

Italian Lakes

7 – 16 September



Lake Como is known as the prettiest lake in northern Italy. Its beautiful glamorous shoreline is a magnet for the rich and famous and it's easy to see why, with crystal clear lakes framed by majestic snow-capped peaks and surrounded by shores dotted with ancient villas and quaint fishing villages. Savour the local specialities of the valley - earthy red wines, handmade ice cream to die for and freshly caught fish sprinkled with olive oil and herbs.

FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER Depart Oxted early morning for Dover and our ferry crossing to Calais and continue across France to Sausheim, our overnight stop.

SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER This morning we make our way to the Rheinfalls at Schaffhausen where we shall have time to find lunch before continuing on across Switzerland into Italy, arriving at our hotel overlooking Lake Como.

SUNDAY 9 SEPTEMBER A day at leisure to relax and enjoy Mezzegra, in the heart of the Tremezzina area of Lake Como. The area known as the Tremezzina is a stretch of the sun drenched Western shoreline

made up of six villages, starting from the medieval village of Sala Comacina, passing north through Ossuccio, Lenno, Mezzegra, Tremezzo, and ending with Cadenabbia-Griante. This stretch, a favourite haunt of the European elite, is full to the brim with centuries-old churches, villages with narrow cobbled streets, and pastel-painted houses whose walls have been blistered by the heat of long summer days. Grand Italian villas hug the shore and boast immaculate gardens, namely Villa Carlotta and Villa del Balbianello, both playing host to film sets such as the James Bond hit Casino Royale.



MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER Today we take a scenic drive along the southern shores of romantic Lake Como, Europe's deepest lake, to arrive at the old walled town of Como, surrounded by mountains with a beautiful cathedral and delightful shopping area. Later we continue our journey around the lake, making our way to Bellagio, known as "the pearl of Lake Como". We take the ferry across the lake from Bellagio back to our hotel.

TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER This morning we make our way to the town of Stresa on Lake Maggiore, from where we take a boat trip along the lake to the Swiss town of Locarno, so bring your passport with you, as you will need it to cross the border between Italy and Switzerland. From Locarno we continue on to Lake Lugano and travel along its northern shore, passing back into Italy and returning to our hotel.

WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER We take the northern route around Lake Como today, making stops along the way and returning to the hotel by ferry from Bellagio once again.

THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER Leaving Italy today we

make our way to Lucerne in Switzerland, where we are staying for the next 2 nights.

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER A day at leisure in Lucerne renowned for its long wooden bridge and beautiful streets. Highly recommended is a boat trip on the lake, and one suggestion is a circular tour, beginning on a steamer on Lake Lucerne to the lakeside resort of Vitznau. From here, take the cogwheel railway to the mountain peak of Rigi Kulm, with some spectacular views over mountains and lakes. Here you can have lunch and browse the gift shops. You then return, again by the cogwheel railway to Kaltbad and join the cable car to Weggis, and finally the steamer back to Lucerne. You may prefer to take a shorter cruise on the lake, leaving time to wander the shops and enjoy a leisurely Swiss lunch. You will also have time to walk across the famous Chapel Bridge and have an ice cream.

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER Departing Lucerne we make our way across Switzerland to France and on to our overnight stop in Metz.

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER We continue our journey across France to Calais and our ferry, arriving back in Oxted mid evening.

What's included

MERCURE MULHOUSE Sausheim

HOTEL LARIO Mezzegra-Tremezzina

The hotel faces Lake Como & has an outdoor swimming pool.

THE LUZERNERHOF HOTEL

Lucerne

The Luzernerhof is right in the heart of Lucerne, only a stone's throw from Lake Lucerne, the lion's monument and the Chapel Bridge.

HOTEL METZ METROPOLE Metz

All bedrooms are en suite with TV & telephone.

A total of 9 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Time to explore Mezzegra-Tremezzina, Como, Bellagio, Logarno & Lucerne
Scenic tours around Lake Como
Boat trip on Lake Maggiore

£1105.00 PER PERSON

Single Room Supp: £230.00