



# ITALIAN LAKES DISCOVERY TOUR

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 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 Canobbio, 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!

"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 - ARRIVE ON LAKE MAGGIORE

Start your tour with the group pick-up from Milan Malpensa or Milano Centrale train station (mid-afternoon) and a scenic transfer to Lake Maggiore.

Upon arrival, check into your inviting lake-view room, and prepare for an evening of introductions with welcome drinks and a dinner alongside your tour leader and fellow travellers.

Overnight: Cannobio

### DAY 2 - BORROMEAN ISLANDS

Begin your day with a short drive to Pallanza, where you'll embark on a private boat to visit the Borromean Islands. Your first destination is Isola Bella. Enjoy a guided tour of the opulent Palazzo Borromeo, renowned for its intricate baroque architecture and lush terraced gardens.

After immersing yourself in the elegance of Isola Bella, your private boat will whisk you to Isola Pescatori, the "Fishermen's Island." Enjoy a leisurely lunch at one of the local restaurants, savoring dishes featuring freshly caught fish from the lake.

Return to Pallanza by boat in the afternoon, and from there, drive back to Cannobio.

Overnight: Cannobio

### DAY 3 - LAGO D'ORTA

Your bus 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.





**Cannobio**

There is free time for lunch by the lake before an afternoon visiting the Sacro Monte, a shrine to San Francesco set above Lago d'Orta with wonderful views.

Overnight: Cannobio

#### DAY 4 - BRISSAGO AND THE BRISSAGO ISLANDS

Today you will drive across the border into Switzerland, where you will visit the charming town of Brissago, nestled on the shores of Lake Maggiore. After a short wander through the town, board a boat to the Brissago Islands, an idyllic set of islands renowned for their beautiful botanical garden. The larger island, San Pancrazio, is famous for its Botanical Park of Canton Ticino, housing a remarkable collection of over 1,700 plant species from around the globe.

In the early afternoon, return to Cannobio. Spend the rest of your day at leisure, perhaps strolling along the lakeside promenade, relaxing in a café, or indulging in some shopping at local boutiques. The relaxed atmosphere of Cannobio is perfect for unwinding after your morning adventure.

Overnight in Cannobio.

#### DAY 5 - 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'll 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 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 collection of art 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 lovely Church of San Giorgio, or simply relax at a lakeside café. Spend your free time soaking in the ambiance of this delightful Italian gem before returning to Bellagio

Overnight: Bellagio





**Villa Balbianello**

## 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 relaxing 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 and 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 the 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 11am and at Milano Centrale by 12pm 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 if you have some questions about the itinerary, please don't hesitate to contact Luca or Philippa at Italian Tours.

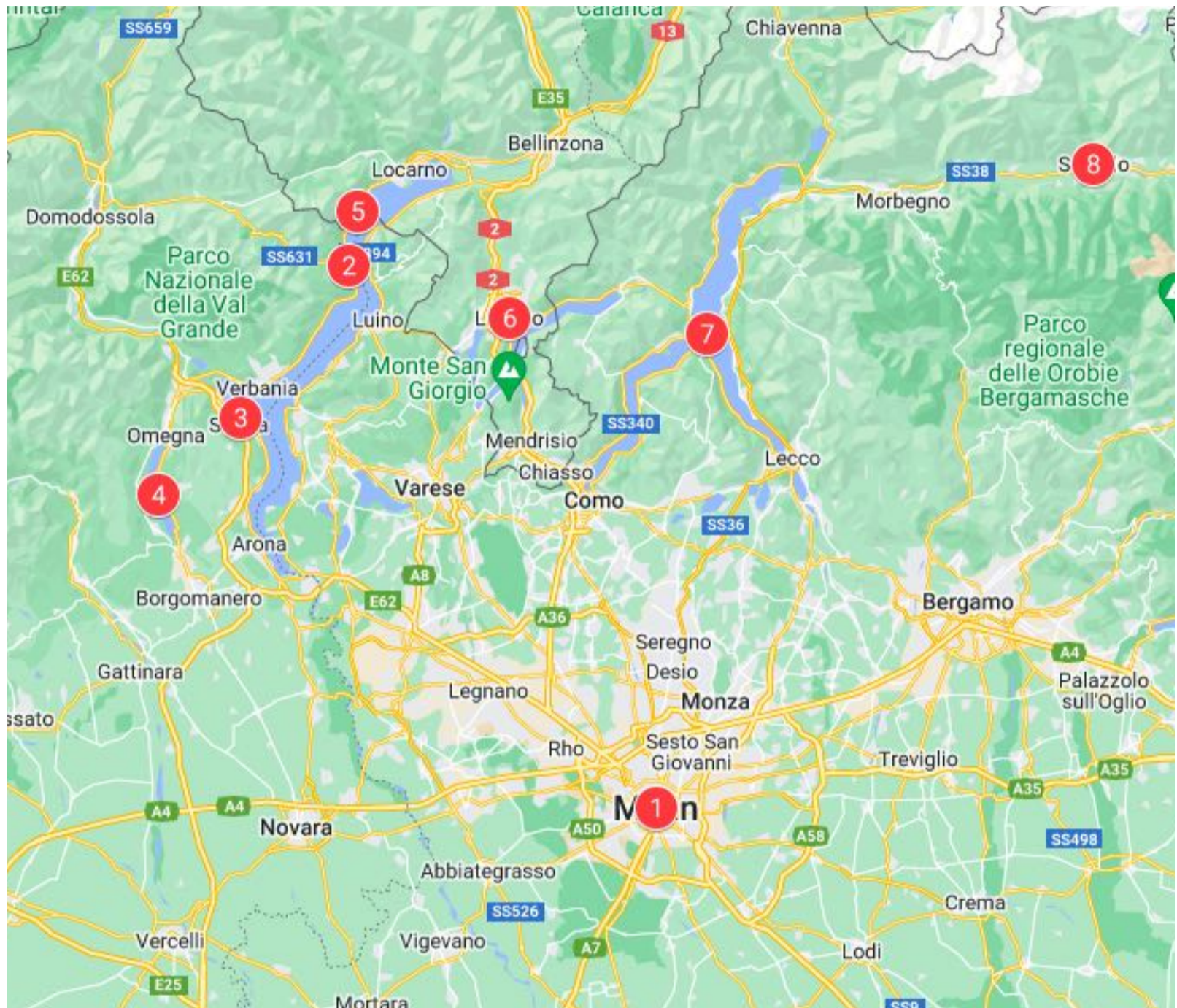
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# TOUR MAP



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

## LEGEND

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

