




ITALY
SICILY
ETNALAND
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MOTTA CAMASTRA (MESSINA): TOURISTS AT THE GORGES OF ALCANTARA, WHERE THE NAMESAKE RIVER FLOWS. THE GORGES ARE MADE OF BASALTIC STONE FROM A CENTURIES OLD ETNA'S LAVA FLOW.



DAILY LIFE UNDER THE HIGHEST VOLCANO IN EUROPE

FOR THE ANCIENT GREEKS IT WAS THE REALM OF VULCAN, THE GOD OF FIRE. BUT THE GIGANTIC SHAPE OF MONGIBELLO (FROM THE LATIN MONS AND THE ARAB WORD GIABAL, MEANING BOTH MOUNTAIN) ALWAYS INSPIRED MORE TRUST THAN FEAR: THE SPITFIRE ETNA - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE SINCE 2013 - HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED BY EVERYBODY A GENTLE GIANT IN THE CENTER OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, FASCINATING PEOPLE FOR SEVEN THOUSAND YEARS. NEVERTHELESS TRYING TO STOP THE DEVASTATING LAVA FLOWS WHICH SOMETIMES COMES DOWN THE SLOPES OF THE MOUNTAIN, HAS NEVER BEEN AN EASY TASK: EVEN SOME SAINTS' RELICS HAVE BEEN USED IN THE PAST - AND SAINT AGATHA'S VEIL ONCE WORKED FINE, THEY SAY. BUT DURING CENTURIES LAVA BROUGHT MORE LIFE THAN DEATH.

THE CITY OF CATANIA AND ALL THE VILLAGES AROUND THE MOUNT ETNA FOR EXAMPLE, ARE MAINLY BUILT WITH THE PRECIOUS BASALTIC STONE, MINED, WORKED AND SOLD ALL OVER THE WORLD STILL TODAY. AND THE SOIL AROUND THE VOLCANO, THANKS TO ITS ASHES, IS QUITE FERTILE, GIVING EXCELLENT OLIVE OIL, WINE, PISTACHIO NUTS, ALMONDS, APRICOTS, PEACHES AND MORE. TOURISM BUSINESS IS GROWING FAST TOO: EVERY YEAR MORE THAN 1.5 MILLIONS PEOPLE REACH THE SUMMIT OF ETNA TO ADMIRE THE POWERFUL SIGHT OF THE INCANDESCENT LAVA MELTING THE SNOW AND DIVING INTO TO THE BEAUTIFUL SICILIAN SEA.



MOUNT ETNA — WITH THE VILLAGE OF BRONTE ON THE LEFT — FROM A SOUTHWEST AERIAL VIEW.



VIAGRANDE (CATANIA), ETNA MUSEUM:
KIDS OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL ENJOYING THE INNER 3D MOVIE THEATER.



RANDAZZO (CATANIA), WHAT'S LEFT OF A HOUSE
DESTROYED BY ETNA'S 1981 LAVA FLOW.

PIANO PROVENZANA (CATANIA):
SKIERS ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF MOUNT ETNA.





ADRANO (CATANIA): DEVOTEES CARRYING THE JESUS CHRIST STATUE DURING THE HOLY WEEK.



BRONTE (CATANIA): IN THE PIETRA ROSSA AREA, A HERD OF SHEEP IS SLOWLY GOING BACK TO ITS FOLD. AROUND THE SLOPES OF MOUNT ETNA, SOME FORMS OF SEASONAL TRANSHUMANCE ARE STILL ACTIVE.



MISTERBIANCO (CATANIA): THE MAIN ROADS OF THE TOWN WITH MOUNT ETNA IN THE BACKGROUND. IN THE AREA BETWEEN MOUNT ETNA AND CATANIA THERE'S A HUGE POPULATION DENSITY.



MOUNT ETNA: TOURISTS TAKING PICTURES ALONG A LAVA FLOW NEAR THE BARBAGALLO CRATERS, ON THE SOUTH SLOPE.



BRONTE (CATANIA): A CIRCUMETNEA TRAIN IN THE COUNTRY WITH MOUNT ETNA IN THE BACKGROUND. THE CIRCUMETNEA IS THE RAILROAD RUNNING AROUND THE ETNA, SURROUNDING IT ALMOST COMPLETELY.



CATANIA: RELIGIOUS CONFRATERNITIES IN SAINT AGATHA'S CATHEDRAL DURING THE CELEBRATIONS OF SAINT AGATHA, PATRON SAINT OF THE TOWN.



ACITREZZA (CATANIA): EVERY YEAR, THE WORKERS OF LOLA SRL BUILD A PLATFORM FOR THE SUMMER ALONG THE VOLCANIC COAST. THE PLATFORM WILL BE REMOVED IN OCTOBER. ON THE LEFT, ONE OF THE CYCLOPS STACKS, HUGE BASALTIC ROCKS FROM ANCIENT ETNA'S LAVA FLOWS THAT, ACCORDING TO THE LEGEND, ARE THE STONES POLYPHEMUS THREW TO ULYSSES WHEN THE LATTER WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM HIM.



ADRANO (CATANIA): ON EASTER SUNDAY IS HELD A SACRED PERFORMANCE CALLED THE "DIAVOLATA" (THE FEAST OF THE DEVILS).



ACÌ TREZZA (CATANIA): BASALT COLUMNS EMERGING FROM THE HARBOUR.
THEY'RE THE RESULT OF THE COOLING OF AN ANCIENT LAVA FLOW FROM MOUNT ETNA.



MASCALUCIA (CATANIA): MASTER GIANFRANCO PACE, DIRECTOR OF THE ITKA ASSOCIATION, LEADING A TAI CHI SESSION ON A LAVA FIELD.



BELPASSO (CATANIA), ETNALAND AMUSEMENT PARK:
ENJOYING THE ATTRACTION LOVE LAGOON. IN THE BACKGROUND, MOUNT ETNA.



LINGUAGLOSSA (CATANIA): A GROUP OF DANCERS OF THE COUNTRY AND WESTERN SCHOOL ELIANTO PREPARE TO PERFORM ON A MOUNT ETNA SLOPE.



NICOLOSI (CATANIA):
A WORKER OF THE FIRM LA ROSA & MAGRÌ IN A QUARRY OF BASALTIC STONE.



BELPASSO (CATANIA):
YOUNGSTERS AT THE ETNAPOLIS SHOPPING CENTRE.



TRECASTAGNI (CATANIA). AT THE CELEBRATION OF SAINT ALFIO, DURING EARLY MAY, A BAREFOOT PILGRIM CARRIES A VOTIVE CANDLE TO THE ALTAR OF THE SANCTUARY DEDICATED TO SAINTS ALFIO, FILADELFO AND CIRINO.



CATANIA, LIDO LE CAPANNINE: WINDSURF TEACHER TIZIANA CAMPO WORKING WITH TWO TOURISTS. IN THE BACKGROUND, MOUNT ETNA.



MISTERBIANCO (CATANIA). CARMELO SANTONOCITO CHECKING THE LAVA OF THE 1669 FLOW, STILL BURDENING THE MOTHER-CHURCH OF CAMPANARAZZU, FULLY SUBMERGED BY THE LAVA IN 1669 AND PARTIALLY RECOVERED IN 2016. THE RECOVER KEEPS ON GOING.



TRECASTAGNI (CATANIA). THE CELEBRATION OF SAINT ALFIO, DURING EARLY MAY, INCLUDES FUN FAIR AND FIREWORKS.



RANDAZZO (CATANIA): A KISS BEFORE TAKING THE CIRCUMETNEA TRAIN LEADING TO ADRANO AND CATANIA. THE CIRCUMETNEA IS THE RAILROAD RUNNING AROUND THE ETNA, SURROUNDING IT ALMOST COMPLETELY.



CASTIGLIONE DI SICILIA (CATANIA):
THREE MEMBERS OF THE PICCIOLO GOLF CLUB, AND MOUNT ETNA IN THE BACKGROUND.



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VIAGRANDE (CATANIA), ETNA MUSEUM:
TWO TEACHERS WATCHING A PICTURE UNDER THE STATUE OF CYCLOPE POLYPHEMUS. IN THE GREEK MYTHOLOGY
POLYPHEMUS, A ONE-EYED GIANT USED TO THROW STONES AND ROCKS AROUND, SYMBOLISED MOUNT ETNA.



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