



May 10 to 18, 2025

# Village Life<sup>®</sup> Italian Lakes



# Lush Islands & Sparkling Towns

Immerse yourself in the fascinating culture and breathtaking scenery of Italy's sublime Lake District. This nine-day, eight-night Italian land trip boasts medieval sites to explore and stunning art to admire. Start and end each day of this journey in the luxurious **Palace Hotel** in Como. Live and learn like a local villager with lectures from knowledgeable local art and history experts intimately familiar with the area and its past. Experience the sights within the fascinating medieval walls of Old Como and admire the awe-inspiring frescoes inside the San Fedele Church. In an exclusive boat ride, glide across Lake Maggiore to Isola Bella, home to unique caves previously used as living spaces for villagers to escape the summer heat. Visit the stunning Palazzo Borromeo and lavish gardens on the island. Enjoy a guided tour through Milan's Duomo, and gaze at the wondrous artistic and architectural relics of its storied, centuries-long history. Learn about Villa del Balbianello's humble beginnings as a small Franciscan monastery and present-day home to a rich collection of Chinese, African and pre-Columbian art. Meander through picturesque Bellagio ("the Pearl of Lake Como") and plunge into its colorful coastal culture. Immerse yourself in Como with choice excursions ranging from a winery visit to a culinary tour. No matter where you find yourself on this exquisite program, you will be surrounded by beautiful vistas, striking art and gardens, and delectable food and wine.

*Villa del Balbianello on Lake Como*

*Front cover: Bellagio, Italy*







Borromeo Palace, Isola Bella



Dear University of Michigan Alumni Travelers,

Travel is an enriching part of our lives, connecting us to new worlds, new friends, and new adventures. Today, planning a trip requires a lot. At the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, we've spent 60-plus years planning, perfecting, and executing extraordinary trips for Michigan travelers—trips you'd expect from, and for, the Leaders and Best. These adventures will take you beyond an ordinary visit and dive into the culture, history, cuisine, and lives of the locals at your destination.

Here are a few of the highlights you can expect from us ...

**Convenience:** Our experience pays off. Every detail is planned and taken care of for you; all you have to do is pack your bag. The hard part is selecting where to go next.

**Educational Enrichment:** All trips include educational content, with some featuring expert U-M faculty and staff traveling with your group.

**Michigan Group Experiences:** Travel with your fellow Michigan alumni to create a memorable experience.

We invite you to explore the range of our collection at [alumni.umich.edu/travel/](http://alumni.umich.edu/travel/). Our travel team is also happy to assist you at 855.764.0064 or [alumnitravel@umich.edu](mailto:alumnitravel@umich.edu).

Rachele Neu  
Senior Travel Program Manager

NOTE: The Alumni Travel program is a member benefit of the Alumni Association. Travelers, regardless of alumni status, must be a member to participate in our trips.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)**



## THE LAKE DISTRICT AWAITS

Through the centuries, the Lake District of Italy has seduced the hearts, minds and souls of artists and writers, including Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, Edith Wharton and Ernest Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2,000 years ago, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Romans through the Renaissance, nobility built palatial villas, filled them with priceless art, and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “Grand Tour” of Europe, as chronicled in E.M. Forster’s “A Room With a View.” To this day, the mild climate and snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to lake shores continue to lure the wealthy, as well as celebrities and elite travelers from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como and Maggiore, to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—the “Pearl of Lake Como”—to the sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.





## Art Imitating Life

There is no shortage of magnificent art to admire as you traverse the Italian Lake District. Vibrant frescoes adorn the walls and ceilings of San Fedele Church, depicting religious scenes and figures with intricate details and beautiful colors. The frescoes not only showcase the artistic skill of the painters but also provide a telling glimpse into the culture of Italy at that time. Learn all about the beautiful art and fascinating history the Italian Lake District has to offer from an enthusiastic and knowledgeable local art-history expert on this exquisite trip. While visiting Milan, marvel at one of Leonardo Da Vinci's renowned masterpieces—either "The Last Supper," depicting the final meal of Jesus Christ with his apostles, or the "Codex Atlanticus," a collection of his acclaimed notebooks. Take in the stunning views of the 18th-century Villa del Balbianello's landscape on Lake Como. With its immaculate gardens and ornate architecture, it's clear why the villa is an oft-used film location for noteworthy works of cinema.

Explore the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo with its astounding collection of art and antiques. These picturesque sites and marvelous works of art make them must-visit attractions on this exclusive tour.



### INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your room and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY





## 2025 | 9-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart home city

#### **Day 1 | May 10**

Depart your home city on an overnight flight to Milan.

### Milan, Italy/Como

#### **Day 2 | May 11**

Arrive in Milan and transfer to Como, the perfect “home” for our soggiorno in the spectacular mountainous Italian countryside. Check into the charming **Palace Hotel** on the shore of Lake Como and unpack only once for this exclusive journey. After enjoying some of the hotel’s luxury amenities, join your traveling companions for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel. (R,D)

### Como

#### **Day 3 | May 12**

Start your morning by listening to a fascinating lecture about Como’s history, “From Roman Ruins to Medieval Walls to the Present.” Stroll throughout

Old Como and admire magnificent architectural sites such as the Gothic Duomo di Como, the beautiful fresco-adorned Romanesque Basilica di San Fedele, the 13th-century town hall Broletto and the 12th-century gate tower Porta Vittoria. During the walking tour, you will also visit the grand Volta Square, which commemorates the credited inventor of the battery, Alessandro Volta. Enjoy lunch on your own and provided dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

### Como/Stresa for Borromean Islands

#### **Day 4 | May 13**

Enjoy a private boat cruise on Lake Maggiore, gliding past islands graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty. Visit the crown jewel of the Borromean archipelago, Isola Bella, boasting the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo.

