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## *Northern Lakes and Liguria*

**This is a sample itinerary.**

**All itineraries are customized to your Travel Dreams & wishes**



### **Day 1 – Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore - Departure from Milan**

Departure at 08.30 am from NH Touring in Milan to Lake Orta, a small and charming lake situated in the north- eastern side of the region Piedmont. Stop in the beautiful village of Orta san Giulio for a short visit. Then, tour by boat to reach the island of san Giulio, just in front of the village: it is the pearl of the lake, almost entirely

occupied by the monastery *mater ecclesiae*, famous for studies on antique books. After a short visit, ferry back to Orta and departure by bus to Stresa, on Lake Maggiore, one of the largest Italian ones. Wedged between the pre-Alps, and of clear glacial origin, it is framed in its lower section by the soft hills of the region of Novara, and in the upper section, by high mountain peaks, some of which with perpetual snow. These features make possible an average temperature during all seasons, milder in winter than in the inner areas and cooled down in summer by the breezes that blow on the water's surface changing its color. Due to its mild climate, many species of flowers and plants typical to the sub-tropical climate could adapt to the lake areas climate. Arrival in Stresa, an international tourist resort situated in a central but also panoramic and picturesque position along the lakeside roadway, stands just in front of the 'Borromee' islands. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, tour of the Pescatori Island (Fishermen Island) by boat. The island, was named after the main activity which over the centuries has characterized this fishermen town. Although only few families still maintain the original activity, the identity of the small community appears intact.

Tourists are fascinated by its simple houses, the narrow lanes, the stone portals and the attractive underpasses. We will continue to the Bella Island, where we may visit the Borromeo Palace with its magnificent gardens.

Return to Stresa (free time, lunch not included).

At the end of the visit departure to Como. Overnight stay the hotel.

### **Day 2 – Lake Como and Bergamo**



Breakfast at the hotel. Short visit of Como. An amazing small province rich of atmospheres, panoramas, and human takeovers. In little kilometers you can admire the high mountain over the lake, the wild alpine valley and the industrialized *brianzola* area, the city area of Como and the villages of little houses. Lake Como has been famous for its setting at the intersection of the three branches of the y-shaped lake, and it is also known as Lario. Board the boat we reach Bellagio, situated at the tip of the peninsula separating the lake's two

southern arms, with the Alps visible across the lake to the north. Divided in three branches, is situated on the most renowned beach on the Italian landscape. It is a picturesque village with small streets, luxury hotels and villas and gardens. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon, departure by boat to Varenna.

Panoramic tour and departure to Bergamo. City characterized by a division of the urban structure on two levels, the “Lower Town” (Città Bassa), modern and dynamic and the famous “Upper Town” (Città Alta), a truly historic and artistic jewel.

After a short walking tour inside the city center, departure to Brescia.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

### Day 3 – Lake Garda



Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to the Lake Garda, the largest Italian one. Panoramic tour on the west coast. Lake Garda offers the visitor a splendid natural scenery, full of colors, surrounded by the dolomites of Brenta in the north and the gentle slopes of the hills in the south. A rich vegetation flourishes thanks to the Mediterranean climate: lemon trees, oleanders, magnolias and bougainville. The cultivation of vineyards and olive groves produces good wines and olive oil.

Arrival in Sirmione where the lake offers its best panorama, really sunny with the blue of its waters and the green of its trees. Boat tour to have a nice view of the Sirmione Cape, the castle and the Catullus’ ruins. Departure to Riva del Garda on the north side of the lake. Its historic

center shows the signs of the Venetian domain. Free time for lunch and then outgoing to Verona. Overnight stay at the hotel.

#### **Day 4 – Verona and Genoa**



Breakfast at the hotel and visit of famous city Verona.

It is a work of art in itself: a fascinating crossroads of historical periods and cultures (both Classical and Germanic), a blend of both Nordic and "Mediterranean" influences; the city is at the same time both ancient and modern. A walk through its narrow streets allows us to get in touch with its varied and fascinating past: traces of its splendid roman origins, its prevailing medieval structure dating back to the

time of knights and castles, its magnificent Renaissance palaces as well as the impressive fortifications which protect it. A suggestive blend of art and history which continuously fascinates the

Onlooker. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon departure for Genoa. Seaport, one of the largest of the South Europe, the first in Italy; 6th city of the country, this town has an important history, as a Maritime Republic. Its historical center has grown around the dock, is full of narrow and characteristic streets and has a medieval origin. Visit of the modern zone of "Ancient Port", restored for the 500 years of America discovery by Cristopher Columbus. Here we find the Aquarium, the biggest in Europe. Optional visit. Accommodation in hotel, overnight.

#### **Day 5 – Genoa and Sanremo**



Breakfast at the hotel and outgoing to Sanremo. Sanremo, defined as the city of flowers and sun, is known all over the world for the Italian Song Festival. Its economy is based on flower farming and tourism. This little town of Riviera of Ponente (West Riviera), offer many possibilities of entertainment like beaches and promenades. Its famous Casino is situated on the top of the most elegant street of the town, where you can find shops of clothes and many others. Free time for lunch. In the

afternoon return to Genoa along the Riviera of Ponente and passing through characteristic villages. Overnight in the hotel.

### **Day 6 – Portovenere and Cinque Terre**



Breakfast at the hotel and departure to Portovenere, a fishermen village located at the end of La Spezia Gulf. Visit. Ferry to Cinque Terre (if the atmospheric conditions do not permit the boarding, the visit will be done with a panoramic itinerary in minibus.) Heritage of the UNESCO, these 5 fishermen villages, symbolize a group unique in the World for its beautiful landscape and the medieval style of their buildings. Free time for lunch. In the afternoon coming back to Genoa. Overnight in the hotel.

### **Day 7 – Camogli, Portofino, St. Margherita Ligure and Milan**



Breakfast at hotel and departure to Camogli. Famous tourist center, offers one of the most suggestive example of architecture of Liguria coast. Visit. Then, road to Portofino.

Around a little square, you can have a nice view of a group of high, colored and picturesque houses. In the small port, during the high season, you can see expensive yachts from every part of the world. Visit. Finally, stop in Santa Margherita, famous seaside city of Riviera of Levante, located in the Tigullio Gulf and free time for lunch. In

the afternoon, return to Milan.