

# Walking Lake Garda's Northern Shores

**Tour Style:** European walking holidays

**Destination:** Italy

**Trip code:** TRLCL

2 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Lake Garda has long attracted artists, poets, politicians, and royalty to its glittering shores – and for good reason. Located in the leafy north and fringed by the mighty Dolomites, it's possibly the most beautiful of all the Italian Lakes. Let this walking holiday introduce you to Garda's green hills, vineyards, and characterful collection of lakefront towns and villages. Highlights include hiking on Monte Baldo, and enjoying a boat trip across to Malcesine – a medieval town clinging to the rocks on the lake's eastern shore.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Return flights from London Gatwick, including baggage and transfers (flights available from other airports - price may vary)
- A choice of 2 guided walks per day with local leaders (on walking days)
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- 7 nights' accommodation in Limone
- 7 breakfasts & 7 dinners

- All in-destination transport

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Spend the week close to the beautiful Limone sul Garda
- Soaking up the 360-degree views on the Monte Baldo cable car
- Walking the old Ponale Road from Riva del Garda to the Ledro Valley
- Visiting the medieval village of Canale, an artist's haven
- Admiring the views of Lake Garda from Monte Bestone

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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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

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### Day 1: ARRIVAL DAY

Welcome to Hotel Garda Bellevue in Limone sul Garda. Unpack and settle in. Stretch your legs along the picturesque promenade hugging Lake Garda

### Day 2: DISCOVERING LIMONE

Limone sul Garda is a small pearl located on the western side and is the most northerly town on the lake. With its inviting promenade and picturesque cobblestone alleys this old town has attracted visitors for hundreds of years. The mediterranean landscape dotted with olive and lemon trees is a perfect environment for walking

### Option 1 - Sentiero Del Sole

**Distance:** 6.2 miles (10km)

**Total Ascent:** 1148ft (350m)

**In summary:** Starting from the hotel we take a stroll through the old town of Limone. We walk along the picturesque lakeside promenade, then through the narrow alleys and the lemon garden until we reach the beautiful cycle path which hangs over the lake resulting in stunning views that are unique in Europe. The way back goes partially on a higher panoramic track, called the Sentiero del Sole or the 'Path of the Sun.' This path also offers wonderful views of the lake and mountains as we wander passed citrus and olive trees. Returning to Limone you can enjoy time exploring or you may like to take an aperitif at one of the lake side cafés.

### Option 2 - San Giovanni Stream

**Distance:** 8 miles (13km)

**Ascent:** 2624ft (800m)

**In summary:** Starting from the hotel we take a stroll through the old town of Limone. We walk along the picturesque lakeside promenade, then through the narrow alleys and the lemon garden until we reach the Natura (Nature Walk) We follow the course of the landmark San Giovanni stream to a panoramic viewpoint and a small waterfall. From here we continue exploring the area above Limone enjoying amazing views of the lake and the mountains. Returning to Limone you can enjoy time exploring or you may like to take an aperitif at one of the lake side cafés.

## Day 3: ARCO, MOUNT BAONE AND ITS OLIVE GROVES

Today we head to the beautiful town of Arco with its distinctive remains of a medieval castle perched on a rocky outcrop above the olive groves and the town's historic centre. Both walks start from Arco. In the past it was a fief of the Roman Empire while in 1804 it became part of Austrian rule. After changing hands several times Arco finally became part of Italy in 1918.

### Option 1 - Arco And Its Olive Groves

**Distance:** 5 miles (8 km)

**Ascent:** 689ft (210m)

**In summary:** Travel by coach to the town of Arco where our walk begins. We follow a path through the Arboretum where we can admire plants from all over the world. We continue through public gardens and olive tree groves leading up to the castle. We reach the castle and from where we enjoy amazing views of the lake and mountains all around. Returning to Arco you can enjoy free time exploring and you might like to search for souvenirs and taste a delicious ice-cream from one of the many gelaterias

### Option 2 - Arco And Monte Baone

**Distance:** 6.2 miles (10 km)

**Ascent:** 1115ft (340m)

**In summary:** We follow the same route as option one, starting in Arco and walking up to the castle. From here we continue our route on Monte Baone before returning to Arco. We do not ascend the mountain. On return to Arco, you may like to reward yourself with a delicious ice cream or relax in a café before we head back to Limone.