Explore the baroque palace with its astounding collection of art and antiques, and the summerhouse, which is home to a mosaic marine-themed grotto. Stroll the lush gardens, filled with rare flowers and plants, statuary, architectural details and strutting white peacocks. Reboard the boat for the return to Stresa, the setting for Hemingway’s iconic novel “A Farewell to Arms.” Enjoy spectacular mountain views as you explore the town and have lunch on your own. This afternoon at the hotel, hear an art lecture by a local expert, then enjoy dinner on your own. (B)

### Como/Milan

#### **Day 5 | May 14**

Visit Milan’s world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house, a neoclassical jewel of gilt boxes and glittering chandeliers. Continue to the city’s

*Teatro alla Scala in Milan*



View from Stresa on Lake Maggiore



Pasta fresca hands-on cooking class

social hub, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II. Visit the Duomo, a Gothic cathedral that took nearly 500 years to complete. Enjoy lunch on your own. By special arrangement, view artwork created by Renaissance polymath Leonardo da Vinci, who lived in Milan for 22 years and created some of his most famous works of art here. Tonight enjoy dinner on your own. (B)

### Como/Bellagio

#### Day 6 | May 15

After a delicious breakfast buffet at the hotel, cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Lake Como, Italy's deepest and perhaps most spectacular lake, while learning about its fascinating history and allure. Visit the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens. Continue to the celebrated town of Bellagio.

Often thought of as the most beautiful town in Italy, Bellagio flaunts a promenade lined with lime trees and oleanders, a city center of cobblestone streets and picturesque alleyways, and charming buildings painted in shades of cream, peach and butterscotch. Enjoy time to explore Bellagio at your own pace and browse through its wonderful boutiques. Enjoy lunch on your own at a local eatery before heading back to Como. Later, immerse yourself in the local culture and traditions in a conversation with residents, and savor the delights of a provided Northern Italian dinner in a local *ristorante*. (B,D)

### Como

#### Day 7 | May 16

Today, delve deeper into Como during your choice of one of the following activities: pasta fresca cooking class, Como culinary

tour, wine tasting at La Costa Winery or Como silk tour. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, and make your own plans for lunch and dinner. (B)

### Como

#### Day 8 | May 17

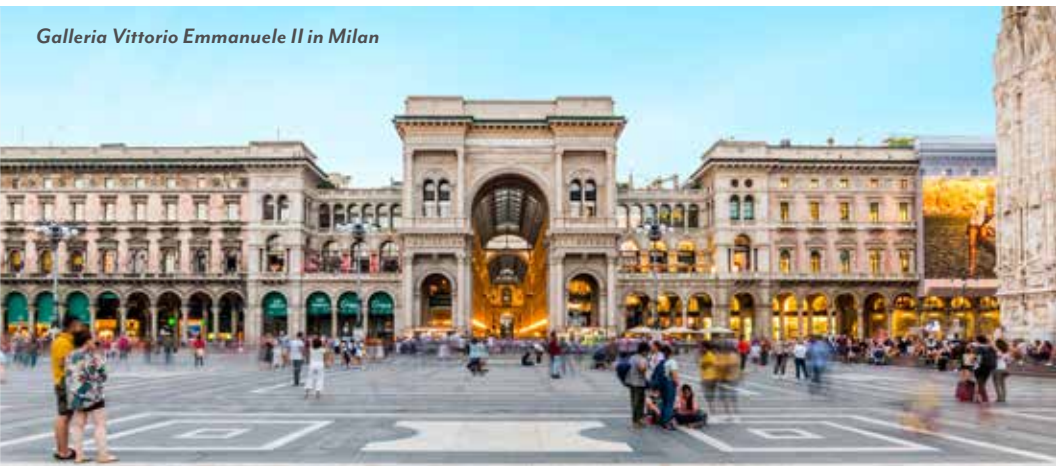
Following a breakfast at the hotel, the day is free for independent pursuits, which may include a visit to the Como public market or Villa Carlotta, an elegant botanical garden and museum on Lake Como. Enjoy lunch on your own. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner at the hotel, and raise a glass to your week of La Dolce Vita! (B,R,D)

### Como/Milan/Return to home city

#### Day 9 | May 18

Following breakfast, transfer to Milan Airport for your return flight home. (B)

Galleria Vittorio Emmanuele II in Milan







## The Palace Hotel

The classic Belle Époque **Palace Hotel** is ideally located on the *lungolago*, the lakefront promenade overlooking Lake Como, just steps away from Como's beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Venetian stucco artistry, Italian marble and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19th-century elegance throughout the hotel. Its expertly landscaped gardens are the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the hotel's renowned homemade ice cream or a cappuccino. Each of the hotel's 94 renovated guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar and hair dryer. Meals feature fresh seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.



Interior of Duomo Cathedral in Milan





## 2025 DEPARTURE DATE

May 10 to 18 (Program Begins: May 11)

Standard Rate

Early Booking \$1,000 Savings\*

\$4,995

**\$3,995**

**\*Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 8/3/24 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are per person, based on double occupancy. Singles are available upon request for an additional \$1,500 and are subject to availability.

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*Siresa, Lake Maggiore, Italy*