

# EXPLORE!



## Lake Como Walking

ITALY - TRIP CODE LC

WALKING AND TREKKING

### Why book this trip?

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A relaxed walking holiday that is based in the charming town of Gravedona on Lake Como. Enjoy easy walking on the network of footpaths linking the many villages nestled in the mountains around the lake and along the shore. Stay in a family-run hotel with swimming pool spectacularly located right at the water's edge.

- **Bellagio** - Take a ferry across the lake to this picturesque town known as the 'Pearl of Lake Como'
- **Historic villas** - Opportunity to visit the magnificent Villa Carlotta and take a boat tour of lakeside villas
- **Food and drink** - Enjoy Italian cuisine by the lake in Gravedona's restaurants and bars



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 7  
Lunch: 4



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader / Trek  
Guide  
Driver(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Ferry  
Public Bus



**ACCOMMODATION**  
7 nights  
comfortable hotel



**WALKING GRADE:**  
Easy To  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Join trip at Milan Malpensa airport; transfer to Gravedona

The trip starts at the terminal 2 arrivals hall of Milan Malpensa airport from where it's around a one-and-a-half to two hour drive to our lake-side hotel in Gravedona, our base for the next seven nights. The town is a jumble of pastel-coloured houses set against the deep blue of the lake and has a few shops, cafés and restaurants. Our small hotel is family-run with a lake-side swimming pool and stunning views across the lake to the surrounding mountains. The hotel is an 800 metre, ten minute walk from the town centre. Our time in Gravedona promises to be a quintessentially Italian experience, with friendly people and restaurants serving classic Italian dishes and fish from the lake, including the local specialty of fish risotto.



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
Hotel Regina (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE**



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Hike to the hill-top village of Livo

Long-associated with poets, artists, world leaders and, lately, film stars, Lake Como is undoubtedly the most beautiful of all the well-known Italian lakes. The Southern Alps - which are still snow-covered until May - surround the lake which is dotted with small harbours, stately villas and traditional towns. Our first walk takes us high above Lake Como offering fabulous views and a good orientation of the region. We hike from the hotel, through villages and then into a thick forest. Near the village of Livo is a deep cleft in the ground that is the boundary between the African and European tectonic plates. After two-and-a-half hours we reach Livo, located 430 metres above the lake: it feels remote and very different to the lake-side villages. A little on from Livo there is the 15th century church of San Giacomo standing way above the impressive Valle de Livo. After a picnic lunch we descend back through the forest to the hotel via a different route.

Today's 12 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately six hours with a total ascent and descent of 430 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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## DAY 3 - Walk to Sorico via villages, vineyards and meadows

Our walk today is once again direct from our hotel and is a seven kilometre traverse from Gravedona to the village of Sorico, located on the north-west shore of Lake Como with an impressive church. We pass through the pretty town of Domaso and then slowly climb up through meadows, vineyards and chestnut groves to the ancient village of Aurogna. Our views are of the high Alpine peaks that straddle the border between Italy and Switzerland. At Sorico we have a picnic by the lake. We then either take a short bus ride back to the hotel or walk along the newly-constructed path that contours along the lake shore.

Today's seven kilometre walk is expected to take approximately three to four hours at a leisurely pace with an additional one-and-a-half hours if you choose to walk the seven kilometres back to the hotel from

Sorico. Today's total ascent and descent is 210 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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#### **DAY 4 - Ferry to Bellagio; walk from Civenna to Bellagio**

We take the bus south along the lake to Menaggio - a small town with a pretty piazza - from where it's a short ferry ride across to Bellagio on the eastern shore. From the ferry you can see the fabulous lake-side villas that have been host to royalty and world leaders. Bellagio, often described as the 'Pearl of Lake Como', is charming with cobbled lanes, boutiques, cafés and two gardens you can visit. You can either chose to spend the day exploring the town or head up on a bus to Civenna from where we walk on a ridge over-looking the lake back to Bellagio. The route takes us through pretty forests, passing isolated farms and villas with wonderful views of the lake.

Today's nine-and-a-half kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four hours with a total descent of 400 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 5 - Free day to visit Villa Carlotta, Como town or relax at the hotel**

Today has been left free so that you can explore parts of the area that interest you the most. Close to Menaggio is the impressive Villa Carlotta with stately rooms and manicured gardens that are well worth seeing. Como town can be reached by ferry or public bus in 90 minutes: the old town has many churches, piazzas and museums together with lots of shops, cafés and restaurants. There are also boat tours from Menaggio that take you past the many villas along the lake shore.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 6 - Hike to Monti di Nava with views across the lake to Bellagio**

Today is a wonderful walk with outstanding views across the lake to Bellagio. We take the bus to Croce and head up a zig-zag path to the chapel of Madonna della Grazie di Paullo. Further up we reach a mountain pass with panoramic views of the lake. We then descend to the town of Griante and on to Cadenabbia, located on the western shores of Lake Como. Our return to Gravedona skirts along the side of the lake by local bus.

