

Full Itinerary

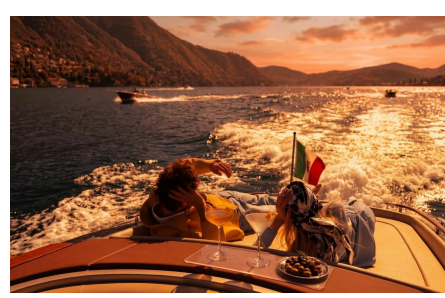
LAKE COMO: LIVING LA DOLCE VITA



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00
GMT



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Lake Como: Living La Dolce Vita

DURATION:

7 day / 6 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your return flights to arrive into
Milan Malpensa Airport [MXP] on Day 1 and to
depart on Day 7

PICKUP LOCATION:

Milan Malpensa Airport [MXP]

OVERVIEW

Oct 30 - Nov 05, 2027

Lake Como, Italy is a mesmerizing blend of old-world European glamour and dramatic, serene nature.

Nestled in the foothills of Italy's Alps, Lake Como is surrounded by lush green mountains that cascade into deep, sparkling waters dotted with colourful, centuries-old villages like Bellagio and Varenna. Offering a perfect, luxurious escape, the Lake Como area invites you to live the 'dolce vita' among stunning, historic villas and lakeside cafés, providing an unparalleled romantic ambiance that feels like living inside a classic film scene.

The Big Journey Company's new European Collection integrates excellent dining, the flexibility of premium self-catering accommodations, and immersive excursions led by expert Tour Directors to deliver an uncompromisingly high standard of travel. Whether touring by private boat, exploring winding cobblestone streets, or enjoying the scenic, peaceful atmosphere, Lake Como offers an idyllic, high-prestige retreat for your European exploration.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Benvenuti in Italia!

DAY 2 - Exploring Lake Como

DAY 3 - On the water- Lake Como by Boat

DAY 4 - Milan

DAY 5 - Cable Car & Cookery

DAY 6 - Private Lake Exploration Cruise

DAY 7 - Arrivederci Italia

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - BENVENUTI IN ITALIA!

Welcome to Italy! Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your apartment in Como. Here you will find very well appointed self catering, air conditioned units a few steps away from the cathedral and walking distance to amenities.

This evening we will join our fellow travellers and enjoy a fabulous Italian welcome over dinner together, to meet your Tour Director and travel companions.

Included meals: Welcome Dinner

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 2 - EXPLORING LAKE COMO

This morning we head up the western side of Lake Como with our local expert guide. The first stop is at the impressive 17th century village of Tremezzo. Here we take in the views and the architecture before making a visit to the Villa Carlotta. This 16th century home, built by the Clerici family, is now an important museum filled with statues, paintings and neo-classic furniture. In the garden, one can admire trees and plants that come from all parts of the world: pergolas of vines, imposing camellia bushes, Australian trees, palms, tropical plants and rare conifers. From the gardens and terraces of the villa there are the amazing views over the center of the lake, to Bellagio, le Grigne and il Legnone.

You will have time for lunch at leisure before we arrive to spend the afternoon at another lakeside village, Menaggio. Menaggio is located on the western shore of Lake Como, with a beautiful panoramic position overlooking the mountain and the lake as it heads towards Switzerland. The pleasant climate has made this a popular resort for more than a century.

Return to Como Town for the evening, with dinner and evening at leisure.

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 3 - ON THE WATER- LAKE COMO BY BOAT

This morning we experience what it might be like to live here, heading out from the hotel on foot to walk the short distance to the Port of Como to take the local boat. We cruise on the lake for a couple of hours in the company of a local guide, before arriving at Bellagio for a guided walking tour of this charming little lakeside town.

It is no mistake that Bellagio is known as the "pearl" of Lake Como. For centuries, its scenic location has enchanted artists and writers, not only from Italy, but also from abroad. It is situated on the tip of a headland that divides the lake into the two legs of Como and Lecco. Bring your camera- from here you will get a good view of the whole lake. On a particularly clear day, one can make out the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Ortles, and even the Madonnina on top of the Duomo of Milan!

