

The Best of Lake Garda

Tour Style: European Centre Based

Destination: Italy

Trip code: TRLCL

2 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The largest lake in Italy has long been a draw for visitors. Backed by the Trentino Mountains and with historic towns scattered along the shore, there is plenty to interest those exploring on foot. Hikes up through the olive and lemon groves reach high alpine ridges from which there are fabulous views across the lake. From our base in Limone, we'll enjoy five days of guided walking with two walking options each day. The local ferry provides easy access to reach other parts of the lake such as the historic town of Malcesine with its famous castle and access to the slopes of Monte Baldo.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- A full programme of guided walks with 2 options every walking day
- Transfers to and from Verona Airport
- All transport to and from walks
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' leaders
- Return flights from the UK on 'with flight' holidays
- 7 nights' accommodation in en-suite rooms
- Half Board – extensive buffet breakfast and 4-course evening meal

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk amidst the majestic peaks that surround the northern shores of Lake Garda
- Enjoy wonderful panoramic views and a great viewpoint over this iconic lake
- Soak up the views and flair of the world-renowned Italian Lakes
- Stroll directly onto the beach or into charming Limone from your hotel
- Relax at the family-run Hotel du Lac with its unbeatable lakefront gardens

TRIP SUITABILITY

This is a level 2 and level 4 graded Activity, Easier walks: 5 to 9 miles (8 to 14½km) on good paths and tracks, with some rocky sections. Up to 1,200 feet (360m) of ascent in a day. Harder walks: 5 to 10 miles (8 to 16km) with some steep, rough ascents and rocky sections. Up to 2,400 feet (720m) of ascent in a day.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Hotel du Lac. Unpack and settle in.

Day 2: Busatte-Tempesta Stairway

Both of these walks start with a ferry trip up Lake Garda to the port of Torbole.

Option 1 - Torbole: Stairway To Tempesta

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 1,500 feet (450m)

In summary: We ascend to Nago along a picturesque Roman road to the Parco Busatte then enter the

boulder strewn Marocche on an undulating woodland path along and above the lake. We use metal walkways and steps to enable us to cross deep gorges, including the aptly named Salto della Capra – Goat Leap. We zig-zag back to the lakeside road where a service bus takes us the short distance to Torbole for post-walk refreshment while waiting for the return ferry.

Highlight: Superb views across to the Ledro Valley and Limone.

Option 2 - Torbole, Castel Penede & Stairway To Tempesta

Distance: 9½ miles (15km)

Total ascent: 1,800ft (560m)

In summary: This walk ascends to view the geological phenomenon of the Marmitte dei Giganti and the ruins of the thirteenth century Castel Penede. We then head for the Marocche and follow the route of the Option 1 walk on the metal walkways and steps to Tempesta and a service bus to Torbole for exploration and refreshment before the return ferry to Limone.

Highlight: Exploring Castel Penede on its high crag with superb views.

Day 3: Malcesine

Today we will travel across the lake to explore Malcesine and its surrounds.

Option 1 - Malcesine And The Slopes Of Monte Baldo

Distance: 5½ miles (8½km)

Total ascent: 1,100 feet (330m)

In summary: Today's easier walk explores the area around Malcesine, following good tracks through woodland and small hamlets onto the lower slopes of Monte Baldo. We finish with a stroll along the lakeside into the old port for refreshment before our homeward ferry.

Highlight: The lakeside town of Malcesine

Option 2 - Malcesine And Chiesa De San Michele

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 2,100 feet (630m)

In summary: For the harder walk we go on rocky tracks higher up the slopes of Monte Baldo, beyond the cable-car mid-station. We are walking in woodland with Holm Oak and Sweet Chestnut before we descend back to Malcesine with its picturesque port areas and some refreshment.

Highlight: Brilliant views across Lake Garda from the church of San Michele.

Day 4: The Hills Abobr Gargnano

Today we will explore the area around Gargnano and San Giacomo.

Option 1 - Navazzo, Gargnano & San Giacomo

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

Total descent: 2,000 feet (600m)

In summary: We start in the village of Navazzo and, following a short stroll, have an early refreshment break in the elegant Villa Sostaga. Then we walk through some attractive hamlets and woods to Sasso where there should be opportunities for a drink before lunch. We will take our time as we descend, sometimes steeply, through the village of Musaga and past buildings once used as mills and forges. We finish our day in the lakeside port of Gargnano where we can explore and enjoy refreshments by the lake before joining our coach back to the hotel.

Highlight: Taking time to explore the pretty, unspoilt villages that we pass en route.

Option 2 - Gargnano Circular

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 2,100 feet (630m)

In summary: The harder walk starts in Gargnano and after walking through the town starts to ascend an ancient cobbled track. We continue ascending, occasionally steeply, on a variety of tracks that are sometimes stony. At times there are views across the lake to the southern slopes of Monte Baldo and down to Gargnano. We usually have time for a pre-lunch drink in Sasso before following the route of the Option 1 walk back down to Gargnano.

