroyed by the 1981 eruption.
 - **Topics:** resilience of viticulture, volcanic soils, agrotourism.
 - **Heritage link:** continuity of wine culture from Antiquity to DOC Etna wines.

Day 4 – 29/08/26 – Summit Craters of Etna

- Morning: **Valle del Bove viewpoint**.
 - Flank collapse, lava flow corridors, hazard implications.
 - **Heritage link:** mythical and cultural interpretations of the Valle del Bove.
- Afternoon: Excursion to **summit craters** (teleferico + hike, conditions permitting).
 - Visit Southeast Crater, Voragine, Bocca Nuova.
 - **Topics:** effusive vs explosive eruptions, hazard scenarios, tourism & safety.
 - **Heritage link:** Etna as the mythological forge of Vulcan/Hephaestus.

Day 5 – 30/08/26 – Myths, Castles & the Sea

- Morning: **Aci Castello & Acitrezza (Riviera dei Ciclopi)**.
 - Basalt dyke fortress, offshore Cyclopean Isles.
 - **Topics:** magmatic intrusions, coastal geomorphology.
 - **Heritage link:** Ulysses & Polyphemus myth, Norman–Arab architecture.
- Afternoon: Departure from Catania airport