

Italian Lakes Tour: Milan and Northern Italy



Tour Description

This 8-night group tour explores Northern Italy through its most scenic lake destinations, combining elegant cities, charming lakeside towns, and relaxed natural landscapes. Based between Milan and Verona, the itinerary includes Lake Como, Lake Maggiore, Lake Garda, Lake Iseo, and cultural highlights such as Bergamo and Verona.

Guided visits, boat tours, and selected group dinners are balanced with free time, offering a well-paced experience designed for travelers who appreciate scenery, culture, and authentic local atmospheres.

Tour Services

- * 8 nights in 4-star hotels in Milan and Verona.
- * Accommodation in a private room (Double/twin or Duo to be specified after the confirmation) with daily breakfast.
- * Private bus with dedicated driver for all transfers and excursions as per itinerary.
- * Professional Tour Leader for the entire tour.
- * Licensed local guides in Milan, Como, Bergamo, Sirmione, Verona and Lake Iseo.
- * Entrance tickets to Sirmione Castle, Villa Melzi, Vittoriale degli Italiani and Bergamo funicular.
- * Boat tour on Lake Maggiore and Lake Iseo.
- * Cheese factory visit with tasting.
- * Welcome dinner and aperitif in Milan.
- * Group dinners and lunches as specified in the itinerary.
- * Headsets for guided tours when required.
- * Tour operator insurance.

Detailed Itinerary

Day One – Arrival in Milan and Welcome Dinner



Participants arrive independently in Milan and check in at the 4-star group hotel. Rooms are available from 2:00 PM; guests arriving earlier may leave their luggage at the hotel. In the late afternoon at 5:00 PM, the group meets the tour leader in the hotel lobby for a welcome aperitif.

At 6:00 PM, an early-evening walking tour introduces Milan's elegant historic center, passing landmarks such as the Duomo, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, and the area around Teatro alla Scala, as the city takes on its evening atmosphere. Dinner follows at 8:00 PM at a nearby restaurant, featuring traditional Milanese and Italian dishes paired with regional wines.

Day Two – Lake Como and Bellagio



After breakfast, participants depart Milan at 9:00 AM with the tour leader for a full-day excursion to Lake Como (approximately 1 hour drive). Upon arrival in Como at around 10:00 AM, a licensed guide leads a 2-hour walking tour through the historic center, including the cathedral and the lakeside promenade, with views of the surrounding alpine scenery.

The journey continues toward Bellagio, where lunch is served at around 1:00 PM in a scenic local restaurant overlooking the lake. In the afternoon at 3:00 PM, participants visit the Villa Melzi Gardens, enjoying a relaxed stroll through landscaped paths and lakeside viewpoints.

The return to Milan takes place in the late afternoon, arriving around 5:00 PM. The evening is free, and dinner is not included.

Day Three – Lake Maggiore



After breakfast, the group departs Milan at 9:00 AM toward Lake Maggiore, reaching the lakeside town of Arona at around 10:00 AM. A panoramic boat tour begins, offering views of elegant villas, mountain scenery, and peaceful waters.

Lunch is served at 12:30 PM at a lakeside restaurant, allowing time to relax and enjoy regional cuisine. In the afternoon at 3:00 PM, the boat tour continues, providing additional scenic perspectives of the lake.

At around 4:30 PM, the group returns to Arona and travels back to Milan, arriving in the late afternoon. Dinner is not included.

Day Four – Bergamo and Transfer to Desenzano del Garda



After breakfast, participants check out from the Milan hotel at 9:00 AM and depart for Bergamo. Arrival is expected around 10:00 AM, followed by a two-hour guided walking tour of Bergamo Bassa, exploring elegant streets, historic buildings, and lively squares.

At midday, the group boards the historic funicular to reach Bergamo Alta, enjoying panoramic views during the ascent. Lunch is at leisure in the medieval upper town, with free choice among local trattorias.

In the early afternoon at around 2:30 PM, the journey continues to Desenzano del Garda for a quick stop and a walk in the lake promenade. Arrival in Verona and hotel check-in take place around 5:30 PM, followed by free time to relax or enjoy a lakeside stroll. Dinner is served at 7:30 PM at a nearby lakeside restaurant, featuring local specialties.