Highlight: Arriving at the old village of Sasso and its quirky bar.

Day 5: Free Day

Each week there is a free day offering an opportunity to relax around the hotel or visit local places of interest.

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. You can visit one of the museums or the Limonaia del Castel and wander around the old port area.

Malcesine: Take a ferry ride across the lake to the town of Malcesine. There you can visit the Scaligeri castle that houses an excellent museum. You can also take the cable car to the top of Monte Baldo where there are mountain walks and a restaurant with wide views.

Riva del Garda: The principal shopping town on the northern shores of Lake Garda can be reached by ferry. It is possible to join a round-the-lake boat trip calling at Bardolino and Sirmione.

Day 6: Two Routes - Four Thousand Year Of History

Both of today's routes explore the area to the north of Lake Garda.

Option 1 - Atop The Glacial Wedge

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In summary: We walk along the lakeshore from Torbole heading for the distinctive landmark of Monte Brione – the glacial wedge. We ascend the Sentiero della Pace (Path of Peace) using cobbled tracks and stony woodland paths and passing several of the historic fortifications built to take advantage of its prominence. The descent provides views south down the lake and over the river Sarca to Torbole and the mountains framing the eastern side of the lake before following the shoreline into Riva.

Highlight: Visit historic Riva, the second largest settlement on the lake.

Option 2 - Riva To Lago Di Ledro

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 2,400 feet (720m)

In summary: Our walk immediately heads south down Lake Garda ascending gently along a cliff-side track until we meet the Ledro valley. We walk along the valley always ascending, sometimes steeply, through woods, past villages and eventually reach the shores of Lago di Ledro, site of a Bronze Age lake village.

Highlight: Visit the fascinating Pile Dwelling Museum with its reconstructed lake houses.

Day 7: The Tremosine Plateau

Walk in the area surrounding Vesio and Pieve.

Option 1 - Vesio To Pieve

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

Total descent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In summary: After a coach journey we begin by walking around a nature reserve created when a glacial lake dried up before visiting the village of Vesio, where we may be able to have our mid-morning break with views down the Brasa valley or have a drink in a nearby bar. We descend to the small town of Pieve through delightful countryside and picturesque hamlets and finish the week enjoying fantastic views with our refreshments.

Highlight: Clifftop views from Pieve

Option 2 - Monte Bestone, Vesio And Pieve

Distance: 8 miles (12½km)

Total ascent: 2,000 feet (600m)

Total descent: 2,800 feet (680m)

In summary: Starting at Voltino we walk up through the pedestrianized area of the old village before heading uphill to the loftiest viewpoint of the week – Monte Bestone. After taking time to appreciate the panorama we descend to the village of Vesio and then follow the route of the Option 1 group to meet them for a celebratory drink or ice-cream in Pieve.

Highlight: Spectacular views from the summit of Monte Bestone.

Day 8: Departure Day

We hope to see you again soon.

ACCOMMODATION

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

THE HASSLE-FREE OPTION

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.

THE FLEXIBLE TRAVEL OPTION

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

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

Passport Requirements

You may need to renew your British passport if you're travelling from 1 January 2021.

On the day you travel, you'll need your passport to both:

- have at least 6 months left
- be less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left)

Use the [government website](#) to see if your passport is valid for this holiday

EHIC Cards

The UK government has officially launched the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC), which will replace the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). UK residents can now apply for one of the GHIC cards, which will gradually replace the EHIC cards as they reach their expiry dates. Every family member travelling requires a

GHIC. You can make an application for yourself and on behalf of your partner and any dependent children under the age of 16. Both cards will offer equivalent protection for emergency and medically necessary healthcare needs when in the EU on a temporary stay, which includes holiday, study and business travel. Necessary healthcare includes things like

- emergency treatment and visits to A&E
- treatment for long-term or pre-existing medical conditions
- routine medical care for pre-existing conditions that need monitoring
- oxygen and kidney dialysis

The public only need to apply for their free GHIC cards when their current EHIC expires. The process is likely to take two weeks. For more information visit <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

The GHIC is not an alternative to travel insurance. We advise all holidaymakers to also invest in travel insurance that covers healthcare, so they are covered for other issues that may arise, as well as cancellations and lost luggage.

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents.
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares).
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended.
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers.
- Warm hat and gloves.
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner.
- Thermos flask for hot drink.
- Water bottle (at least 2 litre).
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch.
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
- Sun hat and sunglasses
- Sun cream.

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents.
- Insect repellent.
- Camera.
- Gaiters.

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

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

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 £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

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

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

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

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.

Document produced: 24-10-2021

