

# The Best of Lake Maggiore Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** European walking holidays

**Destination:** Italy

**Trip code:** MBLCL

2 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Italy's second largest lake after Lake Garda, the shimmering Lake Maggiore is adored for its beautiful scenery, delicious food, and postcard-worthy towns. Highlights include taking lakeside strolls around Cannero and Cannobio, discovering the picturesque streets of Orta San Giulio, and venturing to the foothills of Mount Rosa and the Anzasca Valley. You can also take an optional boat ride to the Borromean Islands, the most famous of which is the enchanting Isola Bella, which translates as 'beautiful island.'

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Full programme of guided walks with local leaders
- HF Holidays Tour Manager
- Comfortable accommodation
- Half-board
- All sightseeing and entrance fees (as per itinerary)
- Airport transfers by coach

- Return flights from the UK including hold baggage and airport transfers

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Visiting the Cannero Riviera and Cannobio
- Discovering Lake Orta
- Walking in the foothills of Monte Rosa, one of Italy's highest mountains
- The option to take a train to Milan or a boat to the Borromean Islands

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Welcome to Lake Maggiore. Once you arrive, settle in and get acquainted with where you'll stay for the week.

### Day 2: Belgirate To Stresa

Known locally as the chestnut route, this walk starts in a small lakeside village south of Stresa. Hop in a boat and we'll sail across the lake to Belgirate. Then following old mule trails, we'll pass by pretty churches, small hamlets, and the gardens of Villa Pallavicino on our way back to Stresa.

#### Option 1 - Chestnut Walk

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

**Ascent:** 800ft (240m)

**Descent:** 900ft (280m)

From the shore, we'll walk up to the Romanesque church of Santa Maria to see the views and the frescoes. Then following a mule track, you'll see how farming used to be before we arrive at the church of Saint Paolo. Step through a chestnut forest, passing the ruins of Sanin Albino, to the village of Passera and the gardens of Villa Pallavicino.

#### Option 2 - Chesnut Walk Via Calogna

**Distance:** 7½ miles (12km)

**Ascent:** 1,300ft (400m)

**Descent:** 1,150ft (360m)

Taking the same route as option one until the church of Saint Paolo, we'll then venture off on another mule trail uphill to the hamlet of Calogna. Crossing moorland to a beech forest, we'll pass by old shepherd huts while glimpsing the lake down below. Once we reach the village of Magognino, we'll start descending through Passera to the gardens of Villa Pallavicino.

### Day 3: Suna To Cavandone Or Lake Mergozzo

#### Option 1 - Suna To Cavandone

**Distance:** 4miles (6.5km)

**Ascent:** 900ft (260m)

**Descent:** 1,150ft (360m)

We start from Suna from where we'll follow an ancient trail past the chestnut wood and medieval tower, climbing further for impressive views of Lake Maggiore below. At Cardavone, you'll see a 400-year-old yew tree.

### Option 2 - Lake Mergozzo

**Distance:** 7½miles (12km)

**Ascent:** 1,200ft (360m)

**Descent:** 1,200ft (360m)

We'll take the bus to Verbania to set off on a path that hugs the eastern shore, passing through chestnut woods and meadows that open out onto views over Lake Mergozzo. Stop for lunch in Mergozzo before taking the Sentiero Azzuro (Blue Path), pausing at Montorfano for far-reaching views of Lake Maggiore and the Toce River. We'll visit the Romanesque church before descending to Verbania where we'll catch the bus back.

## Day 4: Lake Como

### Option 1 - Torno Village

**Distance:** 3 miles (4.5 km)

**Ascent:** 650 feet (200 m)

After travelling to Como by coach, we'll join a boat and sail across to the quaint hamlet of Torno. We'll walk through the old village and up quaint alleyways, arriving at the wooded summit of Monte Piatto. Soak up surrounding panoramas of green hills and the glittering lake, before following a different trail back to Torno.

### Option 2 - Monte Piatto

**Distance:** 7 miles (11 km)

**Ascent:** 1475 feet (450 m)

We head by bus to Como, then join the boat across to Torno, on the eastern side of the lake. We walk through the old village and up the quaint alleyways, arriving at the wooded top of Monte Piatto. Soak up the surrounding panorama or the green hills and glittering lake, before joining a different trail back to Torno.

