

# The Lost Island Project

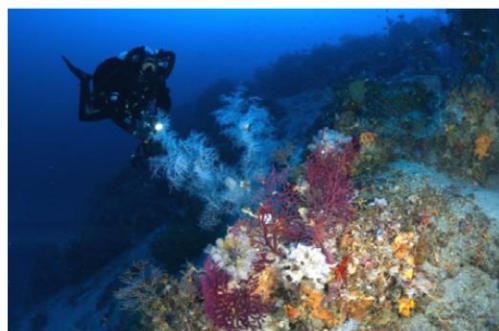


## Join GUE in an exploration of submerged volcanic islands in South Sicily, Italy this summer.

- Dive on a unique and barely explored site;
- Develop your GUE diving skills and join an optional Documentation Diver Course;
- Contribute to marine biological and geological research and help support Project Baseline;
- Meet and work alongside fellow GUE divers from around the world;
- Interact and meet with professors and university researchers;
- Explore the remarkable biological and geological features of this marine environment.

## You want to dive here. Trust us.

Sicily, the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, plays home to a number of volcanoes, including the tallest active volcano in Europe, Mount Etna. Off the coast of the city Agrigento is Ferdinandea, a submerged volcanic island that belongs to a chain of submarine volcanoes, or sea mounts, known as Campi Flegrei del Mar di Sicilia (Phlegraean Fields of the Sea of Sicily). In 1831, the volcano erupted, rising above sea level; however, erosion eventually caused it to sink below the sea. During its brief island existence, sovereignty conflicts arose as multiple countries attempted to lay claim to the land. Though volcanic activity occurred in 2000 and 2002, it currently remains submerged. As a volcanic hotspot, the site is teeming with a diversity of marine life, making it ideal for marine research.



## With your help, we aim to:

- Understand the geochemical characteristics and composition of this site;
- Understand the benthic assemblages and the factors that affect their distribution;
- Analyze the effects of altered sea water conditions on these benthic assemblages;
- Study the impacts of increases in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

## What you'll be doing:

- Collecting and sampling volcanic rocks;
- Sampling fluids to analyze geochemical characteristics and composition;
- Benthic surveys;
- Determining the location of underwater vents.



## Program Fees:

For 2850 euros, divers will spend three nights at sea with the Crew Lopez and four nights lodged at the luxurious four-star resort and spa Baia di Ulisse in Agrigento, Italy. The resort offers the perfect ambiance for relaxing after diving, complete with a private beach, easy access to nearby cultural heritage sites, and a beautiful pool and terrace overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Divers are responsible for their own food, airfare and transportation to and from Sicily, personal dive gear, and Trimix dives, if desired (fees: Tech 1 dive - 100 euros; Tech 1+ dive - 150 euros; Tech 2 dive - 200 euros).



For further information, please email [projects@gue.com](mailto:projects@gue.com) or check out [www.globalunderwaterexplorers.org/projects/lost-island](http://www.globalunderwaterexplorers.org/projects/lost-island). To register, visit: [www.globalunderwaterexplorers.org/gue-projects](http://www.globalunderwaterexplorers.org/gue-projects).