Day Five – Sirmione and Vittoriale degli Italiani



After breakfast, the group departs Desenzano at 9:00 AM for Sirmione (approximately 30–40 minutes drive). Upon arrival at 10:00 AM, a guided walking tour explores the Scaliger Castle, the historic streets of the peninsula, and lakeside viewpoints.

Lunch is served at 12:30 PM at a local restaurant in Sirmione. In the early afternoon at 2:00 PM, participants travel to Gardone Riviera (approximately 1 hour drive) to visit the Vittoriale degli Italiani. A guided tour explores the villa, gardens, and museum complex dedicated to Gabriele D'Annunzio.

The return to Desenzano takes place at around 4:30 PM, with arrival at the hotel around 5:30 PM. The evening is free, and dinner is not included.

Day Six – Verona Tour and Dinner



After breakfast, the morning is free at leisure in Desenzano. Lunch is not included. At 2:00 PM, participants depart for Verona, where a licensed guide leads a three-hour walking tour of the historic center. The visit includes Juliet's House, Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza dei Signori, views of the Arena di Verona, and scenic walks along the Adige River.

Dinner is served at 7:30 PM at a local restaurant, featuring traditional Veronese cuisine. After dinner, the group returns to the hotel in Desenzano.

Day Seven – Lake Iseo and Monte Isola



After breakfast, the group departs Desenzano at 9:00 AM toward Lake Iseo (approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes drive). Upon arrival in Sulzano at around 10:30 AM, participants board a boat for a panoramic tour of the lake's islands, including Monte Isola, San Paolo, and Loreto (approximately 50 minutes).

After the boat tour, time is available on Monte Isola for independent exploration and lunch at leisure. In the early afternoon, the group returns by boat to Sulzano and travels back to Desenzano, arriving around 3:30–4:00 PM. Dinner is served at 7:30 PM in Desenzano's town center, followed by a return to the hotel.

Day Eight – Transfer to Milan with Cheese Factory Visit



After breakfast, participants check out from the hotel in Desenzano. At 8:30 AM, the group departs for Milan, stopping along the way at a local cheese factory. The visit includes an introduction to traditional cheesemaking, access to aging rooms, and a tasting of Parmigiano.

Lunch is served following the visit before continuing to Milan. Arrival at the Milan hotel takes place around 3:30 PM, followed by check-in and free time. Dinner is not included.

Day Nine – Departure



After breakfast, participants check out from the hotel and depart independently, marking the conclusion of the tour.

Terms and Cancellation policies

Art. 1 terms and regulations:

- Group capacity: min 14 pax – max 28 people per group
- If the group tour does not reach the minimum capacity of participants by 3 months (90 days) prior the start of the tour, it will be cancelled.
- In case of the cancellation by the Great Italy Tour, the Great Italy Tour will return the amount paid by the customer via nexi payment platform.

Art. 2 – cancellation policy on behalf of the client:

Once customers pay the amount of a day tour, in the case of the eventual withdrawal on behalf of the client for any reason before departure, the client will be charged the following percentage of the participating shares, calculated taking into consideration how many days before departure he/she has requested the cancellation. From the day following the booking until:

- * 60 days pre-departure: 30% penalty : in this case Great Italy Tour will refund the 70% of the full amount paid.
- * 59-30 days pre-departure: 50% penalty : in this case Great Italy Tour will refund the 50% of the full amount paid.
- * 29-0 days pre-departure 100% penalty.
- By confirming the reservation and making the payment, you accept the regulation and the itinerary as previously described.

Art. 3 – Tour variations

The service providers (hotels, agritourisms, restaurants, chefs, etc.) At times mentioned in our tour itineraries are subject to change. In this unlikely event they will only be substituted by others of equal or better quality in order to avoid affecting the content of our services.

The itineraries are subject to changes. Suggested activities may have to be substituted as a result of natural disasters, sudden atmospheric changes, temporary closures, striking or any other problems for which the tour organizers may not be held accountable. Any alterations made will be done so in order to improve the service on offer and will always be of equal commercial value.