



How to behave on excursions at high altitude

Excursions at the top of Mount Etna are permitted.

However, because it is a volcano and therefore subject to sudden, unexpected changes – exposing fairly large areas on its slopes to high risks – the Ente Parco dell'Etna (Etna Natural Park Authority) can only **dissuade excursions from being done independently and suggests making use of an authorized guide.**

In any case, considering the peculiar morphology of the terrain and the possible, sudden changes in atmospheric conditions, should you wish to go on an excursion to the top of the mountain you are strongly advised to pay attention to your clothing and equipment:

- Wear climbing boots that are suitable for the ruggedness of the ground;
- Wear warm clothing for temperatures at altitude.

For all eventualities, taking a torch with you is useful.

It will be up to the accompanying guide to provide hikers with detailed information on the difficulties and risks involved on a trip to the top of the mountain. Likewise, they will also have to make sure the hikers are physically fit and adequately equipped for the trip.

Those who decide to go up to the top of the mountain on their own, despite this advice, should:

- Carefully observe all signs, particularly those indicating danger;
- Gather specific information on the current status of the volcano and any potential risks;
- Take into consideration any possible health risks for hikers linked to high altitude and to the changeable weather conditions.

You take full responsibility, both civil and penal, for yourselves and third parties if they are under age or inexperienced hikers and therefore unable to assess danger. **Any expenses incurred due to eventual search or rescue parties will be charged to you.**