

# Lake Garda Discovery Tour

**Destination:** Italy

**Trip code:** TRLEL



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Immerse yourself in traditional Italian culture on the shores of stunning Lake Garda – Italy's largest lake. The shores of the lake are home to many picturesque resort towns; we'll explore Limone, Riva and Gardone Riviera with its botanic gardens. A ferry journey takes us to the historic town of Malcesine with its 13th century lakeside castle to take the cable car up Monte Baldo from where we can enjoy panoramic views over the lake. A guided walking tour of Verona includes a visit to the impressive amphitheatre while a trip to Lake Tenno rewards with fantastic views of the Dolomite Mountains.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Half-Board en-suite accommodation.
- The services of an experienced HF Holidays leader.
- Full day excursions with all essential transport.
- 'With flight' holidays include return flights from the UK and hotel transfers.

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Enjoy spectacular views from the Monte Baldo cable car
- Discover historical Verona with our Local Guide

- Relax on a scenic boat trip on Lake Garda
- Explore the picturesque harbour, the beautiful palaces and the small alleyways of Limone

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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Discovery holidays involve active sightseeing and you should expect to spend lots of time on your feet. Optional short walks of approximately 2½ miles allow you to stretch your legs and see the best of the local scenery.



## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel du Lac. Unpack and settle in.

### Day 2: Limone & Riva

Set at the mountainous northern end of Lake Garda, the lakeside towns of Limone and Riva both have a lot to offer. Limone is one of the most picturesque and popular towns on the lake and has plenty to discover, including the old town which is centred around the Porto Vecchio. A short ferry ride brings us to the town of Riva at the most northerly point of the lake. You may want to relax and have lunch along the waterfront or explore the historic town centre further.

### Day 3: Malcesine & Monte Baldo

A ferry and a cable car take us to Monte Baldo today, eventually bringing us up to approximately 1,800m above sea level. Incredible panoramic views await us at the top and there are some gentle walks to explore too. We will return to ground level before too long and discover more about the town of Malcesine. The lakeside Castello Scaligero was built in the 13th century and is the town's most striking feature. Take the time to learn more about the castle or stop in at one of the many cafés for a drink or bite to eat.

## Day 4: Verona

Today we'll enjoy a guided walking tour of Verona – famed not only for its Shakespearean connections but also for its first-century amphitheatre and beautiful bridges. The guide will highlight the visible remnants of Roman Verona and tell us the stories of the famous Scaligeri family before we stop for lunch in the Piazza delle Erbe. The afternoon is given over to more exploration and later we will return to the hotel for a relaxing evening.

## Day 5: Free Day

On our 7-night holidays, we allow one free day where there is no organised excursion. This is an ideal opportunity for you to relax, enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the area independently. Some possible options include:

**Limone:** Relax at the hotel using the outdoor or indoor pools and the excellent spa facilities. Limone has plenty of shops and places to enjoy a traditional Italian lunch or you could relax by the lake.

**Lake Garda Boat Tour:** You could take a full day boat tour across Lake Garda. The boat sets out along the western shore past Garda Island to Sirmione where there is some time to explore on shore. The boat returns along the eastern shore to Bardolino with time to explore here before returning to Limone via Malcesine.

## Day 6: Gardone

We head south today for a relaxing day along the Gardone Riviera, a 19th-century resort is famous for its elegant hotels and gardens. It was also the one-time home of the poet, author, military leader and seducer Gabriele D'Annunzio and his villa, now museum, is a national monument with lots to see! The Andre Hellers Botanic Gardens are a marvellous place to relax. The sheltered climate and good water supply have enabled a range of tropical and exotic plants to grow.

## Day 7: Arco & Canale

Today takes on a more alpine feel as we head north of Lake Garda towards the much smaller Lake Tenno. The views of the Dolomites are fantastic from the lakeshore and we are only a short walk from Canale, a picture-perfect and rustic Medieval town. Once abandoned, it is now home of artists and artisans – be sure to bring your camera here! Later, we continue on to Arco, famous for its Austrian influence and architecture.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Depart following a leisurely breakfast.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Du Lac - Lake Garda

This beautiful 4-star hotel enjoys an outstanding lakefront position, with direct access to the beach, and is just a few minutes' walk from the centre of charming Limone. The hotel is owned and run by the Fessler Family, who offer wonderful hospitality and a relaxing base. The hotel was originally built by the family's grandfather and is low rise to take full advantage of this stunning location. Winner of several HF Hotel Awards in 2018, this hotel offers fantastic cuisine and a warm welcome.

