








#### SUMMER SPRING & AUTUMN

type :	Solo Holidays Hiking Tours Self-Guided
level :	    
duration :	6 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSW500E

## Lake Como: easy coastal hike - Italy

6 days, PRICE FROM € 820



**Romantic fishing villages, majestic mountains** reflecting in the clear surface of the lake, magnificent villas surrounded by lush tropical gardens, and delightful mountain villages—all **connected by scenic routes** that stretch along the coast and then through the mountains, each stop easily reachable by train.

The Lecco shore of Lake Como is **less known than its Como counterpart**, but it is now the protagonist of a **well-deserved rediscovery**—thanks also to the development and promotion of the Sentiero del Viandante and the Via dello Spluga.

With its beautiful squares overlooking the lake, the **charming Lecco** enjoys a privileged position and a lakeside promenade perfect for a stroll accompanied by an ice cream (but beware of swans and ducks, as they are fond of it)—a simple pleasure that visitors to Como find it hard to enjoy with such tranquility.

The journey then continues to Varenna, a village with pastel tones adorned with flowered balconies, lush tropical gardens, and a romantic lakeside promenade known as the **"Via dell'Amore" (Path of Love)**—and romantic it is, even just for the pergola that adorns it in the right season; you can also visit Villa Monastero, a triumph of eclecticism surrounded by a

beautiful botanical garden: the impressive variety of hosted flora includes various exotic species that, though far from their place of origin, have found in the mild lake climate the perfect condition to thrive.

We head to the **mysterious Castle of Vezio**: the castle dominates the lake, offering one of the most beautiful panoramas of the region, with the two branches of Lake Como merging into a sparkling expanse of freshwater—in the local dialect, known as "akuaduulza"—corresponding to Bellagio. The journey concludes in **Colico**, the last village overlooking the Lecco shore of the lake, at the foot of Monte Legnone (the highest mountain on Lake Como, with its 2609 meters).

## Route

### Day 1 Arrive in Lecco

Upon reaching the **lakeside town of Lecco**, nestled on the shores of Lake Como, check in at the hotel. For the remainder of the day, you are free to wander through the town and enjoy the vistas of the rugged mountains on the opposite side of the lake. If you are lucky, there might be an opportunity to catch a glimpse of the graceful swans along the lakefront. In the following days, you will have time to discover the charming small towns, scenic viewpoints, enchanting forests, and historic castles in the vicinity.

### Day 2 Train to Abbadia Lariana and walk to Lierna, train to Varenna, 11 km

In the morning, a short train journey will transport you to the starting point of your hike in **Abbadia Lariana**. This town offers an excellent opportunity for a refreshing swim before embarking on your walk towards Lierna. Today's route predominantly follows a well-maintained **mule track** and footpath **along the right side of the lake**, with undulating terrain. A noteworthy stop is the Church of San Giorgio in Mandello, a **precious example of Romanesque art** adorned with frescoes dating back to the late fifteenth century. Keep your camera ready, as **numerous panoramic viewpoints** overlooking the lake await. If you're up for it, you have the option to extend the walk from Lecco, adding approximately 8km. This initial section mostly traverses beaten trails in the woods just above the lake. While not extremely panoramic, this segment is easy and largely flat. Conclude the walk by taking the train to Varenna.

Distance: 11 km

Elevation gain: +400/-400 m

### Day 3 Ferry to Bellagio and town walk, 2 km

Today, you can take the ferry to reach **Bellagio** and walk the famous town centre. Some of its most notable attractions include the elegant **Villa Melzi** and **Villa Serbelloni gardens**, the romanesque Basilica di San Giacomo, the endless viewpoint along its Lungolago.

### Day 4 From Varenna to Bellano or Dervio, train to Colico, 5/10 km

After breakfast, bid farewell to Varenna, and as you trace the eastern side of the lake, embark on the "**Sentiero del Viandante**" (**the Wayfarer's path**). Immerse yourself in a landscape rich with ancient cultural elements, featuring traditional architecture and **breathhtaking views of Lake Como** and its encompassing mountains.

As you progress through the walk, we recommend a detour to explore the "**Orrido di Bellano**" about halfway through. This natural gorge, sculpted by the Pioverna river over centuries, showcases colossal holes and captivating caverns. The **dark ravines** and the resonant rush of water have inspired numerous authors, making it one of Lake Como's foremost tourist attractions. The enigmatic "**Cà del Diavol**" (**Devil's House**) adds an element of fear and the notion of satanic rituals, enhancing the mysterious allure of this location.

The journey then continues along a well-trodden mule track leading to **Dervio**. From there, a train ride takes you to Colico.

*Distance: 5/10 km*

*Elevation gain: +280/-570 m*

### Day 5 Train from Colico to Chiavenna, walk to Acquafraggia waterfall, 10 km

Today, after a short train ride to Chiavenna, you will walk to the **impressive Acquafraggia waterfalls**.

The Acquafraggia waterfalls, situated in Piuro, provide **an indescribable sense of awe**. These falls captivated **Leonardo da Vinci** during his visit to Valtellina and are visible from the roadside. Regarded as the area's most significant natural monument, they stand as an unequivocal symbol of Valchiavenna. Beyond the waterfalls, Piuro boasts archaeological treasures, earning it the moniker '**the Pompei of the Alps**' due to a catastrophic landslide in 1618 that devastated the village.

*Distance: 10 km*

*Elevation gain: +100/-100 m*

### Day 6 Arrivederci Colico

The trip and our services end after breakfast and you bid farewell to the beautiful lakes as you depart for the airport with public transport, unless you have pre-booked a private transfer with us

## Practical info

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On arrival, you can reach Lecco by train.

On departure, you can leave from Colico by train.

## Included

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### What is included

- 5 Nights in double room in \*\*/\*\* hotels , B&B and agriturismo with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

### What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

### Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- official camino guidebook, shipped to the first hotel
- travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel