Walking Lake Garda's Northern Shores



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
European holidays	Italy	4 & 5	572kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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 YOU'LL LOVE

- 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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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

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Day 1 ARRIVAL DAY

Arrive at your hotel 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: 5.6 miles (9km)

Total Ascent: 490ft (150m)

In summary: Starting from the hotel we take a stroll through the old 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 hanging onto the Lake. The view is stunning at make this path unique in Europe. The way back goes partially on an higher panoramic path, part of the Sentiero del Sole.

Option 2 - San Giovanni Stream

Distance: 6.8 miles (11km)
Ascent: 1,215ft (370m)

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 Sentiero Natura.

We follow the course of San Giovanni stream to a panoramic view point and a small waterfall. From here we continue exploring the area above Limone enjoying amazing views onto the lake and the mountains. Back in the Old Town of Limone time at leisure .

Day 3 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 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 and Ventrar path

Same as Option 1 but on more challenging terrain and a short detour adding 1km and 50m ascent.

Walking Time: Approx 3 Hours

Distance: 4.5miles (7km)

Ascent: 850feet (260m)

Option 2 - Monte Baldo Cable Car

By boat, we reach the pretty town of Malcesine, famous for its medieval castle perched on an enormous, impressive boulder above the lake. After a short walk through Malcesine's quaint and colorful town center, we make our way to the cable car station for an exciting ascent to Monte Baldo's top station, which sits at 1,780 m / 5,800 ft a.s.l. (above sea level), offering striking views over Lake Garda and its surrounding mountains. From here, we hike uphill on a gravel road to a panoramic viewpoint nestled at the foot of Cima Pozzette, where we admire sweeping views extending across the southern part of Lake Garda. We then descend along a different path to the vicinity of the cable car station, from where we continue to the grassy fields of La Colma, our second viewpoint of today's hike, famous for its breathtaking views over the northern side of the lake and the Brenta Dolomites in the distance. As we make our way back to the cable car stationfor our ride down to Malcesine, we have the chance to admire paragliders taking off into the sky.
Explore Malcesine's town center at your own pace before meeting the rest of the group for the return boat journey to Limone.

Walking time: Approx. 2.5 hours

Distance: 3.75miles (6km)

Ascent: 700feet (215m)

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.

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 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 hike among olive groves with 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 7 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: 5 miles (8km)

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: 2100 feet (650m)

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 8 DEPARTURE DAY

Transfer to the airport for your flight back home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.



Moderate walking grade 5

Some walking experience needed. Full day walks which may include some short but steep ascents and descents throughout the day, and varied terrain. Regular stops. Typically, 8-9 miles (13-15km) with around 1,300ft (400m) of ascent.

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)

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

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)
- Swimcap (compulsory in Itialian resorts)
- 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 (excluding Bhutan, Georgia and India)

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS (WITH FLIGHTS)

With flights

Book your holiday 'with flights' and you can choose to depart from selected UK airports* to your destination. For latest flight times and prices please call us on 0203-974-8865 or email 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)

Without flights

If you are booking on a land-only basis, you can join the group transfer at an additional cost. To do so, your arrival and departure times must be in line with the scheduled group flight timings. Guests travelling at different times will need to arrange their own transfers. Please contact us before booking to discuss the available options and costs.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so before you travel.

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

Telephone Code for Lake Garda

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

Language Information for Lake Garda

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

LOCAL CURRENCY

The local currency is the Euro (€)

ELECTRICITY

Electricity information for Lake Garda

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

ATM AVAILABILITY

ATM availability for Lake Garda

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

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

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.

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