

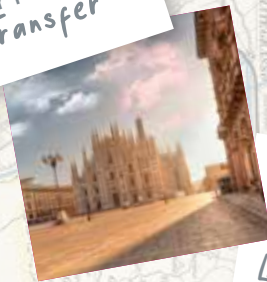
MILAN & THE LAKES

An 8-Day exploration of Northern Italy's wonders



ITINERARY

DAY 1 - MILAN
Transfer



DAY 2 - MILAN
Walking Tour,
Lastsupper visit and
Duomo Sky Walk

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DAY 3 - MILAN
Visit of La Scala
Museum & Pinacoteca
di Brera



DAY 4 - MILAN
Transfer to
Como

DAY 8 - MILAN
Transfer to
Milan Airport



DAY 7 - COMO
Lago Maggiore Cruise



DAY 5 - MILAN
Grand Tour of
Como Lake



DAY 6 - VALTELLINA
Valtellina wine tour



DAY 2

MILAN WALKING TOUR WITH LAST SUPPER AND DUOMO SKYWALK

Discover the heart of Milan and its most sensational sights, Leonardo's Last Supper and the Cathedral, led by a private specialized local guide, during a carefully designed tour with an added twist: a skywalk on the Duomo terraces. Founded in 400 B.C Milan boasts a refined atmosphere, brilliant contemporary art scene and unique artistic masterpieces. Unveil its eventful history strolling down the elegant avenues, discover the city's fine palaces, among which the Royal Palace, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and La Scala Theatre. View Leonardo Da Vinci's stupefying Cenacolo, the Last Supper, one of the most famous artworks in the world. Depicting the scene in which Jesus declares that one of the Apostles will betray him the painting boasts an innovative approach: the portrayal of the disciples shows the person's reactions, making the painting a profound study of a variety of diverse human emotions. Then enjoy a memorable guided visit to Milan's most glorious sight, the flamboyant Duomo, a mammoth building elaborately decorated with spires, pinnacles, buttresses and statues. Enter easily with skip-the-line access, follow your guide down the naves framed by dark stone pillars learning all about its history. Admire the black, pink, and white marble floor and splendid stained-glass windows and crown your day with an unforgettable skywalk and close up meeting with spires and pinnacles, statues and gargoyles. Enjoy hassle-free priority access to the elevators, journey up the steepest portion of the church and walk up the last 50 steps to the rooftop terrace. Admire sweeping views of the bustling city as you walk surrounded by a forest of delicately forged marble pinnacles. Learn about the secrets which lie behind the beautiful statues and marvel at how mesmerizing the carvings and flying buttresses appear from so close up.



TIPS FROM OUR OPERATIONS SPECIALIST

Eleonora's to do list in Milan

- ✓ Morning visit to the iconic Last Supper
- ✓ Discover the fashion district of Via Montenapoleone
- ✓ Visit to the Duomo, with rooftop skywalk on the terraces
- ✓ Take a lake cruise





DAY 3

LA SCALA THEATRE MUSEUM AND PINACOTECA DI BRERA

La Scala Theatre museum is a gem dedicated to the history of the Teatro La Scala opera house in Milan, located in the Palazzo Marino, in the city center, was opened in 2004, and it is housed in the former Teatro alla Scala library. Over the years, the Museum has stored the traces of the presence of immortal artistes, great composers, unforgettable singers and dancers. For all of them, La Scala has been a home.

The museum's collection includes documents, photographs, costumes, and stage sets from the theater's history.

Then continue to the Pinacoteca di Brera, a famous art gallery located in the Brera district of Milan. The gallery's collection is a testament to Italy's rich artistic heritage, featuring an extensive array of masterpieces from the Renaissance to the modern era. The halls are organized chronologically, allowing you to embark on a journey through the evolution of Italian art. In the early Renaissance section, you may encounter works by celebrated artists such as Piero della Francesca, Mantegna, and Bellini. Moving through the gallery, you enter the High Renaissance period, where the genius of artists like Raphael and Caravaggio takes center stage.



*Enjoy an evening
aperitivo in
Brera or Navigli
districts*

DAY 5

GRAND TOUR ON COMO LAKE

Just picture it: 146 square kilometers of calm waters gently ruffled by soft breezes, framed by verdant mountains and crowned by the snow-peaked Alps. Boasting an enchanting shoreline studded by sumptuous historical villas and dainty towns, a rich heritage and lively traditions Lake Como is one of Italy's most idyllic spots. No wonder tycoons and movie stars have chosen it as their favorite retreat! Discover the many beauties of Lake Como in great style and from a uniquely enlightening viewpoint: soaring across the lake's peaceful waters aboard a sleek motorboat, escorted by a dedicated local English-speaking guide. Take in extraordinary views cruising leisurely across the lake and along its luxuriant green coast and breathe in the poetic atmosphere.

Disembark at Villa del Balbianello for a guided visit, a real gem not to be missed. As an alternative, you may visit Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo, with its stunning gardens.

After visiting the villa and its gardens, cruise onwards to the restaurant chosen together for the lunch break.

