



PROGRAM OF THE GUIDED TOUR OF JUNE 28, 2019*

“Valle del Bove and lava tube cave in the Mount Etna Volcano.

Duration: 10 hours: from 8,00 to 18,00

Difficulty: medium difficulty and good physical condition.

Requirement: kway, trekking clothes, shoes and hat, head lamp, sunglass, small backpack for snack and water.

Participation fee: 60 €

The fee include: transfer by coach and geological tour guide, snack and water.

Distance trail a/r: km 9 - Total difference in level 185 m

* This field trip could undergo variations or cancellation due to sudden adverse weather.



Field trip in Valle del Bove (Mount Etna Volcano)

Mount Etna volcano is the highest active volcano in Europe (3340 m a.s.l.). It is an imponent stratovolcano looming above the eastern coast of Sicily that was created by the accumulation of the volcanic products and in particular by the superposition and juxtaposition of several eruptive centers, active since about half a million years. Due to this articulated evolution the shape of Mount Etna is far from being a regular cone, especially on its eastern flank where it opens the large depression of Valle del Bove. The characteristic horse-shoe morphology of this caldera is marked by a width of 7 km and a length of 8 km, its steep walls reach a maximum height of 1000 m. On the inner steep slopes of Valle del Bove it is possible to observe the pyroclastic and lava layers which can be reconducted to several volcanic successions that form the complex edifice of the Etnean volcano. Along the south-western steep slope of Valle del Bove it is therefore possible to observe and study the evolution of a large portion of Mount Etna.

The field trip proposed here is a good approach to the vast and interesting geology of the Etnean volcano. We will start from the Rifugio Sapienza area on the southern flank of Mount Etna at Piano dei Pompieri (1860 m a.s.l.); we will reach the southern edge of Valle del Bove (Schiena dell'Asino, 2020 m a.s.l.) after 2 h walk (including stops). From the Schiena dell'Asino we will go into the depression of Valle del Bove along a steep gully and reach the compound lava field of the 1991-1993 eruption (1 h walk). We will then walk on the lava field eastwards to reach the base of Canalone dell'Acqua, characterized by an extended collapse of the lava floor and by the presence of a small but interesting lava tube (2 h walk). We will continue to reach the Canalone dei Faggi, which will be the exit way from the Valle del Bove. On the way down to the main road we will stop at the base of the Acqua Rocca wall, one of the tallest dykes of the entire Etnean area (2 h walk). Participants to the excursion must be in good health and shape. They must wear mountain boots (not shoes), long pants, windproof jacket, sunglasses and bring a headlamp; gators are also recommended.

