HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH



Duration
8 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land

Italy's Magnificent Lake District

April 13-21, 2027

Starting from $5,145/pp

Discover Italy's dreamy lake district, where glacial waters are cradled by jade knolls and the craggy slopes of Alpine foothills. Based in Stresa on Lake Maggiore, spend sun-soaked days exploring the islands and idyllic lakeside towns where poets and writers found inspiration. Enjoy special cruises on l akes Maggiore, Como and Orta. Visit the Borromean Islands, feast your eyes on Leonardo's "The Last Supper," and learn culinary secrets during a cooking lesson. From romantic Isola San Giulio to charming Bellagio and chic Milan to elaborate villas, this is a tour of northern Italy's stunning beauty.





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Italy's Magnificent Lake District

Air Program: 9 days/8 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 8 days/7 nights

Breakfasts: 7 | Lunches: 1 | Dinners: 4

B | L | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

- This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.
- A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.
- Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour

Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours

Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

- Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Milan, Italy. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: MXP.

Day 2 | Stresa, Italy

Hotel La Palma

D

Arrive at Milan Malpensa Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you.

Transfer and check in to the Hotel La Palma. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 | Lake Orta

Hotel La Palma

B

Enjoy a full American-style breakfast buffet each morning.

Enrichment: The Development of the Lake District. Learn about Italy's beautiful Lake District, a haven of Alpine peaks, gardens and lakes.

Lake Orta. Enjoy a scenic drive to the lovely resort town of Orta San Giulio, located on a peninsula that juts into Lake Orta. During a walking tour of this small Italian town, see the central piazza, and absorb the charms of idyllic lakeside life. Then board a boat to visit Isola San Giulio, the enchanted island in the lake. Appreciate the beauty of the island's ancient Romanesque basilica that flaunts medieval frescoes,

an 11th-century great bell tower and polychrome wooden sculptures. An immense fossilized vertebra hangs in the sacristy. Legends claim that the vertebra is from one of the island's dreadful dragons that bullied the area before being slayed by San Giulio. (Moderate)

Free Time: Enjoy free time in Orta San Giulio for lunch and make your own discoveries. Drink in the lake's stillness from a lakeside bench or admire views from the Chiesa dell' Assunta, a coral-hued parish church perched on a small hill.

Return to Stresa for an evening at leisure.

Day 4 | Milan

Hotel La Palma

B | D

A Cultural Visit to Milan. Travel to Milan, Italy's economic powerhouse, whose wealth of cultural heritage is lavished on superb architecture, splendid art, and prestigious museums. Take a memorable trip to the beautiful Renaissance Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo's magnificent "The Last Supper." This powerful painting is hailed as one of the greatest in the world, and it took da Vinci two years to complete. He used models he found on the streets of Milan for his depictions of Christ and his followers. Continue to the museum at the legendary La Scala, Italy's opulent, premier opera house. Enter the flamboyant 14th-century Duomo, a Gothic masterpiece defended by 2,244 marble saints and nearly 100 scowling gargoyles. The Duomo's impressive interior houses Europe's largest sundial, a brass strip decorated with signs of the zodiac embedded in its floor, and the treasury, which houses some of the Duomo's prized possession. (Moderate)

Free Time: Spend time at leisure having lunch and getting to know cosmopolitan Milan. You may wish to explore Milan's legendary fashion scene while walking along the streets of Quadrilatero d'Oro, one of the world's most iconic fashion districts.

Return to Stresa, where a group dinner will be held this evening.

Day 5 | Stresa | Borromean Islands

Hotel La Palma

B

Enrichment: The Gardens of Lake Maggiore. Immerse yourself in history as a local expert shares a narration of Lake Maggiore. Learn about the powerful Borromeo family and how they transformed the tranquil islands — that now are named after them — into splendid retreats featuring palaces and landscaped gardens.

Free Time: Head out to enjoy Stresa and lunch on your own during time at leisure this morning.

Enrichment: Golden Age of the Renaissance. Delve into the true genius of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci and trace their profound influences on sculpture and painting.

