

## 2. ОСОБО ОХРАНЯЕМЫЕ ПРИРОДНЫЕ ТЕРРИТОРИИ

### WILDLIFE PARK OF ETNA

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#### Annotation

Mount Etna is located west of the east coast of Sicily, within the territory of the province of Catania and is crossed by 15° meridian east, which it takes its name. It occupies an area of 1570 Km<sup>2</sup>. Its dimensions place it among the largest in the world and, from the geological standpoint, the highest of the European continent.

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The territory of volcano is divided into different environments morphology and typology. Grown up to a thousand meters above sea level highly urbanized and on the east and south sides is presented mainly from the wild west sides where a thousand meters then dominated by “skiing”. Shortly urbanized, but to look more sweet the north side with the dominance of the woods above Linguaglossa. The east side is dominated ominous – looking of the Valle del Bove on the margins of which climb up the thick woods. Above 1000 meters, in winter, there is snow that often lasts almost until summer. Etna is the largest volcano in Europe and one of the most active volcanoes in the world. Its eruptions occur either at the top, where currently there are four craters, from both sides, up to heights of a few hundred meters above the sea level. The summit activity can during for many years with few interruptions and often characterizes the intervals between the side and another eruption. These intervals can last from a few months to more than 20 years, although in the last 40 years, the average interval between eruptions of this side was about 2 years. The duration of an eruption of the left can be of a few hours, but in other cases may exceed one year. Until recently, the Etna volcano was considered predominantly effusive, that is characterized primarily a result of lava flows. They can cause damage to property but do not represent a direct threat to the lives of 900.000 peoples living in areas potentially at risk. However, recent studies have revealed that this volcano is also capable of giving rise to a highly explosive activities, such as the plinian eruption of 122 BC. Mount Etna is a large volcano of basaltic nature, from that point of view geodynamic is localized in the zone of continental collision between the Eurasian plate to the north and the African south. The development of a basic type of volcanism in this area of continental collision is related to the presence of

the extensional tectonics affecting the eastern edge of Sicily, allowing the ascent of magma from the earth mantle. Mount Etna is the result of a long and complex history in eruptive which it was possible to distinguish four different stages of activity:

- Stage of basal toleiti;
- Phase of the eruptive centers of the Valle del Bove;
- Phase of the “stratovolcano”.

The first time it was thought that the establishment of Park of Etna, it was around the sixties, when he began to establish itself among the fans of the Mountain, the need to protect nature from the invasion of mass tourism brought by the spread of the means personal transportations. The purpose of the park is to protect the forest and the conservation and development of floral and faunal species specific places and to regulate and coordinate the development of the tourist activities that can give enjoyment to the places and the people being established inside territorial. In the summit area of the volcano there is no type of vegetation as on recent lava no seed can germinate. Going around 2400 meters meet *Saponaria Sicula*, *Astragalus Siculus*, and some moss and lichen. Already around 2000 meters may be encountered on some slopes, *Pino Loricato*, *Betulla Aetnensis*, and *Faggio* and even lower also chestnut and olive trees. Along with this the Etna broom vegetation coexist with its yellow flowers creates, in the period of flowering, a nice coloring with the black volcanic lava. About a century and a half ago, describing the fauna of Etna told of the presence of animals have disappeared and for us to become mythical wolves, wild boars, deer and roe deer. But the opening of new roads, the savage deforestation and the exercise of hunting led to extinction of these large mammals and continue to threaten the lives of other species. Nevertheless the volcano still live porcupine, fox, wild cat, marten, rabbit, hare, and among the smaller animals, dormice, dormouse, and various species of rat, bat and snake. The park is intended as a place where you can practice activities. Also allows you to reflect on the usefulness of the territory in order to guide possible projects for education and awareness to the protection of the natural environment.

#### ***Bibliography***

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