Today's 12 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately six hours with a total ascent and descent of 550 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

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### DAY 7 - Walk from Rezzonico with its 13th century castle to Dongo

For our final walk, we take the 20-minute bus ride to Rezzonico which has flights of cobblestone steps, a beautiful harbour and a 13th century castle. It is one of the few lakeside villages to have maintained its original structure. From here we climb above the lake through vinyards and orchards leading to a succession of pretty hamlets along today's 10 kilometre walk. The trail gently undulates through more villages and farmland with fabulous lake views. Towards the end of the walk, we arrive at the magnificently situated church of St Eufemia. Our destination is Dongo where Mussolini was caught in 1945 whilst trying to escape to Spain. The war museum is well worth the visit. We take the five-minute bus back to Gravedona or you can walk in around one hour.

Today's gently undulating 10 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately five hours.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Regina (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



## DAY 8 - Transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport where trip ends

From Gravedona it is around a one-and-a-half to two hour drive to Milan Malpensa airport where the trip ends at terminal 2.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### 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	Plugs	Religion	Language
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic	Italian

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### 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.

Visit Villa Carlotta near Menaggio (30 minutes away from Gravedona by public bus) - Entrance ticket is €9 or €7 for over 65s. Return bus fare is €6.

Private boat tour from Menaggio of the lake-side villas - €20 for 60-90 minutes. Return bus fare Gravedona/Menaggio is €5 and takes 30 minutes.

Como town - The direct boat from Gravedona to Como Town is €12.60. Return is €25.20. Add another €4.90 each way for the express service (slow takes 2 hours / express 1.30 hours). There is also another

boat ticket that costs €28 and allows you to get on and off ferries when you feel like it (so you could do Gravedona, Menaggio, Bellagio and Como by boat in one day!). The public bus takes 1.45 hours from Gravedona to Como town and costs €7 each way. You have to change bus at Menaggio - there is a 5-7 minute window to change bus.

## Clothing

Take light and comfortable clothing that can be layered according to the temperature. Rainwear (e.g. Gore-Tex jacket and waterproof trousers) may be needed at any time of year, and a warm fleece/jacket is needed for cooler days and evenings, particularly in April and October when it can sometimes get quite chilly in the evening.

## 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 reusable water bottle, sunhat and high factor sunscreen are all essential. A torch is useful in case of power cuts or emergencies and a lunch box/Tupperware for picnic lunches.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

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

## 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	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£5.00 - 10.00	£15.00 - 20.00	£2.00 - 4.00	£1.00 - 2.00



## Foreign Exchange

<b>Local currency</b>	<b>Recommended Currency For Exchange</b>
Euro.	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.

<b>ATM Availability</b>	<b>Credit Card Acceptance</b>
Major towns.	Larger hotels and restaurants.

### Travellers Cheques

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

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## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus, Ferry, Public Bus

### Accommodation notes

Family-run Hotel Regina occupies a prime position on the shore of Lake Como and is just a 10 minute scenic walk from the restaurants and shops of laid-back Gravedona. After a day's walking, it's the perfect place to relax and enjoy the inspiring lake and mountain views from the bedrooms, breakfast room and bar. Or take advantage of the stunning panoramic solar heated swimming pool. All rooms have private attached bathrooms. There's also a small gym, mountain bike rental and free Wi-Fi.

All double occupancy rooms will enjoy a lake view. The price quoted for a guaranteed single room is for a non-lakeview room. Please enquire if you wish to upgrade to a lakeview single room.

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## 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.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://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 complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

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)**

630

## **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.

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## **Walking and Trekking information**

## DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	12km	6hrs
Day 3	7km	4hrs
Day 4	9.5km	4hrs
Day 5		
Day 6	12km	6hrs
Day 7	10km	5hrs

### Walking grade

Easy to moderate

### Trek details

We walk on 5 days with an average of 4 to 5 hours each day. Most of the walking is on well-maintained footpaths between the villages around Lake Como.

### Max walking altitude (m)

630

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### Additional Information



## Why book this trip

This trip is based at the family-run Hotel Regina which occupies a prime position on the shore of Lake Como and is just a 10 minute scenic walk from the restaurants and shops of laid-back Gravedona. After a day's walking, it's the perfect place to relax and enjoy the inspiring lake and mountain views from the bedrooms, breakfast room and bar. Or take advantage of the stunning panoramic solar heated swimming pool. All rooms have private attached bathrooms. There's also a small gym, mountain bike rental and free Wi-Fi.



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**