



# ITALIAN LAKES DISCOVERY TOUR

5 - 12 MAY 2024

5 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2024







Lake Como

## OVERVIEW

AUD 5,450 PER PERSON,  
TWIN SHARE  
AUD 6,400 PER PERSON,  
SOLO TRAVELLER

“Having visited Italy many times before, our small group tour with Luca and Philippa was a joy and added to our love of that country, its history, people, wine and food. They provided many experiences only possible when travelling with people very familiar with the local areas. Their smooth and unruffled organisational skills ensured we came away with even more treasured memories of a wonderful country.”  
Maureen  
Italian Lakes Tour

Since 2007, we’ve been designing itineraries for people who are, like us, fascinated by Italy and believe that a holiday is best experienced in good company. Our small groups (maximum of 12 people) and carefully chosen itineraries ensure you will have a delightful and authentic Italian holiday.

We travel at a relaxed pace so that you can make the most of your time in Italy without racing from one city to another and we include some free time so you can follow your own interests or just put your feet up and enjoy the view.

This 8-day itinerary of the lakes district of northern Italy allows you to see the best of the Italian Lakes in style and comfort, with lake-front rooms in Cannobio and Bellagio, transport by private mini-coach, private boat trips and a full-time tour leader to look after you throughout the tour!

Your tour begins on Lake Maggiore, staying at the pretty town of Cannobio, and exploring the famous Borromean Islands, nearby Lake Orta and Lake Lugano in Switzerland.

Your second base is Bellagio, the “pearl” of Lake Como, where you stay in a charming lake-front hotel. On Lake Como, you visit the famous villas, pretty towns and spend a day exploring the rural Valtellina area.

We include three lunches and three dinners in restaurants chosen for their authenticity and quality. Our small group tour has a maximum of twelve guests and a minimum of just six!







Lago d'Orta

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - ARRIVE ON LAKE MAGGIORE

You can meet the tour group either at Milan Malpensa airport or Milano Centrale station on the first afternoon for the transfer north to Lake Maggiore and your first base in the town of Cannobio (or arrive under your own steam).

Check-in to your lake-view room and start experiencing the magic of Lake Maggiore! Meet your tour leader for welcome drinks and dinner.

Overnight: Cannobio

### DAY 2 - BORROMEAN ISLANDS

The Borromeo Islands, still owned today by the Borromeo family, were the original project of Cardinal Carlo Borromeo, a 17th Century Archbishop of Milan who set out to create a floating cornucopia of style and beauty. You'll visit the stunning villa and gardens on Isola Bella in the morning and travel across to Isola Pescatori for lunch. Return to Cannobio in the afternoon and there is free time for the rest of the day.

Overnight: Cannobio

### DAY 3 - LAGO D'ORTA

Your mini-coach and driver will pick you up at the hotel this morning for the short drive to Lago d'Orta, one of the lesser known and prettiest of the Italian Lakes. You will start the visit in the main town of Orta San Giulio, where there is time for a coffee before you take a boat across to the island of San Giulio, to visit the impressive Romanesque Basilica from the 9th Century.

Lunch looking over the lake before an afternoon visiting the Sacro Monte, a shrine to San Francesco set above Lago d'Orta with wonderful views.

Overnight: Cannobio







**Villa Balbianello**

#### DAY 4 - LAKE LUGANO AND ON TO BELLAGIO

You check out of the hotel in Cannobio this morning and travel north along the shores of Lake Maggiore. You will slip over the border into Switzerland, and stop for coffee in Lugano, the pretty Swiss town on Lake Lugano.

A short drive will take you back into Italy and to the lake side town of Porlezza where you'll stop for lunch on the lakeside. Drive on to Bellagio, the pearl of Lake Como and check-in to your lovely lake-front hotel.

Overnight: Bellagio

#### DAY 5 - CENTRAL LAKE COMO

You begin the day in style with a private boat tour of the central lake, seeing many of the towns and villas from the best vantage point, the water. The boat tour will finish in the town of Varenna, on the east-shore of the lake. The afternoon is free time to wander around Varenna or head back to Bellagio. Ferry ticket from Varenna to Bellagio provided so you can make your own plans for the afternoon.

Overnight: Bellagio

#### DAY 6 - THE VALTELLINA

You'll be leaving the shores of Lake Como behind this morning to visit the Valtellina, famous for its pretty mountain scenery, cheese and wine production. You'll have the chance to learn more about, and try, the latter when you visit a historic winery.

You'll for lunch at a local trattoria before returning to Bellagio in the afternoon.

Overnight: Bellagio

#### DAY 7 - VILLAS OF LAKE COMO

Today you will ride the ferry, heading across the lake to visit a couple of the most charming of the aristocratic ville that sprung up along Como's shores across the centuries. Your day will include a visit to Villa Carlotta, with its spectacular gardens in the morning. After a short break in the pretty town of Lenno for lunch, you'll visit Villa Balbianello, immortalised as the location of Darth Vader's marriage in the more recent Star Wars trilogy, but with a longer and very illustrious heritage. From Lenno you head back to Bellagio for a well-earned dinner on the hotel's terrace overlooking the lake (weather permitting).

Overnight: Bellagio

#### DAY 8 - DEPARTURES

This morning it's time to pack your bags and leave the Italian Lakes, hopefully with plans to return! Your transfer arrives at Milan's Malpensa airport by 12pm and as Milano Centrale by 1pm for your onward travel. If you need to arrive at the airport or station at a different time, please get in touch with us before booking any tickets.

Overnight: NA





# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ◆ Experienced and bilingual tour leader on hand for duration of tour
- ◆ Transfer at the start and end of the tour to Milan Malpensa airport or Milano Centrale station
- ◆ Accommodation (on a twin-share basis) in charming 3 or 4 star hotels
- ◆ All breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners (wine, or something softer if you would prefer, is included with all lunches and dinners)
- ◆ All land travel in Italy in private, air-conditioned mini-coach
- ◆ Entry fees to all attractions listed in the itinerary
- ◆ Expert, local guides at key attractions
- ◆ All gratuities and local taxes

## WEATHER

Spring and autumn are lovely times to visit the Italian Lakes. Most days should be in the mid to high 20s, so very comfortable weather for travelling.

## PHYSICAL FITNESS

We don't place any age limitations on the tour and welcome anyone with a moderate level of physical fitness. Specifically, you should be comfortable on your feet for up to 3 hours with short breaks and able to walk comfortably at a consistent pace without assistance.

## SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

We try to keep our single supplement as low as possible, passing on only the additional costs charged by hotels. The single supplement is AUD950.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is compulsory when travelling on one of our tours. Please contact us if you need help arranging travel insurance.

## BOOKING

If you would like to book a place on this or any other tour, or if you have some questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

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Porlezza



Luca and Philippa



Bellagio