## Day 5: Free Day

There are plenty of things to see and do, from taking the train to Milan, or jumping on a boat to visit the Borromean Islands. You could even head to Switzerland for the day on the boat and take the train back

## Day 6: Lake Orta

Today we head over to Lake Maggiore's little sister, Lake Orta. Both walks start in the hills above the lake and finish in Orta San Giulio, one of the most beautiful towns in Italy.

### Option 1 - Armeno To Orta San Giulio 1

**Distance:** 6miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 450ft (140m)

**Descent:** 1,150ft (360m)

We'll start in the town of Armeno following trails through farms and meadows, crossing a Roman bridge, and entering another village called Armeno. We'll head down through lush parkland to Vacciago, once a rich retreat away from the lake. We'll descend to Legro and from here to the lake with time to explore Orta San Giulio.

## Option 2 - Armeno To Orta San Giulio 2

**Distance:** 8½miles (14km)

**Ascent:** 700ft (220m)

**Descent:** 1,450ft (460m)

Following option one from Armeno to Armeno, we then ascend to Monte Mesma and the Franciscan convent of the same name. We'll get a wonderful view of Lake Orta, then after circling the small peak we'll head down into the village of Vacciago and onto the painted village of Legro. A final descent takes us to Orta San Giulio with time to explore.

## Day 7: Anzasca Valley And Mont Rosa

Today we head into the mountains and the Anzasca Valley to Macunaga, home to the Walser people. This small region still has its own language and keeps to its historic traditions. After both walks, we'll take you to the village of Macunaga sitting below Mount Rosa.

### Option 1 - Piedimulera To Castiglione

**Distance:** 3½miles (6km)

**Ascent:** 1,250ft (380m)

**Descent:** 500ft (160m)

We start in the pretty village of Piedimulera, which sits at the mouth of the Anzasca Valley looked over by Torre Ferreiro. Our path takes us out of town, through the valley, following the course of the Anza river. Passing chestnut woods, fruit trees, and old watercourses, we'll see ancient settlements and traces of old trades. We'll finish in the hamlet of Castiglione before heading to the Walser village of Macuanaga.

### Option 2 - Piedimulera To Molini

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

**Ascent:** 1,850ft (560m)

**Descent:** 1,100ft (340m)

From Piedimulera we'll follow the same route as option one. After the village of Castiglione, we'll head along the valley and into the deep forested hills as we follow the old road with occasional glimpses of the cobalt blue torrent. We soon enter the outskirts of the village of Molini, which clings to the hillside flanked by the river. Finally, we'll have time to explore Macuanaga.

## Day 8: Departure Day

We'll leave Lake Maggiore for our flight back home.

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## ACCOMMODATION

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### Hotel Pesce D'Oro (2024), Lake Maggiore

A family-run hotel with a friendly atmosphere and in one of the best locations, Hotel Pesce D'Oro in Suna Di Verbania is sitting directly on the promenade, just a few steps from the beach and only 1km from Pallanza. 57 bright, beautiful rooms, many with sea views include all of the mod-cons you would expect from a three-star hotel

### Hotel Belvedere (2025), Pallanza, Lake Maggiore

Hotel for 2025: Overlooking the stunning Lake Maggiore, Hotel Belvedere offers an exquisite 4- star stay in an elegant lakefront setting. Guests enjoy easy access to Pallanza's historic centre and boat trips to the beautiful Borromean Islands. The hotel features light-filled rooms with private bathrooms, TVs, air conditioning, toiletries, hair dryers, and complimentary Wi-Fi, ensuring a comfortable stay. Additional amenities include an outdoor terrace and a bar, perfect for relaxation. The hotel's exceptional restaurant serves sophisticated Italian cuisine, promising a delightful culinary experience.

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## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### 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.

If you choose this option, transfers are not included in the price. However, below are some suggestions to help you reach your destination:

#### 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

### 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/>.

## 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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