



## GUIDE

# PALMAROLA LINE

*Boat excursion discovering  
the "Pearl of the Pontine Archipelago"*

<b>Departure:</b>	11:00 AM - Molo Musco (under the orange lighthouse)
<b>Duration:</b>	20-30 minutes sailing from Ponza
<b>Organization:</b>	Cooperativa Barcaioli Ponzesi

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## Safety Tips On Board

Welcome aboard! Today we will spend an entire day together discovering the wonders of the island of Palmarola. Before we begin, here are some important guidelines to ensure your safety and comfort during the excursion.

### Rules to follow on board

1. Once on board, please go barefoot; flip-flops can only be used to go to the bathroom.
2. You can use the bathroom at any time during the day, except when we are stopped for swimming.
3. The onboard bathroom is not like the one at home: do not throw any objects (e.g., sanitary pads) or paper into the toilet. Everything goes in the bin in the cabin. To flush, hold down the button for about 15 seconds. **The sink water is NOT DRINKABLE.**
4. For those with children: always keep them under supervision.
5. To go to the upper deck, go barefoot; we are not responsible for any injuries.
6. When leaving and entering the port and while sailing, hands, legs and objects must stay inside the boat.
7. Diving from the upper deck is not allowed.
8. During navigation, please remain seated to avoid losing your balance.
9. When boarding from Palmarola beach: board barefoot with rinsed feet (free of pebbles).
10. Palmarola beach has no waste collection service: bring everything back on board for disposal upon return.

**NOTE:** Make sure to take the right boat by checking the flag matching the color of your ticket.

## The Island of Palmarola

### Origin and characteristics

**Palmarola** is the third largest island in the Pontine Archipelago, located about **10 km west of Ponza**. Reachable in **20-30 minutes of sailing**, the island has a **volcanic origin** like Ponza and features jagged coasts with numerous caves, sea stacks and coves of extraordinary beauty.

The island takes its name from the **dwarf palm** (*Chamaerops humilis*), the only native palm in Europe, which grows spontaneously on its slopes. The island is almost completely **uninhabited** and represents one of the most pristine natural environments in the Mediterranean.

Feature	Value
Surface area	about 1.3 km <sup>2</sup>
Maximum altitude	262 m
Distance from Ponza	10 km (20-30 min sailing)
Inhabitants	Practically uninhabited
Access	Only by sea



*The island of Palmarola*

### Flora and fauna

Palmarola hosts rich **biodiversity**. In addition to the characteristic dwarf palm, numerous Mediterranean scrub species grow on the island. The fauna is mainly represented by **seabirds**, including the **Cory's Shearwater** and the **Eleonora's Falcon**. The surrounding waters are very

rich in marine life.

## The Nature Reserve

Palmarola is part of the **Ventotene and Santo Stefano Islands State Nature Reserve** and the **Pontine Islands Marine Protected Area**. The island is subject to environmental protection constraints that preserve its naturalistic integrity.

**NOTE:** It is forbidden to collect plants, disturb the wildlife and leave waste. Respecting the environment is essential to preserve this natural paradise.

## Island Tour

The excursion includes circumnavigation of the island with stops to admire the most spectacular rock formations, sea caves and coves with crystal clear water. Below are the main points of interest you will encounter during the tour.

### Cala Brigantina

**Cala Brigantina** is one of the most evocative bays on the island. The name derives from the fact that in the past it was used as a refuge by **brigands** who infested these waters. The cove is characterized by turquoise waters and sheer rock walls.



*Cala Brigantina*

### Midday Passage

The **Midday Passage** is a suggestive stretch of coast facing south, where the sun illuminates the rocks for most of the day. Here the volcanic formations create spectacular light effects on the walls plunging into the sea.



*Midday Passage*

## The Grottelle

**The Grottelle** are a system of small sea caves carved into the rock by the action of the sea over millennia. Accessible only by sea, they represent one of the most fascinating corners of the island.



*The Grottelle*



## The Travel Plain

**The Travel Plain** is a flat area of the island where travelers and fishermen used to stop in the past. This area represents one of the few points where it is possible to go ashore and walk on the island.



*The Travel Plain*

## San Silverio Sea Stack

The **San Silverio Sea Stack** is dedicated to the patron saint of Ponza, **San Silverio**, pope and martyr of the 6th century. The rock formation rises majestically from the crystal clear waters, creating a scene of great suggestion.

According to tradition, San Silverio was exiled to Ponza where he died in 537 AD. Every year, on June 20th, the island celebrates the patron saint festival in his honor.

*San Silverio Sea Stack*

## Port Cove

**Port Cove** is a natural inlet that offers shelter from the open sea. In the past it was used as a natural landing by fishermen. The cove is characterized by shallow waters and particularly clear waters, ideal for snorkeling.

*Port Cove*



## The Cathedral

**The Cathedral** is a spectacular rock formation that resembles the spires of a Gothic cathedral. The volcanic rock walls rise vertiginously from the sea, creating a natural spectacle of rare beauty. It is one of the most photographed spots on the island.



*The Cathedral*

## Lo Sparmaturo

**Lo Sparmaturo** (or Sparmaturo) is an imposing volcanic rock formation that stands out against the sea. The name probably derives from the local dialect. The rock presents colors ranging from grey to yellow ochre, testimony to the volcanic origin of the island.

*Lo Sparmaturo*

## La Forcina

**La Forcina** is a characteristic hairpin-shaped (or fork-shaped) rock formation, carved by sea and wind. It represents one of the most evocative natural arches in the archipelago and ideally concludes the island tour.

*La Forcina*



## Palmarola Beach

The excursion includes a **swimming stop** at Palmarola beach, a small paradise of white pebbles and crystal clear waters. The beach has a small restaurant where you can enjoy typical local dishes.

During the stop you can swim in the turquoise waters, snorkel to admire the seabed or simply relax on the beach enjoying the unspoiled beauty of the island.

**NOTE:** Remember that Palmarola beach has no waste collection service: everything you bring to the island must be brought back on board and disposed of upon return to Ponza. Get back on the boat with rinsed feet free of pebbles.



*Palmarola seen from the sea*

## Useful Information

Service	Details
Departure	11:00 AM from Molo Musco (under the orange lighthouse)
Navigation	20-30 minutes from Ponza
Beach stop	Time for swimming and lunch
Refreshments	Small restaurant on the beach
Return	In the afternoon (check time with the Cooperative)

Point of interest	Type	Features
Cala Brigantina	Bay	Turquoise waters, brigand history
The Grottele	Sea caves	System of small caves
San Silverio Sea Stack	Sea stack	Dedicated to the patron of Ponza
The Cathedral	Rock formation	Spires similar to a cathedral
Lo Sparmaturo	Volcanic rock	Grey-ochre colors
La Forcina	Natural arch	Fork-shaped formation
Beach	Bathing	White pebbles, restaurant

## Contacts



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