

EXPLORE!

Walking Lake Garda and the Prosecco Hills
8 days

Italy - Trip code LGP



Walking Lake Garda and the Prosecco Hills

Lake Garda and the rolling Prosecco Hills are two of the Veneto's most gorgeous locations and both have great walking trails to explore. Enjoy a bird's-eye view of Garda's blue waters while hiking on the top of Monte Baldo and then again from the Old Ponale Road Path, cut into the cliffs on the opposite shore. Ramble through the vineyards and hamlets of Prosecco Country in the foothills of the Dolomites and reward yourself with a tasting of the famous bubbles. There's also time to explore the streets of historic Verona and travel by train to magnificent Venice on the Adriatic.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Lake Garda** - Varied hikes among the spectacular scenery at the lake's northern end
- ★ **Monte Baldo cable car** - Trek at 1,800 metres with amazing views
- ★ **Prosecco Hills** - Trek through the vineyards and taste Italy's most famous bubbles
- ★ **Venice and Verona** - Discover their architectural treasures
- ★ **Food and drink** - Sample delicious local wines, grappa and other regional produce

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Trip starts at Verona Airport; drive to Torbole by Lake Garda, optional walk

After joining the trip at Verona airport, we drive to the small resort of Torbole at the northern end of Lake Garda, our base for the first three nights of the holiday. The scenery at this, the lake's narrowest end, is some of its most dramatic, with high cliffs plunging almost vertically into the cool blue waters. This afternoon there is the option of a circular walk on some of the lower slopes above the lake on the Bussate to Tempesta trail. Blessed with a mild climate, they are cloaked in groves of olive trees as well as ilex and oak.

Today's optional eight kilometre walk is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 420 metres.



Accommodation: Hotel Ideal Torbole (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Monte Baldo cable car and hike; explore Malcesine

Today we catch a local bus along the lake shore to Malcesine, an old town with picturesque cobbled lanes and a castle, which nestles between the lake and our walking destination today, the impressive Monte Baldo ridge which overlooks Lake Garda at an average altitude of around 1800m. Saving our legs, we take the superfast cable car from the town and enjoy a walk on the ridge with spectacular views down to the lake and across to the Alps in the distance beyond. We can have lunch at one of the mountain refuges before descending to the mid-way cable car station and taking the cable car back to Malcesine. There's time to explore Malcesine and people watch from one of its many charming cafes and bars before travelling back to Torbole. You can opt to take one of the ferries that ply the lake for a different vantage point.

Today's 14 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five hours with a total ascent of 100 metres and descent of 1000 metres. The descent is on a good and well-maintained track.



Accommodation: Hotel Ideal Torbole (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Trek towards Cima Rocca; option to walk on Old Ponale Path

For our final walk at Lake Garda we travel by bus to the small village of Biacesa (418m) in the Ledro Valley. We hike up to the Arcioni hut (858m) where the views are second to none. For the adventurous, there is the option to continue to ascend the small peak of Cima Rocca (1,090m), the ascent passing through some old tunnels from WWI and climbing a couple of iron ladders inside them. From the peak we descend on a different route which then re-joins the same trail back to Biacesa.

At Biacesa for those who would like to walk back to Riva del Garda, it's around another five kilometres on the Old Ponale Path, in the past the only connection between Lake Garda and the Ledro Valley. The path was partly carved out during the first world war and we pass tunnels and fortifications along the route. From either point the walk is ended, local buses can be caught back to Torbole.

Today's seven kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 680 metres (to Cima Rocca). The additional five kilometre optional hike along the Ponale Path is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half hours and is mainly flat



Accommodation: Hotel Ideal Torbole (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Drive to Bassano Del Grappa via Verona; optional Soave wine tasting

Leaving Lake Garda behind us, we drive to the wonderful UNESCO-listed historic city of Verona for some free time to explore and have lunch. Verona reputedly has more Roman ruins than any Italian city other than Rome and also many medieval and renaissance buildings. Three of Shakespeare's plays are set in Verona: Romeo and Juliet, The Taming of the Shrew and The Two Gentlemen of Verona. We then continue to a nearby vineyard for the chance to enjoy a tasting of one of the Veneto's D.O.P. wines, the dry white Soave.

