



ITALIAN LAKES DISCOVERY TOUR

11 - 19 MAY 2025

25 MAY - 2 JUNE 2025

4 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2025





Lake Como

OVERVIEW & PRICING

AUD 6, 270
per person, twin or double share

AUD 7,670
per person, solo traveller

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 9-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 Verbania/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, where you will stay in either Verbania or Canobbio and explore 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 and 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!

"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





Lago d'Orta

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL AT LAKE MAGGIORE

The tour begins with a mid-afternoon group pick-up from Milan Malpensa Airport or Milano Centrale train station, then a transfer to scenic Lake Maggiore. Upon arrival, settle into your cozy lake-view accommodations and prepare for an enjoyable evening of introductions. Share welcome drinks and dinner with your tour leader and fellow travellers.

Overnight stay: Verbania or Cannobio (location varies by departure date; details below).

DAY 2 - BORROMEAN ISLANDS

Begin your day with a private boat trip to the Borromean Islands. Your first destination is Isola Bella. Enjoy a guided tour of the opulent Palazzo Borromeo, celebrated for its intricate baroque architecture and lush terraced gardens.

After exploring the elegance of Isola Bella, your private boat will whisk you away to Isola Pescatori, the "Fishermen's Island." Here, relax over a leisurely lunch at a local restaurant, savouring dishes featuring freshly caught lake fish.

In the afternoon, return by boat to either Intra or Cannobio in time to unwind and explore the charming town.

Overnight: Verbania/Cannobio

DAY 3 - LAGO D'ORTA

This morning, a private coach will pick you up from your hotel for the short drive to Lago d'Orta, one of the lesser-known and most picturesque of the Italian Lakes. Your visit begins in the charming town of Orta San Giulio, where you'll have time for a coffee before taking a boat across to the island of San Giulio to





Verbania/Can-

explore the impressive 9th-century Romanesque Basilica. Enjoy free time for lunch by the lake, followed by an afternoon visit to the Sacro Monte, a shrine to San Francesco perched above Lago d'Orta with stunning views. Overnight: Verbania/Cannobio

DAY 4 - BRISSAGO AND THE BRISSAGO ISLANDS

Today, you'll cross the border into Switzerland to visit the charming town of Brissago, nestled on the shores of Lake Maggiore. After a stroll through town, board a boat to the Brissago Islands, an idyllic pair known for their lush botanical gardens. The larger island, San Pancrazio, features the renowned Botanical Park of Canton Ticino, showcasing an impressive collection of over 1,700 plant species worldwide. Return to your base in either Verbania or Cannobio in the early afternoon. The remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure—perhaps with a lakeside promenade, a relaxing stop at a café, or some shopping at local boutiques. The laid-back ambience is ideal for unwinding after the morning's adventure.

Overnight in Verbania/Cannobio.

DAY 5 - LAKE LUGANO AND ONWARD TO BELLAGIO

This morning, check out of your hotel in Verbania or Cannobio and travel north along the scenic shores of Lake Maggiore. Pause for a coffee break in Lugano, a picturesque Swiss town on Lake Lugano.

A short drive brings you back into Italy, where you'll stop for a leisurely lakeside lunch in the charming town of Porlezza. Then, continue to Bellagio, the renowned "pearl" of Lake Como, and settle into your elegant lakefront hotel. Overnight: Bellagio

DAY 6 - VILLA CARLOTTA AND VARENNA

This morning, board the ferry in Bellagio for a short ride to Villa Carlotta, located on the shores of Lake Como. Villa Carlotta is celebrated for its lush gardens and art-filled interiors. Spanning over 70,000 square meters, the gardens are a flourishing showcase of colour with azaleas, rhododendrons, and ancient cedar and sequoia trees. Inside, the villa houses an impressive art collection, including sculptures by Canova and paintings from the 19th century.

After your visit, catch another ferry to the charming town of Varenna, which offers a picturesque setting for an afternoon stroll. Explore the cobbled streets, visit the





Villa Balbianello

lovely Church of San Giorgio, or simply relax at a lakeside café. Spend your free time soaking in the ambience of this delightful Italian gem before returning to Bellagio
Overnight: Bellagio

DAY 7 - THE VALTELLINA

You'll leave the bustling shores of Lake Como this morning to visit the Valtellina, a region celebrated for its mountain vistas, robust agriculture, and cultural richness. As you drive through this panoramic landscape, notice the terraced vineyards that climb the steep slopes, evidence of a winemaking tradition that dates back centuries.

Your first stop in the Valtellina is a family-owned winery, where you will have a guided tour of the vineyards and the cellars, learning about the unique alpine climate's influence on the local grapes. You'll be able to taste the local wines. After the winery visit, you'll have lunch in a local trattoria before driving back to Lake Como and Bellagio in the afternoon.

Overnight: Bellagio

DAY 8 - A PRIVATE CRUISE AND VILLA BALBIANELLO

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Bellagio, exploring its elegant

gardens and chic boutiques or relax at a lakeside café. In the afternoon, board a private boat for a cruise across central Lake Como. Admire the stunning vistas of villas and quaint villages along the shores.

