

Switzerland / Italy – Lugano to Como



Trip Summary

Set in an idyllic landscape of green alpine hills, the lakes of Northern Italy glow with a dreamlike quality. Romantic villages, busy harbors, and opulent villas sit on hillsides rising up from the water's edge, providing stunning views in all directions. Come for the exquisite landscape, the cuisine, and the luxurious accommodations. Our walk follows scenic footpaths through woodlands, meadows, and hamlets to some of the loveliest villages in all of Italy.

Itinerary

Day 1: Lanzo d'Intelvi

After ascending the cog railway to the top of Monte Generoso (5,584ft) you're in for a treat with stupendous views of the Matterhorn, the Jungfrau, and the Apennines • Walk gently downhill to Lanzo d'Intelvi, a quiet mountain town with views of the lake and the Alps • Our family run hotel boasts an inspiring restaurant experience • (B, L, D) *Overnight at Hotel Milan*

Day 2: Menaggio

Country trails wind downhill through villages full of quaint frescoed houses and churches • From Osteno on the shores of Lake Lugano, we shuttle to Menaggio, an alluring resort town on Lake Como • Soak in the romance over a Gelato or a cappuccino at an outdoor café • We'll stay here two nights in a majestic hotel with lakeside dining and a swimming pool • (B, L, D) *Overnight at Hotel Bellavista*

Day 3: Menaggio

We start our hike just outside of town from Naggio to "Pianure"/ Lovenno • Today we'll admire ancient frescos, cross bridges from the 13th century in villages forgotten by tourists • Admire the old donkey paths, while crossing grass meadows with old oak trees • This afternoon you'll have time to explore and shop around Menaggio • (B, L) *Overnight at Hotel Bellavista*

Day 4: Varenna

After transferring to Villa Carlotta and its gardens, we'll begin our hike with breathtaking views of old farm houses and chapels • We'll search for a perfect Gelato on our way to the town of Tremezzo, where you'll have some free time to wander the enchanting village before we set off across the lake to Varenna • (B, D) *Overnight at Hotel Royal Victoria*

Day 5: Bellagio

A relaxed morning in Varenna with your Italian coffee before visiting the Botanical gardens • Stroll along the lakeside promenade soaking in life in Italy • With breathtaking views of the lake we'll cross over a scenic canyon before taking in the café culture of Bellano • (B, L) *Overnight at Hotel Belvedere Bellagio*

Day 6: Bellagio

Find inspiration in extravagant sweet-scented gardens and Italianate Architecture • Today's loop walk takes us through winding centuries old shepherd's paths • We'll spend time in the forests spotting gourmet mushrooms as we prepare ourselves for another lavish dinner this evening in Bellagio • (B, D) *Overnight at Hotel Belvedere Bellagio*



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Day 7: Milan

After breakfast, a scenic transfer takes you to Milan where you will be dropped off wherever you please – at your hotel, the airport or the train station • (1.5 hour transfer) • (B)

**Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures.*

Activities

Walking/Hiking:

Day 1 hike mileage options: 3 / 7

Day 2 hike mileage options: 5 / 8

Day 3 hike mileage options: 7

Day 4 hike mileage options: 6

Day 5 hike mileage options: 4.5 / 9

Day 6 hike mileage options: 6

Discovery – Discover why movie stars delight in the magical shorelines of the Italian lakes. The lush landscape features rugged hills rising up from the lakes, with snow-capped Alpine peaks in the distance, this area is captivating from the moment you set foot on its many pathways. Our routes make extensive use of ferries, funiculars, and other modes of transportation, allowing us to enjoy walks in alpine meadows, through woodlands, and along the grassy lakeshore, with wonderful lake views as we travel from town to town.

Stunning lakeside and hilltop accommodations add sparkle to our stay like the diamond reflections of the sun shining down on these magnificent lakes. Gourmet food awaits around every corner, and the infectious Italian way of life will have you describing your journey to your friends as passionately as one of the locals you might encounter during your stay in the Romantic Italian lakes.

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Distinctive Accommodations

Night 1: Hotel Milan

Hotel Milan is situated on a remote hilltop village with panoramic views of the Alps and the Italian lakes in the distance. With a lovely lawn and garden, there's plenty of space to relax after a nice hike.

Nights 2 & 3: Hotel Bellavista

Located in the Heart of Menaggio, you'll find joy sitting on the hotel's terraces or relaxing poolside. The hotel offers comfortable rooms all with satellite TV and safe.

Night 4: Hotel Royal Victoria

Beautiful rooms, fashionably and stylishly decorated, the Hotel Royal Victoria has attracted queens and movie stars alike. You'll see why as you sit poolside admiring the never ending lake views. With a stunning restaurant and elegant cuisine you'll never want to leave.

Nights 5 & 6: Hotel Belvedere Bellagio

Revel in the heartfelt hospitality – honed by five generations of welcoming women – of this rare hillside retreat. Slip into reverie as your gaze takes flight, falling first on the picturesque bay of Pescallo, then coming to rest within the landscape of the lake and the Alps beyond. The Hotel features pool and jacuzzi, a spa, lush gardens, a library, WIFI and much more.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Arrival & Departures

Prior to the trip, arrive at your own convenience in Lugano Switzerland.

On Day 1, we will meet you in the lobby of the Hotel Walter Au Lac at 9:00 a.m. After a short transfer the hiking will begin.

After breakfast on Day 7, we take you to the airport, train station, or the hotel of your choice in Milan (1.5 hour transfer).

Trip Price

\$3,698 (\$680 single supplement)

Trip Length

7 days / 6 nights

2020 Dates

June 21 – 27

August 2 – 8

August 23 – 28

October 4 – 10

Host City

Begin: Lugano, Switzerland

End: Milano, Italy

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Some of the most pleasant hiking in Italy:
With views of the Alps & the Italian Lakes*

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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A \$500 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions.
- Fully trained, first-aid certified professional guides and knowledgeable local partners.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Vehicle support and land transportation during the trip.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt, water bottle, luggage tags and luggage service.
- Pre-departure and packing information.
- Incidental expenses such as taxes, dining and housekeeping gratuities, local partner and expert gratuities and national park entrance and permit fees.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to Austin Adventures guides.
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.



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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 25% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.