## Accommodation Info

### Rooms

There are 96 comfortable, well-appointed bedrooms with:

- Television
- Telephone
- Room safe
- Hairdryer
- Complimentary toiletries
- Small fridge

### Facilities

As a guest you will be able to enjoy the use of:

- Outdoor pool (not heated) - private access to the lake if you are feeling brave!
- A wellness centre with small gym
- Extensive gardens
- Direct access to the lake
- Well stocked bar with outdoor terrace to enjoy an evening cocktail
- Our guests have free use of the indoor heated pool and Jacuzzi

### Food & Drink

Our holidays at Limone are Half Board including breakfast and evening meal.

Breakfast is an extensive buffet consisting of a wide selection of cold and hot options as well as home-made pastries.

A 3-course served evening meal from a menu that is available to view each evening before proceeding down the steps to the restaurant.

### Your Evenings

The friendly atmosphere of our Guided Walking holidays continue into the evening. Enjoy a glass of wine or beer whilst listening to your leaders outlining the next day's walks. Or you can just relax in the hotel bar or on the terrace outside chatting with your fellow guests.

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### *THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION*

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Book your holiday 'with flight' and choose between Gatwick or Manchester flights to Verona airport. **(Please note that on the 10th October Verona airport will be closed. On this date we will fly into and out of Venice airport)**

If you choose this option we automatically include return transfers between the airport and the hotel.

The coach transfer takes approx 1 hour 30 minutes to the Hotel du Lac.

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## THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

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Alternatively, tailor your journey to suit you by booking your holiday 'without flight' allowing you the freedom to book your own flights from your local airport.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. We recommend independent travellers meet our **HF Holidays' transfer coach** from Verona airport. This is timed to meet the HF Holidays' flights\* (provisional flight times can be found on the dates and prices tab or you can call us on 020 8732 1220 for more information). Cost per single journey is £20.

Transfers must be pre-booked. Please call 020 8732 1220 for more details

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Holiday Information

Immerse yourself in traditional Italian culture on the shores of stunning Lake Garda the largest, and arguably the most beautiful, of all the Italian Lakes.

The lakeside towns, particularly around the southern end of the lake, have a Mediterranean appearance, behind which are gently rolling hills covered with olive groves, vineyards, laurel trees and cypresses. Towards the north of the lake the steep mountains converge, giving the appearance of a fjord.

On the eastern side of the lake you'll find the high ridges of Monte Baldo which can be reached by cable car. Here you can walk amongst the flowery meadows admiring the views of the lake far below. Just a short journey to the north takes us to Lago di Tenno and Canale in an area with a strong alpine appearance.

### What To Bring

To enjoy your holiday comfortably and safely, it's essential that your clothing and footwear is suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Changeable weather is possible throughout the year, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities – hot, cold, wet or dry.

All of our Discovery Tours involve active sightseeing and you should therefore be prepared for walking between the sights and wear flat, comfortable shoes. In the evening most guests wear casual clothing. You will probably find a small rucksack or cross-body bag useful for carrying spare clothing, camera, sun protection, drinks (at least 2 litres) etc during the day. A money belt is always a good idea.

You'll also need to bring your:

- Booking confirmation
- Travel insurance cover note and contact details
- European Health Insurance Card (if applicable)
- Completed guest registration form
- Photocopy of photo page of passport
- Sunhat, sun cream and sunglasses
- **Medication:** If you require any medication, please take adequate supplies for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase

### Essential Information

#### Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you

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and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

## Useful Information

The local language of Lake Garda is Italian, but German is also widely spoken.

Is considered safe to drink, but if you prefer, bottled mineral water can be purchased from the hotel or local supermarkets.

If the international number you wish to call starts with a 0, you must drop the starting digit when dialling the number.

To dial a UK number 0044

To dial a Italian number 0039

## Luggage

We suggest that you take just one small or medium size suitcase/holdall with wheels and a smaller bag/ rucksack that can be used during your Discovery Tours.

## Local Currency

The currency of Lake Garda is the Euro.

## Electricity

220 Volt AC with round two pin plugs; you will need an adaptor for any appliances brought from the UK.

## ATM Availability

There are several ATM machines in Limone where you can obtain money.

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

## PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

## NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

## **BACS PAYMENTS**

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## **PEACE OF MIND**

### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## **TRIP NOTE VALIDITY**

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the

itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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