Your cruise includes a stop at the exquisite Villa del Balbianello, famous for its manicured gardens, panoramic views, and a history rich with cinematic glamour. Tour the villa's elegant interiors and learn about its storied past.

Return to Bellagio for a farewell dinner at your hotel's restaurant on their terrace overlooking the lake.

Overnight: Bellagio

DAY 9 - 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 11 am and at Milano Centrale by 12 pm 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





Porlezza



Luca and Philippa



Bellagio

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

EXCLUSIONS AND ADD-ONS

- ◆ Local city tax (payable directly at the hotel)
- ◆ Add-on a night or two in Milan pre-tour

WEATHER

In late May, the weather around the Italian Lakes is generally mild and pleasant, making it an excellent time for visiting. Temperatures typically range from about 12°C to 22°C. The days are usually warm, while the evenings can still be a bit cool, so it's a good idea to bring some layers.

Early September is also a wonderful time to visit the Italian Lakes, offering some of the best weather conditions of the year. During this period, you can expect warm and generally stable weather, with temperatures ranging from about 15°C to 25°C.

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.

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 have questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

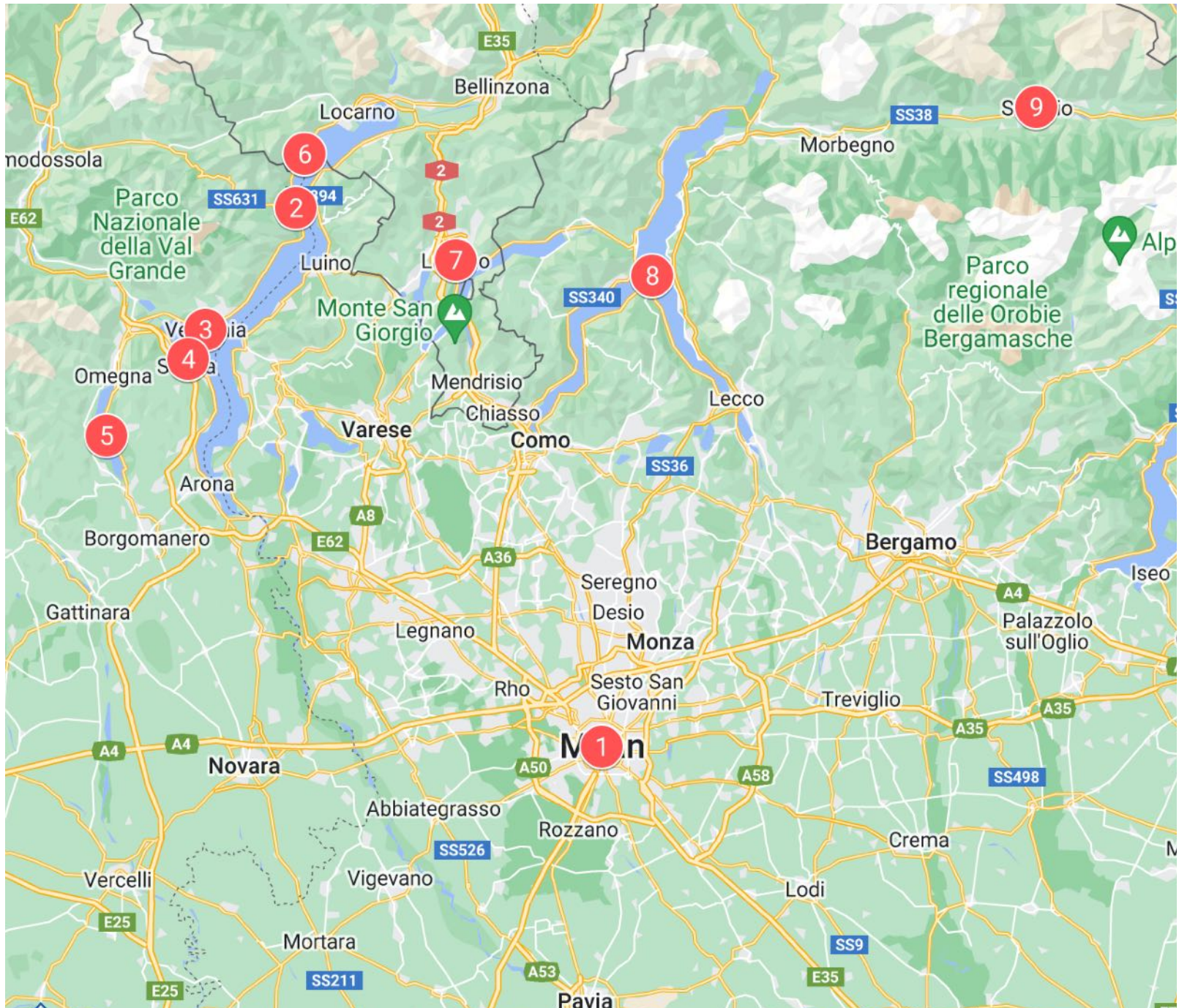
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TOUR MAP



Map data © 2024 Geo Basis DE/BKG (©2009), Google

LEGEND

1. Milan
2. Cannobio
3. Verbania
4. Borromean Islands
5. Lago d'Orta
6. Brissago
7. Lugano
8. Bellagio (stay 4 nights)
9. Valtellina