Explore together the Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio. Built in 1605 in the high part of the town, it is actually the property of the Rockefeller Foundation which uses it as a study and conference centre. The villa gardens have 12 miles of pathways, bordered with cypress and olive trees and with geometrically designed plants. The panorama overlooks two branches of the lake with views of extraordinary beauty.

We will enjoy lunch together today before taking another ferry to picturesque Varenna on the eastern bank of Lake Como. We will walk off our Italian dining experience with a guided walking tour before taking the hydrofoil to return to Como for an evening at leisure.

Included meals: Lunch

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 4 - MILAN

Milan is the regional capital of Lombardy and the largest city in Italy- bring your walking shoes today. People have been living here for the last 2,600 years, so there is a lot to take in. We will enjoy a panoramic tour and walking exploration, taking in piazzas and galleries, impressive Milanese architecture and much, much more.

We enjoy lunch together today at an excellent restaurant for a classic Milanese tasting meal before a visit to the Pinacoteca di Brera- one of Italy's most important art galleries which an especially impressive collection of paintings by Italian masters from the fourteenth to the twentieth

century.

We will return to Como Town with dinner and evening at leisure.

Included meals: lunch

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 5 - CABLE CAR & COOKERY

We head out on foot again today to walk the short distance round to the cable-car station in Piazza de Gasperi.

We will take the 500 metre cable-car up to the picturesque hill-top village of Brunate. With a maximum gradient of 55%, the ascent takes just over 6 minutes. Brunate village is 750 metres above sea level and is known as the 'Balcony of the Alps'. It has an enviable position offering views of Como, the lake, the plains of Lombardy, the Appennines, the Alps, Mount Monviso and Mount Rosa.

After enjoying the beautiful location, our coach will take us to enjoy a cookery course experience of either pizza or pasta making, making our own lunches today in traditional style.

In the afternoon, we will enjoy a walking tour of Como Town with a visit to the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta before dinner at leisure.

One of the real pleasures of any trip abroad is to meet the local people. This evening we are invited to join the Como town English-language speaking group for a real cultural exchange, for a casual conversation with local people about life in the area, to help them to improve their English and learn a little of the Italian language ourselves. Grab yourself a drink and make a new friend too.

Included meals: Lunch- Cookery experience

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 6 - PRIVATE LAKE EXPLORATION CRUISE

Today we spend the day aboard a classic wooden boat. Our captain will guide us through the hidden gems of the Larian landscape. Starting from Como Town, we will see iconic landmarks and get unique perspectives on Villa del Balbianello, Villa Cassinella, and Villa Oleandra (George Clooney's residence) as well as reach wonderful coves and bays that can only be accessed by boat.

Exclusive stops will be scheduled in out-of-the-way spots for swimming in crystal-clear waters, sightseeing in picturesque villages, and to get the very best photo opportunities.

Lunch is at leisure in one of the lakeside stops before returning to Como Town in the afternoon. This evening we enjoy a fine dining Farewell Dinner together at one of Como's finest restaurants to reminisce one final time.

Included meals: Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: Residence Santabbondio

DAY 7 - ARRIVEDERCI ITALIA

Sadly, it's time to say goodbye. You will be transferred to the airport for onward travel.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Airport transfers included (subject to arriving/departing at the designated airport and staying at the tour hotel on the official tour dates)
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- An upgraded welcome pack
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers/touring and excursions in air-conditioned deluxe motor vehicles including necessary ZTL permits.
- All entrances, English-speaking guides and visits as indicated in the programme.
- Porterage at all hotels
- Tourist taxes
- Services of a Big Journey Company Tour Director throughout (subject to minimum numbers being reached)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Return flights to arrive into Milan Malpensa Airport [MXP] on Day 1 and to depart on Day 7
- ATOL Protection
- Additional food and beverage unless otherwise included in the itinerary
- Personal expenses
- Personal Travel & Medical Insurance
- Optional excursions/entrances
- Gratuities

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

BOOK NOW!

30 OCT - 05 NOV 2027

FROM \$5,875 PER PERSON.

Call to Book

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00 GMT