Visit the town of Bellagio, called the "Pearl of the Lake". Enjoy some shopping or walk in the botanical gardens of Villa Melzi, adorned with classical statues and rare, exotic plants. Enjoy learning all about the inhabitants, their colorful traditions and eventful history from your knowledgeable guide while strolling through the village's characteristic cobblestone alleys, down the elegantly bedecked halls of the historical villa and across its mesmerizing flower filled park.

An amazing day spent "lake-hopping"... an unforgettable lifetime milestone to treasure forever!



*Indulge in natural
and architectural
wonders*





DAY 6

VALTELLINA WINE TOUR

The Valtellina Valley is one of the hidden gems of Northern Italy: it is the largest terraced vineyards area in Italy with its 2,500 kilometers of picturesque vineyards built over centuries. Valtellina produces almost exclusively red wines, made with Nebbiolo grapes.

Our first stop will be at a famous and old "Bottega" (grocery store) of the valley dated 1883, to explore its hidden vaults where well-rounded forms of Bitto and Casera cheese are aged: most of the times the proud shop-owner will join us to offer a small delicious tasting.

The trip will continue along the valley to a historic Valtellina winery located in the ancient home of the noble Quadrio, in Chiuro, for a visit of the cellars and an unforgettable 3 wine tasting experience.

Lunch will be served in a Michelin-recommended restaurant renowned for respecting the local recipes of typical dishes. This is the best time to relax while enjoying the world-famous typical "pizzoccheri"

(buckwheat pasta with cabbage, potatoes, butter and cheese) and the "sciatt" (delicious cheese-filled buckwheat fritters).

After lunch you will stop at a local vineyard to be introduced to Heroic Viticulture. Because of the topography, mechanisation is impossible in Valtellina and everything in the vineyards is done by hand: during harvesting, quintals of bunches of grapes are carried in large baskets on the picker's back along steep paths.

Our last stop will be at a second bigger winery to visit the cellars and end with a tasting of 4 different amazing wines.



DAY 7

LAGO MAGGIORE CRUISE

Lake Maggiore private tour give you the opportunity to discover another big lake of the region, the Verbano". Via private round-trip transportation, you will reach Stresa, where you will meet your private licensed guide. After a short visit of the beautiful Piedmont town of Stresa, you will get onboard a private boat and you will start the tour of beautiful and elegant Borromee Islands: Isola Bella, it took four hundred years and the work of a hundred men (qualified architects, engineers, stucco workers, painters and cabinetmakers) to transform Isola Bella from a barren rock in the middle of the lake to a place of delight. Until 1630, Isola Bella was but a cliff inhabited by fishmongers, with a couple of churches and vegetable gardens sprinkled here and there. The Borromeo family, owner of Isola Madre since 1501, took an interest in the Isola Bella since the first twenty years of the century. The interest resulted into Giulio Cesare III and Carlo III starting the ambitious project for the palazzo we can see today. The project was then pursued, expanded and revised by Vitaliano VI, who is considered the official settler of Isola Bella. The work was restless even after him and continued for all the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries until 1948, when Vitaliano IX Borromeo built the Salone Nuovo, the northern façade and the great docks.

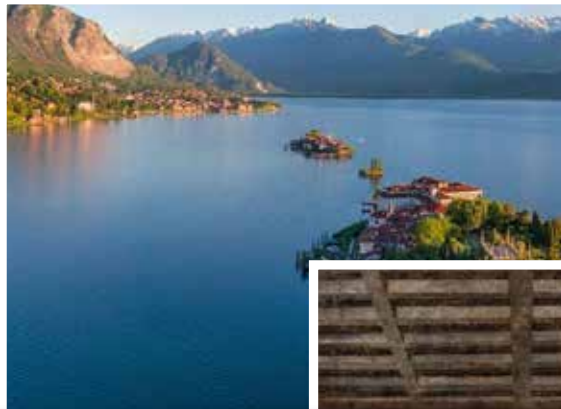
Isola Madre, the history of this island is bound to the Borromeo family since 1502. The first transformation works to create a place of delights and a private residence began by the will of Lancillotto Borromeo. In 1542, the island had started to look like a garden. Forty years later Renato the First Borromeo started the works on the palazzo leaving the direction to Pellegrino Tibaldi, a very notorious figure in the Lombard culture and a trusted architect of Saint Carlo. At the end of 1700 the island appeared just like today, a place of peace and rest thanks to a mild weather and a luxurious nature. In 1826 were built several greenhouses along with the family chapel (from 1858) located on the eastern side of the great plaza, named after the chapel, itself. The name Madre, still in use, comes from the historical supremacy of the island in the Verbano and also, it is said, from the benevolent mood of the mother of Earl Renato, Margherita Trivulzio.

Isola dei Pescatori, fishermen island, has taken its name from the main activity of people living there, which is still nowadays fishing. It is also the only one which is inhabited all year round by 50 people. It is a perfect place where to taste the delicious lake fish, which is prepared daily in many Trattorias present on the island.



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A city where elegance meets excitement. Milan's grandeur is reflected in its stunning architecture, world-class cuisine, and thriving cultural scene. Arno Travel craft a personalized journey that immerses you in the essence of Milan and surrounding lakes, turning your travel dreams into cherished realities.

