

ITALY – LAKE MAGGIORE AT STRESA

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking tour with a choice of easy to challenging guided walks daily



Backed by the snow-topped Alps, Lake Maggiore's shimmering blue waters lap the shores of both Italy and Switzerland. Spend a week delighting in this too-good-to-be-true scenery with lakeside walks and strolls around postcard-worthy towns like Cannero and Cannobio. We'll seek out the lakeside gem of Orta San Giulio before winding up in the foothills of Mount Rosa and the spectacular Anzasca Valley.

Cost from: **\$3335** per person (twin share) Single room supplement from \$420

2024 Departures: 27 April, 4, 11 & 18 May, 7, 14, 21 & 28 September, 5 October

Tour includes: 7 nights in a comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathroom, 7 breakfasts, 7 evening meals, experienced walks leader, local transport to/from the walks.

Not Included: Meals and drinks not mentioned, any personal expenses, excursions on your free day, Airport transfers to and from Milan Malpensa can be pre-booked at extra cost - please ask for details when booking.

Accommodation: Grand Hotel Bristol, in the village of Stresa, overlooks Lake Maggiore and the Borromeo Islands. This classic hotel has a bohemian-style interior and beautiful gardens. Hotel facilities include a hot tub, indoor spa area and outdoor seasonal pool. Comfortable ensuite rooms all have air conditioning, an in-room safe, TV, and free Wi-Fi.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



Trip Grading: Moderate walking with some steep ascents over rougher terrain. Easier walks of 8-11km on good paths, with some rocky sections and up to 450m ascent in a day. Harder walks of 11-15km on good paths, with some rocky sections and up 800m ascent in a day.

A typical European centre-based walking holiday offers a choice of up to two guided walks each day. You choose the walk that best suits your ability and fitness. Walks leaders make the final decision on which routes are offered; each evening they will brief you about the walks for the next day and answer questions you may have.

Suggested itinerary (Routes are determined by the walk leaders each day and are subject to change):

Day 1 Arrival day: Plan to arrive at the hotel in Stresa mid-afternoon.

Day 2 Belgirate to Stresa: Known locally as the chestnut route, we start in a small lakeside village south of Stresa. We take a boat trip across the lake to Belgirate then follow old mule trails, passing churches, small hamlets, and the gardens of Villa Pallavicino on our way back to Stresa.

Day 3 Suna to Cavandone or Lake Mergozzo: Today we follow an ancient trail passing a chestnut wood and medieval tower, then climb further for impressive views of Lake Maggiore. At Cardavone, we'll see a 400-year-old yew tree. Option to head to Verbania and walk through woods and meadows to Mergozzo then take the Sentiero Azzuro (Blue Path), pausing at Montorfano for views of Lake Maggiore and the Toce River.

Day 4 Cannero to Cannobio: Following the lakeside, we climb gently through citrus groves to Carmine Superiore, a castle-like village carved out of the rock. We visit the church before continuing to the tiny hamlet of Molineggi and the lakeside town of Cannobio. Or take the longer route along mule tracks and country roads to Viggiona and explore lanes with coloured houses and take in spellbinding views of the lake.

Day 5 Free day: No walks are planned for today. Relax by the hotel pool and have lunch in Stresa's lively square, take the train to Milan, or jump on a boat to visit the Borromean Islands. Perhaps even take a boat to Switzerland for the day then catch the train back.

Day 6 Lake Orta: We walk from Armeno through farms and meadows, cross a Roman bridge, then head down through parkland to Vacciago, once a rich retreat away from the lake. We descend to Legro and the lake with plenty of time to explore. Option to ascend to the Franciscan convent at Monte Mesma for a view over Lake Orta then circle the peak before descending to Orta San Giulio.

Day 7 Anzasca Valley: From the village of Piedimulera, which sits at the mouth of the Anzasca Valley looked over by Torre Ferreiro, we follow the course of the Anza River. Passing chestnut woods, fruit trees, and old watercourses, we'll see ancient settlements and traces of old trades. We'll finish in the hamlet of Castiglione before heading to the Walser village of Macunaga.

Day 8 Departure day: Tour ends after breakfast (set transfer to Milan Malpensa Airport available at extra cost).

Outdoor Travel offer guided centre-based or self-guided inn-to-inn walking holidays in many other areas of Italy including the **Cinque Terre, Tuscany, Umbria, and Amalfi Coast**, as well as other parts of Europe. **Outdoor Travel** also offer great pilgrimage routes such as the **Way of St James** or Camino de Santiago from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain or the pilgrims' road to Rome, the **Via Francigena** in Italy.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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