

# Italian Lakes & Swiss Mountains

## 10 DAYS

A scenic, nature-inspired journey delivering the best of Italy and Switzerland's stunning lakes, intimate lakeside villages and beautiful mountains. Experience the crystal-clear waters of glacial lakes framed by green mountains and snowcapped peaks that have lured the elite over the last millennia. This unique tour covers 6 panoramic lakes and their villages, from Italy's Lake Como, Lake Orta and Lake Iseo; Switzerland's Lake St Moritz and Lake Lugano; and beautiful Lake Maggiore from the shores of both Italy and Switzerland. With deluxe transport including by train on the iconic Bernina Express and boasting the finest 5-star lakeside hotels, a comfortable, special and relaxing experience is assured.



# Ormina Highlights & Inclusions

- > Visit Italy and Switzerland's 'must see' lakes, lakeside villages and Alpine peaks.
- > 9 nights in exquisite 5-star hotels.
- > 9 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L),
- > Guided sightseeing in Lake Como, St Moritz, Lugano, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta.
- > Lunch and wine tasting in Franciacorta.
- > Lake Como private cruise with access to Villa del Balbianello.
- > Train journey on the iconic Bernina Express.
- > Iconic cogwheel train to Lugano's Monte Generoso for lunch, served with spectacular views.
- > Visit 6 panoramic lakes of Iseo, Como, St Moritz, Lugano, Maggiore and Orta.
- > Visit beautiful lakeside towns including Bellagio, Menaggio, Ascona, Stresa and Orta San Giulio
- > Entrance to Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello and Palais Borromée.
- > Deluxe VIP transport and boat excursions on Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Orta.
- > Arrival and departure transfers on first and last day.
- > Note: hotel city taxes, if applicable, are not included.









#### DAY 1 Milan

Welcome to Milan for the start of an unforgettable adventure covering Italy and Switzerland's beautiful lakes and mountains. On arrival, transfer to your centrally located hotel to freshen up, before enjoying the rest of the day at leisure.

OVERNIGHT: Sina The Gray 5-star or similar

#### DAY 2 Milan - Franciacorta - Lake Iseo -Lake Como (B. L)

Visit the Franciacorta region, characterised by rolling hills and perfect soil for the cultivation of grapes. Enjoy a tasting of the area's most famous export, Franciacorta sparkling wine, followed by a light lunch. Afterward, enjoy leisure time in Lake Iseo to perhaps cruise the crystal-clear waters of Lake Iseo, surrounded by lush green mountains with time to stroll the Lake's stunning Island. Monte Isola is the largest lake island in Italy and with a peak of 600 metres above sea level, is one of the highest in Europe. Afterward, continue to Lake Como for an evening at leisure in your amazing hotel.

STAY 3 NIGHTS: Grand Hotel Victoria Concept & Spa 5-star



#### DAY 3 Lake Como (B. L)

Explore magnificent Lake Como, a popular retreat for aristocrats and the wealthy since Roman times. The Lake is of glacial origin and has been voted one of the 20 most beautiful lakes in the world. Your full day guided excursion commences with a visit to Villa Carlotta. The Villa boasts luxurious interiors and an exquisite 17-acre garden decorated with sculptures, stairs, fountains and over 500 species of plants. Afterward, ferry to Bellagio, the famous village located on a beautiful promontory with cute shops and cobbled alleyways for a walking tour and lunch at a lake-side restaurant. Afterward, enjoy a private cruise on Lake Como with access to Villa del Balbianello before returning to your hotel.



Private afternoon cruise on Lake Como with access to Villa del Balbianello, featured in the James Bond film Casino Royale.

#### DAY 4 Lake Como (B)

Enjoy the entire day at your leisure. Options may include a visit to Como, lunch at the exclusive Villa d'Este in Cernobbio, a visit to the village of Varenna or relax and enjoy the wonderful facilities at your 5-star lakeside hotel.

#### DAY 5 Lake Como – Tirano – St Moritz – Lugano (B)

Depart for a train ride aboard the iconic Bernina Express. The stunning journey twists, turns and loops through incredible landscapes and across amazing bridges, following the historic Rhaetian Railway which is UNESCO World Heritage Listed. On arrival in St Moritz, enjoy a guided tour of this Alpine resort that stands at a crisp 5,910 feet above sea level. Afterward, have time for lunch and to browse St Moritz's cute shops, before departing to your Lugano hotel with a stunning view.

STAY 3 NIGHTS: Hotel Splendide Royal Lugano 5-star or similar



Enjoy a train ride on the iconic Bernina Express with magnificent panoramas of both Italy and Switzerland.

#### DAY 6 Lugano (B)

The entire day is yours to explore this beautiful Italian speaking Swiss town. Stroll the pedestrian streets and piazzas littered with designer stores; people watch in Piazza della Riforma ringed with pastel coloured, neo classical palazzi; or stroll Lake Lugano's scenic promenade.

