

NORTHERN LAKES, MILAN, BERNINA EXPRESS

(Milan, Como, Bellagio, Bergamo, Verona · Franciacorta)

6 Days 5 Nights



1

Milan is Italy's city of the future, a fast-paced metropolis where creativity is big business and looking good is an art form. A vision in pink Candoglia marble, Milan's extravagant Gothic cathedral, 600 years in the making, aptly reflects the city's creativity and ambition. Its pearly white facade, adorned with 135 spires and 3400 statues, rises like the filigree of a fairy-tale tiara... Milan's most famous mural, Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper, is hidden away on a wall of the refectory adjoining the Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie.

The Italian Lakes have an enduring, beguiling beauty. Lake Como (aka Lake Lario) is perhaps the most spectacular of the three major lakes. Shaped like an upside-down Y, measuring around 160km in scribbly shoreline, it's littered with villages, including exquisite Bellagio and Varenna.

Tour Highlight:

- Day 1: Arrival to Milan. 3-Hour walking city tour.
- Day 2: Milan · Bernina Express · Milan
- Day 3: Milan · Como · Bellagio · Bergamo
- Day 4: Bergamo · Sirmione · Riva del Garda · Bergamo
- Day 5: Bergamo · Verona · Franciacorta (light lunch and wine tasting) · Milan
- Day 6: Departure from Milan

Package is quoted per person in EURO and includes:

- ✈ 2-Night accommodation in MILAN at the 4-star Antares Concorde Hotel or similar.
- ✈ Bed & Breakfast basis.
- 🚗 Transfers by deluxe motor coach.
- 🗣 Monolingual tour-escort in English.
- 🗣 Visits with local expert guide as per itinerary.
- 📅 Day 1: 3-Hour guided walking tour (Spallanzani, Porta Venezia, Corso Venezia, Giardini Indro Montanelli, Galleria d'Arte Moderna, La Scala, Milan Cathedral, Castello Sforzesco).
 - 🍷 Relax and taste a typical aperitivo (happy hour) at a refined bakery.
- 📅 Day 2: Transfer to Tirano for a 2-Hour Bernina Express tour: a 100-year old and a World Heritage train. Alps, mountain tunnels, towns and villages, Swiss Alps with a Bernina pass to St. Moritz - free time. Meet your driver and return to Milan.
- ✈ 2-Night accommodation in BERGAMO at the 4-star Best Western Cappello D'Or Hotel or similar.
- ✈ Bed & Breakfast basis.



- 🕒 Day 3: City break in Como, cruise from Como to Ballagio Lakes.
From Tremezzo/ Villa Carlotta, meet the driver for a journey to Bergamo: città bassa and città alta.
- 🕒 Day 4: Panoramic cruise on Lake Garda.
➤ Boat tour to Sirmione Castle, Catullus's villa or Grottoes of Catullus.
- 🏠 1-Night accommodation in MILAN at the 4-star Antares Concorde Hotel or similar.
- 🍳 Bed & Breakfast basis.
- 🕒 Day 5: Guided tour of Verona fair.
- 🍽️ Head to Franciacorta territory. Light lunch and local wine.
- 🛡️ Travel insurance covering Covid.
- 👨👩👧👦 Free accommodation for children up to 6 years old sharing the room with their parents.
- 🚫 Package Excludes airline ticket.

Year	DEPARTURE DATES 2024, Escorted Tours	
2024	May	17, 31
2024	June	07, 28
2024	July	12, 19
2024	August	02, 16
2024	September	06, 27
2024	October	11, 25

No. Nights	City	Hotel Name	From	To	Double/Triple	Single
2N	Milan	Antares Hotel Concorde	17-May-24	25-Oct-24	€ 1,705	€ 2,200
2N	BERGAMO	BEST WESTERN CAPPELLO D'ORO				
1N	Milan	Antares Hotel Concorde				

MILAN: 4* Antares Hotel Concorde, BW Signature Collection Address: Viale Monza, 132, 20127 Milano MI, Italy. www.hotelconcordemilano.com/	BERGAMO: 4* Best Western Hotel Cappello D'Oro Address: Viale Papa Giovanni XXIII, 12, 24121 Bergamo BG, Italy. https://www.bwhotelcappellodoro-bg.it/en/home-page.aspx
<i>Completely renovated in 2021, located in Viale Monza, just 2-minute walk from the M1 Turro - which allows you to quickly reach the Duomo, the historic center, Milan Central Station, Fieramilanocity,...</i>	<i>Located near Capanone, Piazza Vecchia Bergamo Alta, Cannoniera di San Michele</i>

