



## Italian Lakes Tour

Explore the best of Italian Lakes with this private tour, staying on the shores of Lake Maggiore and Lake Como.

**Dates:**

All year

**Cost:**

from AUD 4,850 per  
person

Holidaymakers have been flocking to the Italian lakes for centuries, and with excellent reasons. The natural beauty of the lakes is complemented by the elegant villas that dot the shores, and fishermen's hamlets and ports have been transformed into pretty resort towns.

This eight-day private tour gives you the chance to visit the most famous places on the lakes: the Borromean Islands, Bellagio and the elegant lake villas, as well as some less-known spots such as Lake Orta, Lake Lugano and the Valtellina.

Our private tours are for couples, families or small groups and offer the convenience of a tour and all the benefits of travelling on your own. The itinerary is entirely customisable based on your preferences and requirements and we can add in lots of different activities like cooking classes, photography lessons, hiking, water sports etc depending on what interests you.

[italiantours.com.au](http://italiantours.com.au)

The accommodation included in the tour is in lake-view rooms in two boutique lake-side hotels that we've chosen for their location and atmosphere. We can also arrange more luxury accommodation or apartments if you prefer.

We design the tours to be "semi-accompanied", meaning you'll meet up with an expert local guide at essential points during the tour and have lots of free time to enjoy.

Our private Italian Lakes Tour starts at AUD 4,850 per person. The final price will be affected by such things as time of the year, size of the group, additional activities and accommodation choices.

Get in touch to start planning your private tour now.

[info@italiantours.com.au](mailto:info@italiantours.com.au)

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## Highlights

- ❖ Waking up each morning in your lake-side accommodation to glorious lake views
- ❖ A full day exploring the Borromean Islands with an expert local guide and private boat
- ❖ Flitting over the border into Switzerland to compare one of their most famous lakes
- ❖ Visiting two of the most beautiful villas on Lake Como with a private guide
- ❖ A private boat cruise on Lake Como
- ❖ Meeting the locals and tasting the locally produced wine of the Valtellina



01. Lago d'Orta / 02 Villa Balbianello / 03 Villa Melzi / 04 Villa Carlotta

## Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrival at Lake Maggiore

Start your Italian Lakes tour with a private transfer from Milan's Malpensa airport or railway station to your lake-side hotel in Intra-Verbania. Check-in to the lake-view room and start enjoying bel'Italia!

Meals: NA

Overnight: Intra Verbania

### Day 2 - The Borromean Islands

Meet your expert local guide this morning for a day exploring the Borromean Islands by private boat. You'll visit Isola Madre first, where you can admire the beautiful gardens and lake views. Your guide will take you to the Isola dei Pescatori, where there will be free time for lunch before visiting Isola Bella. Isola Bella has a spectacular villa and grand Baroque gardens.

Take your private boat back to the quiet town of Intra in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Intra Verbania

### **Day 3 - Lago d'Orta**

Your car and driver will pick you up in front of the hotel for the short drive (less than one hour) to the less-known Lago d'Orta. Enjoy a morning wandering around the pretty town of Orta San Giulio and take the ferry across to the Isola San Giulio to visit the architecturally significant Basilica San Giulio. It's one of the most important Romanesque buildings in all of Piedmont.

Your driver will meet you after lunch to take you to the hilltop above the lake to visit the Sacra Monte, a devotional series of chapels dedicated to Saint Francis. Enjoy the quiet spirituality of the site and the breathtaking views over Isola San Giulio and the lake.

Drive back to Intra Verbania in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Intra Verbania

### **Day 4 - Switzerland, Lake Lugano and on to Bellagio**

Today you will move from your hotel in Verbania to your next base in Bellagio on Lake Como. Your driver will pick you up mid-morning, and you'll follow the lake road up to the northern tip of Lake Maggiore, perhaps stopping to stretch your legs and have a coffee in Locarno. You'll leave the shores of Lake Maggiore behind and drive on to Lake Lugano, stopping in the town of Lugano for lunch, before travelling on to Bellagio in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Bellagio

### **Day 5 - Private boat tour of the Central Lake**

This morning, you are in for a real treat. Your private boat will pick you up directly in front of the hotel and take you on a two-hour tour of the central lake. The boat will drop you at the pretty town of Varenna, which you can then explore on foot, taking the ferry back to Bellagio whenever you feel like it. In the afternoon, you can take a wander down to the gardens of Villa Melzi or walk over the hill to the pretty hamlet of Pescallo.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Bellagio

## **Day 6 - The Valtellina**

Leave the lake behind this morning to immerse yourself in the rural life, visiting the Valtellina. Your driver will take you north along the eastern lakeshore to the Valtellina, famous for its mountain scenery, cheese production and wines. You'll stop at a local winery for a private visit, tasting and lunch before returning to Bellagio in the afternoon.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch

Overnight: Bellagio

## **Day 7 - The villas of Lake Como**

Today you will visit two of the most important villas on Lake Como, Villa Carlotta and Villa Balbianello. Your local guide will meet you at the hotel and accompany you first to Villa Carlotta, taking you through the villa's interior with famous works by Canova and Hayez and through the expansive gardens.

You'll continue by ferry to the town of Lenno, where you'll have free time to get some lunch before your guide takes you by boat to the Villa Balbianello. This villa occupies perhaps the most spectacular site on Lake Como, on a small promontory on the western shore and has been used as a location in several films, including Casino Royale and one of the more recent Star Wars films.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Bellagio

## **Day 8 - Departure**

Included on the final day of your tour is a transfer to Milan's Malpensa airport or Milano Centrale station.

You may choose to extend your stay on the lake for a few days of R&R or add on a few days in the bustling city of Milan. We're happy to help with your travels.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: NA

## Inclusions

- ❖ Three nights in lake-view rooms at the Hotel Ancora, right on the shores of Lake Maggiore in the town of Intra
- ❖ Four nights in Bellagio at the delightful, family-run Hotel Florence in lake view rooms
- ❖ Breakfast each day
- ❖ Private transport with a car (or minivan) and driver as mentioned in the itinerary
- ❖ Guided tours with a local, expert guide as described above
- ❖ Extensive trip notes with recommendations for activities in your free time
- ❖ Restaurant recommendations and bookings as agreed