



## **EXCURSIONS LAKE COMO 2024 – guests staying in Mezzegra and Hotel Lario**

**SUNDAY afternoon: Villa Balbianello – half day – Euro 80,00 pp**

**April: 14, 28 - May: 19, 26 - August: 25 – September 29 – October 6, Tue 15, 20 2024**

**PICK UP: 14.15 pm Tremezzo/private boat landing stage opposite Villa Carlotta entrance**

This trip by private boat will show you one of the loveliest villas and gardens on Lake Como. Villa Balbianello on the tip of the Lavedo promontory is perhaps in the most spectacular spot on the lake. It was built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and today belongs to F.A.I. – the Italian equivalent of the National Trust. Visit the beautiful and exquisitely furnished interiors and the great collection of pre-Columbian objects, Chinese porcelain and terracottas reverse-glass paintings, tapestries and carpets that belonged to its last owner, Count Guido Monzino, a keen explorer renowned for climbing Mount Everest in 1973. Back at about 17.00

**MONDAY: St. Moritz & Bernina train – full day - Euro 85,00 pp - Passport!**

**April: 15, 29 - Every Monday from 6 May to 21 October 2024**

**PICK UP: 7.30 am outside the hotel**

This excursion takes you along the northern part of the lake to the town of Tirano where we stop for coffee before proceeding into Switzerland and reach Poschiavo. Part of this excursion is done with the Bernina train (1 hour journey). We take the train in Poschiavo (Switzerland) and continue to Diavolezza (Switzerland), doing one of the nicest section of the Bernina Railway. We will see the White Lake and the Black Lake and plenty of breathtaking glaciers. Then, by bus, reach St. Moritz. The famous Swiss holiday and ski resort is on the southern side of the Alps in the Engadine Valley with its numerous crystal clear mountain lakes. On our return we stop in Chiavenna and have some free time before returning to Lake Como. Back at about 18.00 pm

**TUESDAY: Milan – full day - Euro 80,00 pp - Passport!**

**April: 16, 30 – Every Tuesday from 7 May to 22 October 2024**

**PICK UP: 8.40 am outside the hotel**

This full day excursion to one of the great cities of Europe has something for everyone. We enjoy many of the sights, ancient and modern, of Milan from the comfort of the bus, with a full live commentary from our expert guide, until we arrive at La Scala, the world's most famous opera house. We are then treated to an entertaining and informative guided tour of the historic centre of Milan, making our way from La Scala through the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, to the Cathedral itself. The awe-inspiring Duomo, the third-largest in the world. Then you are free to enjoy a couple of hours you wish. Whether you would like to take the chance to visit one of Milan's renowned art galleries or museums, including La Scala Museum, sample the designer shops, department stores, enjoy the unrivalled views from the top of the Duomo, or simply enjoy exploring the elegant streets, or the lovely Brera district, full of charming bars, cafes and the site of the famous Brera Art gallery, you will find every possibility only a few minutes' walk away. Back at about 18.00

**THURSDAY afternoon: Varenna & the garden of Villa Monastero – Euro 46,00 pp**

**Thursdays: April: 18 – Every Thursday afternoon from 2 May to 24 October 2024**

**NB no exc on 15/08/24 and 19/09/24 – Villa Monastero closed for institutional event**

**PICK UP: 14.50 pm Varenna ferry landing stage ( public boat from Tremezzo/opposite Hotel Bazzoni at 13.50 pm)**

Meet your guide at Varenna ferry landing stage and enjoy a guided tour of this picturesque and romantic village starting from the “walk of lovers”, a wonderful walk along the lake. Reach Piazza San Giorgio, Varenna's main square, where you can admire the Churches of San Giorgio and San Giovanni Battista with their exteriors and interiors frescoes. Continue your guided walking tour to the gardens of Villa Monastero. The Villa is surrounded by a spectacular and fascinating botanical garden which extends for two kilometres from Varenna to Fiumelatte; it offers recreation and learning opportunities thanks to the presence of many botanical species, both indigenous and exotic, here you will have a guided visit of the garden. After visit ferry back to Tremezzo



**FRIDAY: Lake Maggiore – full day – Euro 85,00 pp – Passport!**

**April: 19 – Every Friday from 3 May to 25 October 2024**

**PICK UP: 8.20 am outside the hotel**

This is a full day excursion of fairytale beauty and scenery. We reach by bus Stresa where we will embark on a private boat for a wonderful boat tour with a stop on Isola Bella, whose gardens were inspired by the 'hanging gardens of Babylon' and Count Borromeo fashioned them into the shape of a ship for his wife, Isabella, giving the island its name (entrance fees not included). We then continue by private boat to Isola dei Pescatori (Fishermen's island). It is the most picturesque of the Borromean Islands, as well as the only one to be permanently inhabited. Distinctive features of its ancient little village are narrow lanes with characteristic two-storey houses, with long balconies traditionally used for drying fish; the island's inhabitants earn their living mainly by fishing and tourism. On the island are little boutiques and renowned restaurants where you can eat freshly caught fish – a culinary pleasure for the humble and the famous alike. In the early afternoon transfer by private boat to Stresa where you will have some free time before returning to Lake Como.

**FRIDAY: Lugano & Como - full day – Euro 75,00 pp – Passport!**

**April: 19 - Every Friday from 3 May to 25 October 2024**

**PICK UP: 8.35 am outside the hotel**

Departure by bus to Gandria, on the border between Italy and Switzerland, one of Ticino's most beautiful lakeside villages and short stop before embarking the boat for a 45 minutes cruise to Lugano. Arrival in Lugano where you will have time at leisure for exploring this elegant town. Lugano, often referred to as the 'Rio de Janeiro' of Switzerland combines the efficiency and elegance of Switzerland with the joie de vivre and friendliness of Italy. The long lakefront was rightly described by Gabriel Faure as 'the most magnificent bay in all Europe' and its promenade is well tended with flowers, and adorned by works of sculpture and fountains. The shops and market stalls of Lugano are extremely varied and many are situated among the long arcades and porticos which abound in Lugano. The main Piazza di Riforma is a vibrant meeting place surrounded by 18thcenturypalazzi. Highly recommended during your day is a visit to the famous Franciscan church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, which houses the famous, vast fresco of the Crucifixion, painted by Bernadino Luini, pupil of Leonardo da Vinci. At 1.45/2.00 pm transfer by bus to Como where you will have some time at leisure to admire its beautiful square facing the lake, the Cathedral with its many masterpieces, walk through the streets of the historic centre. Its proximity to Lake Como and to the Alps has made Como a tourist destination, and the city contains numerous works of art, churches, gardens, museums, theatres, parks, and palaces: the Basilica Sant'Abbondio, the Villa Olmo; the public gardens with the Tempio Voltiano, the Teatro Sociale; the *Broletto*, or the city's medieval town hall and the 20th-century Casa del Fascio. At 5.00 pm transfer by bus back to Lake Como resorts.

### **EXCURSIONS' Booking & cancellation policy:**

- *Booking and payment are compulsory and to be made in advance*
  - *Guests to be on time at the pick up point*
- *It is mandatory to always have a valid identification document with you*
- *Excursions St. Moritz: for cancellations up to 49 hours before the scheduled departure time Euro 15,00 penalty plus any transaction charges for charging and for refunding*
- *All other excursions: cancellations can be made up to 49 hours before the scheduled departure time of the tour with a full refund minus any transaction charges for charging and for refunding*
- *Guests wishing to cancel their bookings from 48 hours before departure or not present at the departure are not entitled to any refund*

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