Important Notices:

- ✂️ *Fares are subject to change according to Availability at the Time of Booking.*
- ✂️ *The Itinerary or activities might be subject to change in light of logistic and/or technical issues.*
- ✂️ *Package price excludes City tax for overnight stays to be apid Directly at the hotels (per city council rules)*
- ✂️ *Package price excludes entrance fees to monuments or museums when not mentioned*
- ✂️ *Prices do not include Tips, Portorage ...*
- ✂️ *In case of loss or damage of the headsets, a charge of 55 € will be imposed per device.*
- ✂️ *For Alternative Packages throughout Italy, please email us.*



ITINERARY

DAY 1: MILAN

Welcome to Milan! Meet our driver at Milan Malpensa Airport, private transfer to your hotel.

- In the afternoon, your professional local guide will meet you at the hotel for a three-hour walking tour in the heart of Milan.
- Walk through via **Spallanzani** to reach **Porta Venezia** (Venice Gate), one of the historical gates to the city - with medieval and Roman origins. Porta Venezia gives its name to the city district all around it. An urban legend has it that the other name it is known as - "Porta Renza" - stems from Renzo Tramaglino, co-protagonist of the novel *The Betrothed* by Alessandro Manzoni, who enters Milan exactly from this access.
- Proceed toward **Corso Venezia**, take a shortcut inside **Giardini Indro Montanelli** (public garden).
- Opposite the garden, we go past GAM, the **Galleria d'Arte Moderna** (modern art museum).
- Head to Viale Manzoni, **La Scala opera house** (Teatro alla Scala), inaugurated on 3 August 1778. The theatre underwent major renovations from early 2002 to late 2004.
- Then continue to the stunning **Milan Cathedral (Duomo di Milano)**. Your tour guide will illustrate its main features. The last stop will be the majestic **Castello Sforzesco**, a **medieval fortress** built in the 15th century by the Duke of Milan, Francesco Sforza. In its vicinity, we have chosen a refined bakery for you to be able to relax and taste a typical aperitivo (happy hour). At the end of the aperitivo, the tour is over and you will have some free time before returning to the hotel on your own. Overnight stay is in Milan.

DAY 2: MILAN · BERNINA EXPRESS · MILAN

This is the day of your **Bernina Express tour**, on board "the train that snakes its way up to the mountain peaks". Just like sitting in a theater, you will admire unique views from your seat on board the Bernina Train, a piece of history (it is **100 years old**) and a **World Heritage train**.

- Breakfast at the hotel, meet our driver and reach Tirano. Get on board there and start this ride along one of the **most beautiful railway routes in the world**, with its unsurpassed **alpine views**. The journey will need two hours to complete. As the train winds its way over the Alps, occasionally passing through mountain tunnels, and puffing its way past a myriad of towns and villages, a number of highlights will catch your attention. Look out at the Swiss Alps as you ride along the Bernina pass to St. Moritz, and then enjoy free time to explore it. Meet your driver to return to Milan (meeting point in St. Moritz). Overnight stay in Milan.

DAY 3: MILAN · COMO · BELLAGIO · BERGAMO

- Breakfast then head to **Como** for a short, a tourist destination for its vicinity to **Lake Como** and **the Alps**. Amazing views over the lake and the alpine valleys are guaranteed! The lake itself, sometimes **called Lario**, has long been famous for its y-shape.
- Reach **Bellagio** by boat. This little gem town lies at the intersection of the lake's two southern arms, with the Alps dominating the horizon to the north, and is *home to some of the most charming landscapes in Italy*. Spend some time exploring this picturesque village and its small streets, luxury hotels, villas, and gardens, and have lunch at your leisure in one of the many restaurants or cafés.
- Back on board, you will make your way to **Tremezzo/ Villa Carlotta** where you will meet the driver and begin your journey to **Bergamo**, a truly historic and artistic jewel characterized by its urban structure: the **città bassa** (or lower town) is modern and dynamic, while the famous **città alta** (or upper town) houses the city's medieval heart. Check in at your Bergamo hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 4: BERGAMO · SIRMIONE · RIVA DEL GARDA · BERGAMO

Lake Garda, the largest lake in Italy, is the next destination.