Borromean Islands. Located in the turquoise waters of Lake Maggiore, the Borromean Islands are named after the family who acquired them in the 14th century and still own two of them, Isola Madre and Isola Bella, today. This island group consists of three lovely islands, each one different from its neighbors. Begin your outing with a cruise on Lake Maggiore aboard a private motorboat to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands. Enjoy a guided visit of the island's extensive botanical gardens. The impressive English-style gardens are lush and filled with exotic flowers, rare plants, and ancient trees. You may also spot some of the delightful peacocks, parrots, and pheasants that make their home on the island. Then, embrace the rustic charm of the peaceful fishing village of Isola dei Pescatori. Stroll its narrow streets lined by the quaint houses of the fishermen and families who call this island home. Finally, enjoy a special, private visit to Isola Bella, the "Beautiful Island," extolled by writers over the centuries. Explore its 17th-century baroque palace and summerhouse that is home to a mosaic grotto and an astounding collection of art and antiques. Cap off the excursion with a lovely reception in the island's hanging gardens. (Moderate) Bellagio. Enjoy a boat ride to Bellagio on Lake Como. Often thought of as the most beautiful town in Italy, Bellagio flaunts a promenade lined with lime trees and oleanders, a quaint city center of cobblestone streets and picturesque alleyways, and charming buildings painted in shades of cream, peach and butterscotch. Poets and writers from every part of the world have visited and found inspiration in Bellagio including Pliny the younger, Longfellow, Mark Twain, Shelley, Stendhal, Flaubert, Faure, Liszt and Toscanini. Explore this enchanting little village, and stroll by 18th- and 19th-century villas built by the region's noble families. (Moderate)

Day 6 | Stresa

Hotel La Palma

B | D

Free Time: There are endless opportunities to pursue your own interests during a day at leisure. Your Travel Director will be able to offer suggestions on sightseeing, restaurants and more.

Rejoin the group in the evening for dinner together at a local restaurant in Stresa.

Day 7 | Bellagio | Como

Hotel La Palma

B

Bellagio. Travel to Como this morning for a cruise across its eponymous lake to Bellagio. Take a short walking tour before exploring on your own. (Moderate)

Free Time: Discover Bellagio on your own during some free time to explore and have lunch. Take a romantic stroll along the waterfront, pause for a treat at a requisite gelato stand, or duck inside a wonderful artisan bakery.

Cruising Lake Como. Journey across the lake aboard a private boat from Bellagio to Como, one of the most romantic ways to experience this region. Glide on deep-blue water, gloriously bathed with rays of golden sunlight, and delight in views of the opulent villas and colorful villages nestled along Lake Como's shores. Vistas of stunning gardens, hidden waterfalls and cypress groves will captivate your senses, while the majestic Alps stand sentry in the background. Your spectacular, poetic boat ride is sure to be among your trip's most treasured memories. Upon arrival in Como, a historic town situated on the shores of the lake of the same name, and join your group for a short walking tour, beginning at Piazza Cavour.

Dinner is at leisure this evening. Share in the day's experiences with friends while savoring a delicious meal.

Day 8 | Milan

Hotel La Palma

B | L | D

Enrichment: Contemporary Italy. Enjoy an engaging discussion of Italy's current economy, politics, society and role in the European Union.Day 5 | Bellagio | Como

Enrichment: Golden Age of the Renaissance. Delve into the true genius of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci and trace their profound influences on sculpture and painting.

Flavors of Italy. Learn the secrets of northern Italian cuisine during an interactive cooking lesson from a local family at their restaurant. Then sit down with your fellow travelers to delight in conversation and a delicious lunch overlooking Lake Maggiore. (Moderate)

Free Time: The afternoon is free for you to craft your own adventures in Stresa. Soak up a sun by the harbor or settle in at a local café for a light snack or cocktail.

This evening, attend a special Farewell Reception and Farewell Dinner. Raise a toast to your Italian sojourn!

Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, bid farewell to the Italy's Lake District. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Milan Malpensa Airport for your return flights home.





What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 7 nights in Stresa, Italy, at the first-class Hotel La Palma.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine at dinner.

On-site Features

- Engaging excursions showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time and Electives to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

Hotel La Palma

Nestled on the shores of Lake Maggiore, the Hotel La Palma is ideally located in the heart of Stresa. It boasts a restaurant serving the specialties of the Piedmont region, a rooftop lounge where you can relax with your fellow travelers while enjoying stunning views of the lake and a spa o ering numerous relaxing and rejuvenating treatments. Guest rooms are tastefully appointed and o er a full range of modern amenities.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

$250 Full Payment Discount expires November 14, 2026

Category/Deck	Base Price	Full Payment Discount*	Special Price
LV-Lake View (WAIT LIST)	$5,545	**-$250**	$5,295
VV-Village View	$5,145	**-$250**	$4,895

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; US government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. To view Program Terms and Conditions, close this window and scroll to the bottom of the page.

** Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


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San Gimignano
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Tuscany
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