



Women's Travel Group
Italian Lakes with Basel & Lake Maggiore
July 10 – 17 2023
Ask for a share to save \$. A share is sharing 'real estate'.

Depart US/Canada on July 9 arrive in Basel Switzerland July 10, or disembark from our AMA Waterways Rhine Cruise.



Day 01 Monday July 10 Basel: Disembark in Basel or arrive at Basel airport. Spend the day in Basel to discover this pretty town. The cultural diversity paired with buildings steeped in history make Basel a unique highlight. Your local guide will introduce you to the old town the Basler Altstadt, the old town, which is one of the most intact and most beautiful in Europe. You'll be surprised by the unique architectural diversity. Buildings from the 15th century can be found on every corner, together with those made by internationally renowned contemporary architects. Early afternoon check in into your hotel, afternoon at leisure. Dinner at local

restaurant. (Breakfast on board ship or plane, Dinner)

Day 02 Tuesday July 11 Locarno Lake Maggiore: After breakfast at the Hotel, check out, board our private coach and transfer to Lake Maggiore. We will make a nice stop along the way in Locarno the warmest town in Switzerland. Southern plants such as palm trees or lemon trees flourish in Locarno and give the city its special charm. The heart of the city is the Piazza Grande, well-known for its annual film festival.

Enjoy time at leisure. Later we cross the borders among spectacular lakes and mountains towards Italy, after a nice drive along the coastal road of Lake Maggiore, and scenic mountain drive we reach our Hotel at Lake Maggiore in the afternoon. Dinner at the Hotel tonight (Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 03 – Wednesday July 12 Lake Maggiore – Breakfast at hotel. After breakfast depart with your tour director to explore this amazing lake. Enjoy a cruise to the Borromean Islands. We will stop at Isola Bella and visit the 17th century Borromean Palace with its splendid paintings and its botanical gardens filled with exotic plants. Later you will reach Isola

Pescatori, the first island to be inhabited and now more than ever, with its narrow, winding streets, one of the most romantic places on the lake. Enjoy lunch at a nice local restaurant



discovering the tasty dishes of the Lake and have some free time to explore on own. Return to Baveno or Stresa, rest of the day at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 04 – Thursday July 13 Milan: Breakfast at the hotel today we visit Milan on a day trip. Meet the local guide and visit the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie to take in Leonardo da Vinci's mural The Last Supper (schedule permitting), which he painted on the refectory wall at the request of his patron, Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan. You will also admire the magnificent Castello Sforzesco; continue for a walking tour to admire the Duomo the great Cathedral of Milan (internal visit), a striking example of Gothic architecture. The nearby La Scala opera house and the impressive Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, the world's first Mall, and other landmark points of interest. Today lunch in Milan at local restaurant for the most typical dish the Risotto Milanese. Afternoon at disposal to discover Milan city center and the best fashion stores of all Italy, if not the world. Back to Lake Maggiore evening at leisure. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 05 – Friday July 14 Lake Como: Breakfast at the hotel. Departure with our tour manager to discover Lake Como a jewel-like oasis of tranquility and a magical combination of lush Mediterranean Foliage & snowy alpine peaks. Its captivating landscape and villa gardens inspired many 19th century Romantic poets and artists, and continues to draw visitors from around the world. After your cruise on the lake visit the charming Bellagio. On the southern shore, Bellagio, also called by locals "la perla del lago" (the pearl of the lake), is considered the most beautiful town in Europe. Stroll through its narrow cobbled streets and enjoy the breathtaking views of the impeccable homes and glorious villas that surround the lake. Lunch at local restaurant in Bellagio. (Breakfast, Lunch)



Day 06 – Saturday July 15 Bergamo: Breakfast at the Hotel. Today depart by coach to explore Bergamo the hidden gem of Lombardy, an Italian destination often missed or forgotten in favor of its more famous neighbor Milan. Bergamo means medieval architecture, local cuisine, an authentic Italian town a little off the beaten path characterized by its Venetian Walls, cobbled lanes, and welcoming ambience. Enjoy a guided tour on arrival followed by lunch at local restaurant in town to taste the tasty local dishes. Rest of the day to explore on own. Return to Lake Maggiore for evening at leisure (Breakfast, Lunch) Note: Bergamo is a 2 hour drive. It is worth the drive and we stop along the way. (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 07 – Sunday July 16 Arona / Wine Tour / Lake Orta: Breakfast is at hotel. Morning departure for a full day excursion with your tour leader to Arona and Lake Orta. With a little boat tour discover Lake Orta the smallest Italian lake, to visit the small town of Orta, an old picturesque village with building of artistic and historic interest and the pretty island San Giulio. Continue to discover the variety of scenery surrounding Lake Maggiore through a changing landscape of woods, gentle hills and old villages to reach the wine growing region. Vines have been cultivated in this pleasant area, between the rivers Ticino and Sesia, ever since ancient times and have had a recent upsurge in their fame due to the D.O.C. wines now produced in the region. You will also stop at a local winery to taste the wine produced locally, the regional food and enjoy the atmosphere and the warm hospitality. Before returning to your Hotel you will have the chance to visit Arona and its famous colossal statue of Saint Charles Borromeo (Breakfast, Lunch)

Day 08 – Monday July 17 Italy / U.S.A.: Breakfast is at the hotel. Check out at your hotel and transfer to airport; Milan MXP Airport If you can only transfer via LIN Milan Airport, please contact us. *Arrivederci Italia!!* (Breakfast) See transfer timing below.

Deposit: \$600

Shared twin room: \$3999

Single supplement: \$975

Included features:

- 1 night accommodation in Basel Hotel Kraft 4* or similar;
- 6 nights accommodation at Lake Maggiore at 4* Zacchera Hotels group (Stresa or Baveno – Hotel name one-week prior arrival); taxes and service charges are included.
- Buffet Breakfasts daily, 5 Lunches and 2 dinners with bottled water and a glass of wine
- English-speaking tour manager throughout the tour
- Deluxe touring coach for all transfers, tours, excursions
- Transfer from ship to hotel; optional transfers available from airport to hotel. One group departure transfer from Milan MXP will leave early to accommodate flights from 10:30AM onwards.
- One group transfer on departure for flights leaving no earlier than 10:30AM
- Guided tours: Isola Bella, Milan, Bergamo
- Entrance fees: Isola Bella, Last Supper, Milan Cathedral
- Boat cruises Lake Maggiore, lake Orta and Lake Como
- Headphones on guided tours (12 pax and over)
- Baggage handling at hotels, one piece per person
- All local taxes and service charges. City tax
- Water in the coach during the tour

Price doesn't include:

- Tips : We suggest \$100 for the tour escort, \$75 for the driver and \$5 for individual step on guides if you wish to tip them.
- Travel Insurance
- Airfare, ask us to help you with airfare
- Personal items like laundry and optional drinks
- This trip is priced on a minimum of 10 going.
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Photos are from Italy Tourism, Lake Como Tourism, Bergamo Tourism and other official government sites