- Breakfast at your hotel, you suggest to take a panoramic tour of the lake's west coast, taking in the splendid natural landscape, like the **Brenta Dolomites** (the Brenta Group has been officially recognized as **UNESCO World Heritage Site**) and the gentle slopes of the Moraine Hills of Lower Garda. Enjoy the area's rich vegetation, including *lemon trees, oleanders, magnolias, bougainvilles* and be sure to taste some of the locally-made *olive oil and wines*.
- Head to **Sirmione**, take a boat tour to Lake Garda and its surroundings are at their finest. See the sun reverberating on lake's blue waters, the tree-lined shores, **Sirmione Castle** as well as the ruins of **Catullus's villa or Grottoes of Catullus** (the 1st century BC poet owned a villa here).
- Once you're through, you will have some free time to have lunch before departing for **Riva del Garda**. Located on the north side of the lake, you will see its quaint Venetian-style historical center. Dinner and overnight stay in Bergamo.



DAY 5: BERGAMO · VERONA · FRANCIACORTA (LIGHT LUNCH AND WINE TASTING) · MILAN

- Breakfast, then journey to “fair Verona”, a museum en plain air. A local professional will be waiting for you and take you on a guided tour. The fascinating mix of historical periods and cultures (both classical and Germanic) is a blend of Nordic as well as Mediterranean influences that is both ancient and modern. A walk through its narrow streets will allow you to get in touch with Verona’s varied and fascinating past: traces of its splendid Roman origins, its medieval structures, its magnificent renaissance palaces, as well as the impressive fortifications protecting it. The combination of art and history will amaze you. **Two of William Shakespeare’s plays are set in Verona:** “Romeo and Juliet” is by far the most famous one. We suggest taking a look at the so-called Juliet’s home (and its balcony, said to have been the legendary balcony of the famous “Oh Romeo, Rome” tragedy’s scene). It is a medieval building located in via Cappello. Capello is the name of a family who resided in the edifice in the 14th century.
- Continue the territory of **Franciacorta**, whose soil consists of gravel and sand over limestone is ideal for the cultivation of grapes and for winemaking. This is why we chose this place for your next stop.
- Enjoy a light lunch and taste some local food as well as the renowned local wine. After this experience, you will head for Milan, where you will have the last overnight in Milan.

DAY 6: MILAN

Breakfast then transfer to the airport. Arrivederci!

<i>LAKE COMO & THE SURROUNDING</i>	
Villa del Balbianello	Como Cathedral
Villa Carlotta	Isola Comacina
Villa Monastero	Castello di Vezio
Villa Olmo	Valsassina

<i>VENICE: SOME OF THE SITES TO SEE</i>				
St. Mark’s Basilica and St Mark’s Campanile	Ponte di Rialto (Rialto Bridge)	Murano island	Peggy Guggenheim Collection	Santa Maria dei Miracoli
Piazza San Marco (St. Mark’s Square)	Scuola Grande di San Rocco	Burano island	Gallerie dell’Accademia	Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari
Palazzo Ducale (Doge’s Palace)	Ca’ d’Oro	Torcello island	The Arsenal and the Museum of Naval History	Basilica di Santa Maria della Salute
Canale Grande (Grand Canal)	Palazzo Rezzonico	Lido	Bridge of Sighs	Museo Correr
https://www.cntraveler.com/story/the-locals-guide-to-venice				

<i>MILAN: SOME OF THE SITES TO SEE</i>				
Duomo di Milano	Santa Maria delle Grazie	Piazza Mercanti	Ambrosian Library	Sempione Park
Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II	Basilica San Lorenzo Maggiore	Teatro alla Scala	Naviglio Grande	Modern Art Gallery
Sforzesco Castle	Piazza del Duomo	Arco della Pace	Triennale di Milano	Monumental Cemetery
Royal Palace	Piazza Della Scala	Pinacoteca di Brera	Corso Como	Fondazione Prada

TRAVEL. EXPLORE. SHARE

Share
your "Story":
what you experienced
as new, inspirational,
take us with you off
the beaten path,
standout dinners,
street food,
hangouts