## Day 4: ASCENDING MONTE BALDO, THE GARDEN OF EUROPE

Enjoying a boat trip across the lake we head to the medieval town of Malcesine situated on the lower slopes of Monte Baldo. This is one of the most attractive towns on the shores of Lake Garda with its cobbled streets overlooked by the beautiful Castello Scaligero. Our walks from the town take in some wonderful panoramic views

### Option 1 - Monte Baldo Cable Car

**Distance:** 3 miles (5km)

**Total ascent:** 1100 feet (360m)

**In summary:** We'll reach pretty Malcesine by boat from where we'll board the panoramic cable car that'll take us up Monte Baldo. It gently rotates as it climbs, too, giving you 360-degree views over the lake and surrounding mountains.

Once we arrive at the top station, located 1,780m above sea level, we'll set off along a winding mule track to a mountain refuge, which makes a great coffee stop thanks to far-reaching views down to the lake. Wooded tracks then lead us back to the station to catch the cable car back down to Malcesine. Stroll the town's streets and sip a coffee by the lake before we return by boat to Limone.

### Option 2 - Monte Baldo Cable Car And Ventrar Path

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.5km)

**Total ascent:** 1,700 feet (520m)

**In summary:** Like option one, we'll take the cable car to the top of Monte Baldo before setting off on a circular loop along the Ventrar path, which rewards with wow-worthy views over the Alto Gara region.

## Day 5: FREE DAY

You'll have a free day to explore the area around Lake Garda as you please, or simply relax at the hotel.

**Limone sul Garda** – the lakeside town where we're staying is well worth further exploration. The waterfront restaurants offer typical dishes with stop-and-stare views while its cobbled streets lead you to historic delights like the Church of San Benedetto Abate and San Rocco. There's also the open-air museum, Limonaia del Castel, an 18th century lemon house.

**Garda Cycle Path** – fringing the entire shore of Lake Garda, you can walk or cycle your way between towns.

**Lake Garda's beaches** tempt with azure waters and mountain views, especially those around Limone sul Garda. Pebble beaches like Grostol, Fonte Torrente San Giovanni, and Cola provide an idyllic place to relax.

**Verona** – you're within easy reach of UNESCO-listed Verona from Lake Garda. Visit the Roman amphitheater and take in the views from the postcard-worthy bridges over the Adige River.

**Riva del Garda** – a day trip to another of Lake Garda's gems, Riva del Garda, tempts with impossibly scenic mountain and lake views thanks to its location at the end of the lake. A stroll around the historic centre will lead you to its medieval fortress and Torre Apponale.

## Day 6: LAKE TENNO AND THE MEDIEVAL VILLAGE OF CANALE

On the Trentino side of Lake Garda, our walks take us to Lake Tenno and the medieval town of Canale di Tenno. Pretty Lake Tenno has a nearly perfect round form and is surrounded by trees at the foot of Monte Misone. Canale di Tenno is an ancient town which remains mostly intact from the first written records listing it in 1211. Cobbled lanes, stone houses sitting closely together, arches and small squares create a medieval atmosphere.

### Option 1 - Ballino Pass To Tenno Castle

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.5km)

**Total ascent:** 490 feet (150m)

**Total Descent:** 1,300 feet (400m)

**In summary:** A coach will take us to the Ballino Pass from where we'll begin our hike along ancient mule tracks. Our first stop will be Lake Tenno with its crystalline waters, then Canale, a picturesque medieval village that's listed as one of Italy's most beautiful. We'll wind up the walk at Tenno Castle where the coach will take us back.

### Option 2 - Canale - Rifugio San Pietro - Tenno

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Total ascent:** 1,650 feet (500m)

**In summary:** We'll begin at Lake Tenno, heading up to the village of Canale. Following a steep forest path we'll reach Rifugio San Pietro, situated in the midst of a meadow with views over upper Garda. We'll head back down to Tenno to join the rest of the group.

