

MOUNTAIN



LINK

ITALY: LAKE COMO



Day 01 Depart United States.

Day 02 Arrive in Milan. A Mountain Link guide meets you outside of the customs area at the Malpensa airport in Milan. The group is transported via private transportation to Lake Como. The rest of the day is spent relaxing, and admiring the spectacular scenery of Lake Como. Dinner at Pizzeria Lugano. (B, L, D)

Day 03 Warm-up hikes. We begin with a nice walk to San Martino, a small church up in the hills overlooking Menaggio, where we have a picnic lunch, and relax in the shade, while awaiting our walk to the gardens of Villa Carlotta. In the villa, we experience wonderful architecture, artwork, the magnificent countryside and gardens. After Villa Carlotta, you are free to explore the small villages near Menaggio. (B, L, D)

Day 04 Trek to Rifugio Menaggio. We leave Menaggio around 10 AM, walk to the trocoltura (trout farm) for lunch. After lunch we hike to the Rifugio Menaggio. Once we arrive at the Rifugio, there is an optional walk to the summit of Mount Grona (approximately 1 hour, very strenuous). Dinner is served around 7-8 PM. It is possible to shower, for an extra cost of 5.000 lire. House wine is served with the meal, however there is also an extensive list of local wines. (B, L, D)

Day 05 Trek to Cusino. Departing fairly early in the morning, we make our way around Mount Grona, stopping at Alpe Nesdale, an alpine cheese factory, where we are able to sample fresh cheeses, and milk. From here, we continue to Cusino, and stay at the Hotel Laconda Maria, where there are showers, great beds, and wonderful food. (B, L, D)

Day 06 Trek to Cavargna. Early start, 7 AM. Today is the longest section of the hike, approximately 8 hours. Accommodations are at Hotel Franca. (B, L, D)

Day 07 Trek to the Swiss border. Depart around 9:30 AM; it is a nice walk of about 2 hours. We spend most of the day kicking around on the Italian/Swiss border (in the mountains of course) then return to Cavargna for a tour of the alpine museum, followed by another wonderful meal and good sleep at the Hotel Franca. (B, L, D)

Day 08 Trek to Dasio. Depart around 8 AM, for about a 6-hour trip. From Dasio we catch a bus back to Menaggio. (B, L, D)



- Day 09** **Wine and cheese tasting.** This is the most exciting part of the trip. An Italian sommelier shares with us wines and cheeses produced locally in Val Tellinna. We spend the afternoon sampling some of northern Italy's best wines and cheeses. Our private sommelier accompanies us to a small restaurant where regional cuisine and lake fish are the specialties. (B, L, D)
- Day 10** **Explore Lake Como.** Today, we take the ferry to 3 different villages, Varenna, Bellaggio, and Cadenabbia, where you have the chance to shop, and relax. (B, L, D)
- Day 11** **Departure.** The group travels back to Milan for outbound United States flights. (No meals included)

**Itinerary subject to change.*

***B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner: Initials note where meals are included.*