



EUROVILLAS & TOURS

Lake Como Walking Tour

~ 7 days ~

Day One

Arrival in your base, a charming small town of Roman origins, built around a picturesque port. Fast ferries run regularly from Como city and take approximately 1 hour. The town is also connected to Milan city by fast trains which take approximately 1 hour and to Malpensa airport by a regular bus shuttle service. Dinner tonight is on the hotel's terrace.

Day Two

This morning you'll take a lakeside walk heading north along the western shore towards Switzerland. Starting with a steep climb up to the town's ruined castle, the path levels out, passing through forests and villages, following a stone medieval path that winds above the lake with breathtaking views over the lake and the mountains on the eastern shore. The walk finishes in a pretty lake side town, where you'll be able to have lunch and get either a train or ferry back to your base. **4.5 hours.** It's possible to shorten the walk by breaking at an earlier village and taking the train or ferry back to your base from here. **2.5 hours.**



Day Three

Today is a free day to enjoy the lake. We will provide you with details (opening information, ferry timetables etc) to visit two of the finest villas and gardens on the lake that can be easily reached by beautiful short ferry rides (25 minutes). The first villa was built in the 17th century and hosted Napoleon but is most famous for its spectacular lawns and rhododendron gardens. The second (2 ferry stops further on) is on the tip of forested promontory surrounded by English gardens and enormous views up and down the lake - it was built around a 14th century abbey and is famous for the extraordinary collections of its last owner, a man of great wealth who was also the first Italian to climb Mt Everest. It is a very pleasant 45 minute ferry ride back to your base from here.

Day Four

Today's walk is a loop walk up into the mountains on the opposite of the lake (a 10 minute ferry ride across the lake from your base). This spectacular walk follows old smugglers paths and takes you up into oak forests that open on to farmlands and orchards filled with grazing cows with bells, with breath-taking views across Lake Lugano. You take an ancient cobbled path back down to the lake where you started from. **4 hour.**



Day Five

Transfer to Bellagio (a 10 minute ferry ride across the lake), your base for the next two nights. In the afternoon you can do an interesting walk takes you around the Bellagio promontory visiting the two branches of the lake, passing through fishing villages and past handsome 8th and 19th century villas before returning to Bellagio, finishing at the beautiful gardens of Villa Melzi that graces the edge of the town. **2.5 hours.** Dinner tonight is at your hotel.

Day Six

Today you do another loop around Mont San Primo, the mountain that forms the backdrop behind Bellagio and from where you'll enjoy the best and most extensive views of Lake Como. You'll be taken up to the start of the walk by taxi and picked up again at the same point at the end of the walk. **3 hours**. It is possible to do a shorter version of the walk and avoid the steep climb to the top of the mountain: **1 hour**. Dinner will be at a beautiful family-run restaurant specializing in lake fish that sits in parkland on the tip of the Bellagio peninsula and which has views over the three arms of Lake Como - a fitting finale to your visit.

Day Seven

After breakfast you'll be able to continue your holiday. Bellagio is connected to Como city by regular fast hydrofoils. There is also a shuttle service to Malpensa airport.

TOUR COST: AUD \$2,350 per person (single supplement \$350)

'No Dinners' Option: AUD \$2,200 per person

INCLUSION:

- Six nights accommodation in excellent lake-side hotels
- all breakfasts and three dinners
- lunch recommendations
- reading lists and historical and cultural notes
- maps and detailed walking instructions
- 24 hour backup from local manager
- Please note that the cost does not include the ferry transfers (it is not possible to buy the tickets from abroad). A day ticket which will take you to the towns included in the tour costs 11 euro per person. The fast ferry running between Bellagio and Como costs 12 euro. Como is linked to Milan by a regular train service. There is a direct shuttle service between Malpensa airport and Lake Como which costs 50 euro per person..

Grade 3 Walk - good paths, straightforward orientation, the longest walk is on Day 4 and is 15 kms long, two long initial climbs on Days 2 and Day 4.

The walks follow clearly marked routes, following a combination of paved stone paths and graded dirt roads. The two longer walks, on Day 2 and Day 4, can be shortened by using public transport (train or ferry on Day 2 and local bus on Day 4).