## Day 7: FOLLOWING THE OLD PONALE ROAD INTO THE LEDRO VALLEY

Since the late 1990s the old Ponale road has been used only by walkers and mountain-bikers. It is one of the main attractions of upper Garda and offers great views of the lake. Deep in the heart of the valley are the emerald Alpine waters of Lake Ledro surrounded by mountains and forests.

### Option 1 - Ledro Valley To Biacesa

**Distance:** 4 miles (6km)

**Total ascent:** 1,800 feet (550m)

**In summary:** We'll walk the old Ponale Road, which winds its way from Riva del Garda via numerous small tunnels and a canyon to Ledro Valley. On the way, you'll spot WWI fortifications and the Ponale waterfall before we stop to take it all in on a terrace high above Lake Garda. You'll see all the way down to Torbole, Riva, and Malcesine, nestled beneath Monte Baldo.

We'll continue to the small mountain village of Biacesa where a coach will take us to Lake Ledro. You can choose between visiting the museum here, dedicated to the Bronze Age communities, or enjoying a wander around the pretty lake shore.

### Option 2 - Ledro Valley To Biacesa And Lake Ledro On Foot

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Total ascent:** 2,500 feet (790m)

**In summary:** We'll take the same route as option one, instead, we'll continue to Lake Ledro on foot from Biacesa.

## Day 8: DEPARTURE DAY

Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Hotel Garda Bellevue – Lake Garda

With an excellent location only a 7-minute walk from Limone and close to the lake, our hotel for the week, is the 4-star Garda Bellevue. (local star rating) Rooms are comfortable with air conditioning, hairdryer, free Wi-Fi and satellite channels. There is an outdoor pool with bar and a saltwater indoor pool in the wellness centre. Enjoy a buffet breakfast and evening meals in the dining room with panoramic views of the lake. Breakfast is a good range of hot and cold dishes including a gluten-free corner. Dinner is included with a three-course menu of choice. (except on arrival night when it is a set menu – please advise our sales team of any dietary requirements when booking)

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

### Joining Instructions (With Flights)

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from a range of UK airports\* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

If you choose to book your flights with us, we automatically include return transfers between the destination airport and hotel.

### Joining Instructions (Without Flights)

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

#### Shared group transfer

You can still purchase a seat on our group airport transfer, but you must arrive in destination prior to the main group. It is your responsibility to book flights which allow enough time to meet our shared transfer.

Please note, all flight times are subject to change. If your arrival and/or departure time changes and no longer fits our group transfer, we will be unable to delay departure for you. Should this occur, we will refund you the cost of the transfer and you can either make your own way to the accommodation or we can book a private taxi transfer (at your expense). HF Holidays cannot be held responsible for your onward travel if you are unable to meet the transfer coach.

#### Private taxi transfer

Depending on your destination, we may be able to arrange a private taxi transfer for you. Please call us up to 5 weeks in advance to enquire about availability and costs for this option on 0203-974-8865.

\*Subject to availability

## Essential Information

It's best to be prepared for all weather conditions. To make it easier, here is a list of items you should consider

packing.

### Essentials

- Walking boots
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Insulated jacket/top
- Walking clothing
- Walking socks (plus spares)
- Sunhat
- Gloves/mitts and warm hat
- Water bottle (minimum 2 litre capacity)
- Headtorch
- High-factor sunscreen (minimum SPF 30)
- Sunglasses with a dark lens
- Rucksack (15-30 litres)
- Mobile phone
- Personal first aid kit (containing your medication, blister plasters, etc.)
- Passport
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (**formerly known as EHIC**)

### Recommended

- Collapsible walking poles
- Swimwear and travel towel
- Snacks
- Dry bags
- Rubbish bags
- Insect repellent

### Optional extras

- Camera
- Sit mat
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- GPS device

## 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

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We work with Campbell Irvine to provide you with competitive single and annual multi-trip insurance. Please see our website for more information and details of how to contact them for a quote:

<https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/about-us/booking-information/insurance>.

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/>.

## Local Currency

The local currency 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.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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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.

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