Our destination for the next three nights is the attractive town of Bassano del Grappa. Situated on the Brenta River, at the point where the flat Veneto plains reach the foothills of the Alps, it takes its name from the nearby Monte Grappa. The town's architecture reflects Bassano's location: typical Veneto-style arcaded streets and piazzas are interspersed with alpine wooden balconies, and some of the hostleries have a decidedly Austrian flavour. Amongst the produce for which Bassano is known is one of the rarest

delicacies in Italy, the white asparagus that appears between mid-March and mid-June and which we are sure to sample if our visit is in season. The other is of course the strong grappa liqueur produced in the area.



Accommodation: Hotel Belvedere Bonotto (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Hike from Villa Barbaro to Asolo

Today we head to the 16th century Villa Barbaro, a UNESCO world heritage site that lies in the middle of a large wine estate. There's the option to visit the villa before we start our walk in the area, passing through small villages and vineyards and ending in the lovely town of Asolo. This well-preserved medieval town clings to the side of a hill with tremendous views of the surrounding hills and plain. In the afternoon we return to Bassano del Grappa.

Today's 14 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 380 metres.



Accommodation: Hotel Belvedere Bonotto (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Free day to visit Venice by train

Today has been left free; with trains to Venice from Bassano running regularly and taking around an hour, you can enjoy a full day in this magnificent city if you wish. €20.00 will buy you an unlimited boat ticket in the city, allowing you to travel along the Grand Canal or even travel to Murano and Burano to see a quieter side of the city and some of the local glass production.



Accommodation: Hotel Belvedere Bonotto (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Walk in Prosecco Hills; prosecco tasting

Today we head through a rolling landscape of vineyard-clad hills in the heart of Prosecco Country, towards Valdobbiene. Our

walk passes through the vineyards with views of the lower valley, and ends at a local winery where we plan to enjoy sampling various types of prosecco. There is even a prosecco without bubbles!

Today's 14 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 305 metres.



Accommodation: Hotel Belvedere Bonotto (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Drive to Verona Airport where trip ends

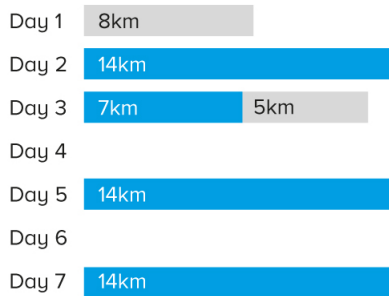
We drive to Verona Airport this morning where the trip ends.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCE



Optional Walks

Walking grade

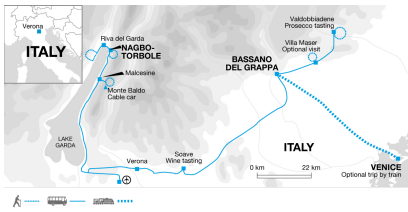
Moderate

Trek details

Walks on 5 days for between 2.5 to 6 hours. Most trails are well defined and the terrain is easy underfoot. The optional ascent of Cima Rocca involves a section climbing on metal ladders through old WWII tunnels.

Max walking altitude (m)

1800



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7



Transport

Bus



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Italy

Climate

April/May and October/November are pleasantly warm. June/September are the hottest months. Showers are common in Autumn.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Roman Catholic

Language

Italian

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Lake Garda: Ferry Malcesine to Torbole - €8.00 one way
Soave wine tasting: €10.00
Venice: Train from Bassano del Grappa - €20.00 return ticket.
Unlimited boat travel within city - €20.00

Clothing

Take light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. July and August are the hottest months whilst early and late in the season go prepared with clothing to suit drops in temperature and possible showers. Light rainwear may be needed at any time of year, and a warm fleece/jacket is recommended for cooler evenings and nights.

Footwear

We recommend you bring lightweight walking boots, make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece and a daypack.

Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat and high factor sunscreen are all essential. Take your walking poles if you normally use them. A torch is useful in the WWI tunnels on the Cima Rocca walk and in case of power cuts or emergencies.

Tipping

Explore leader

At your discretion you might consider tipping your Trip Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Country Information

Italy

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£5.00 - 10.00

Dinner price

£15.00 - 20.00

Beer price

£2.00 - 4.00

Water price

£1.00 - 2.00

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euro.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP.

Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

ATM Availability

Major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Larger hotels and restaurants.

Travellers Cheques

Only in major towns. Please note, the exchange rate for cash and Travellers Cheques is poor.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus

Essential Information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

Italy: Visas are not required by UK, E.U Nationals, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Maximum altitude (m)

1800

Italy

Vaccinations

Nothing required. Tetanus recommended. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.