#### DAY 7 Lugano (B, L)

Enjoy an escorted excursion by train including its 1890 cogwheel railway up the 1,701-metre-high Monte Generoso for breathtaking panoramic views of the Lakes, the city of Lugano, the Matterhorn and Jungfrau. After absorbing the mountain and lake scenery, enjoy a wonderful lunch in the clouds at the Monte Generoso restaurant before returning to Lugano.



Enjoy an excursion up Lake Lugano's Monte Generoso for breathtaking panoramic views and lunch in the clouds at its amazing mountain restaurant.

### DAY 8 Lugano - Bellinzona - Ascona - Stresa (B)

Our Swiss discovery continues with a quick stop in Bellinzona to view the outside of its UNESCO World Heritage Listed Castles. The Castles of Bellinzona are a set of three medieval fortifications and the only remaining examples of heavy military architecture dating from the late Middle Ages. The castles guarded the town and the nearby strategic alpine passes. Continue to the quaint neighbouring villages of Locarno and Ascona on the Swiss shores of Lake Maggiore. Enjoy time for an independent lunch at one of its many lakeside cafés before crossing back to Italy along a panoramic route. On arrival, experience Lake Maggiore from a different perspective with a relaxing evening at leisure.

STAY 2 NIGHTS: Grand Hotel des Iles Borromees 5-star or similar

#### DAY 9 Stresa – Isola Bella – Stresa (B)

Enjoy a morning guided tour Lake Maggiore and Stresa. The tour includes the ferry to Isola Bella, one of the Borromean Islands for a visit to the fishing village and the beautiful Palazzo Palais Borromée with its Italianate Gardens. Afterward, return to Stresa for an afternoon at leisure

### Departures and Pricing

2024			2025		
STARTS	ENDS	PRICE*	STARTS	ENDS	PRICE*
Milan	Milan	Twin Share per person	Milan	Milan	Twin Share per person
5-May-24	14-May-24	\$9,990	4-May-25	13-May-25	\$10,490
2-Jun-24	11-Jun-24	\$9,990	1-Jun-25	10-Jun-25	\$10,490
7-Jul-24	16-Jul-24	\$9,990	6-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	\$10,490
1-Sep-24	10-Sep-24	\$9,990	31-Aug-25	9-Sep-25	\$10,490
29-Sep-24	8-Oct-24	\$9,990	28-Sep-25	7-Oct-25	\$10,490
Sir	ngle Supplement	\$5,200	Sir	ngle Supplement	\$5,200

#### DAY 10 Stresa – Lake Orta – Milan (B. L)

Visit Lake Orta which features the beautiful Island, Isola San Giulio and many lakeside villages. Enjoy an escorted visit the villages of Omegna and Orta San Giulio and Isola San Giulio before celebrating with a memorable closing lunch. Afterward, if not extending your stay with us on our back-to-back small group journey through Piedmont or a post-tour extension, transfer to a Milan airport or Milan centre.





#### **GRAND HOTEL VICTORIA CONCEPT & SPA**

I AKE COMO



#### STAY 3 NIGHTS

- > A completely renovated late 19th century liberty masterpiece, enriched with beautiful gardens and breath-taking views.
- > A 5-star luxury property boasting restaurants with panoramic lake views, two bars, heated outdoor pool and wellness area.





# Extend your stay

OUR MOST POPULAR TOUR EXTENSIONS

#### PRE-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Milan City Break (4 Days)

> Visit the main sites in Milan with a private guide including admission to the Milan Cathedral with rooftop access, Brera Picture Gallery and Leonardo da Vinci's Vineyard.

Priced from \$2,540 pp. Explore more on page 63, tailored to exclude Lake Como.

#### Venice City Break (4 Days)

- > Explore Venice as a pre-tour tailored itinerary with a private car or train transfer to Milan.
- > Visit the main sites including Piazza San Marco, Saint Mark's Basilica, Doge's Palace, Rialto Bridge and Grand Canal; take a day trip to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello; and experience an iconic gondola ride.

Priced from \$3,599 pp. Explore more on page 62.

#### **POST-TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS**



Small Group Journey (7 Days)

- > Extend post-tour into the Piedmont region, famed for its award-winning Barolo and Barbaresco wines and the world's best truffles... a foodie's paradise.
- > Activities include truffle hunting with dogs, wine tasting with a master sommelier, lunch at a Barolo winery, cooking class and guided tours of Turin and Alba.

Priced from \$5,590 pp. Explore more on page 35.

#### **Emilia-Romagna** Regional Discovery (6 Days)

- > Continue your gastronomy adventure into Emilia-Romagna to visit producers of Italy's most important foods such as prosciutto, Modena balsamic vinegar and Parmesan cheese. Also visit Antica Corte Pallavicina for a Michelin star lunch.
- > The region also boasts the medieval towns of Bologna and Ravenna that played significant roles in Italy's history.

Priced from \$5,245 pp. Explore more on page 67.