

ITALY'S

MAGNIFICENT LAKE DISTRICT

An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience



Discover the beauty and magic of Italy's Lake District. A region where Italy kisses Switzerland, each turquoise lake has its own unique character, reflected in the charming towns, majestic Renaissance villas and lush gardens that adorn their shores. Witness the baroque splendor of the Borromean Islands, and see the 18th- and 19th-century villas of Bellagio, built by the town's noble families. Visit the cosmopolitan city of Milan, the cultural and economic hub of Italy. Embrace it all in Italy's Magnificent Lake District.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Stunning **lake-view accommodations** on **Lake Maggiore** with views of the famed **Borromean Islands** for **seven nights**.
- Explore the towns along Lake Maggiore, including the charming port of **Intra**, picturesque **Pallanza**, and **Stresa**, with its belle époque villas.
- Cruise the **great lakes of Italy—Maggiore and Como**—by private boat.
- Discover the vibrant city of **Milan**, Italy's economic hub and one of the great fashion capitals of the world.
- Visit historic, baroque villas and exotic gardens while exploring the beautiful **Borromean Islands**: Isola Madre, Isola dei Pescatori and Isola Bella.
- Stroll through some of Lake Como's most charming cities and villages, stopping in **Tremezzo**, **Bellagio** and **Como** during your exclusive boat tour.
- Explore **Lake Orta**, perched in the mountains, and its legendary island of **San Giulio**.

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- **Seven nights** in **Stresa** at the First-Class **Hotel la Palma**.

Activities and Events

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by **local experts**, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions** as outlined in your program itinerary.
- Attend a special **Welcome to Italy Reception and Dinner**.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner**.

Extensive Meal Program

- Enjoy seven breakfasts, three lunches and five dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Sample **authentic regional specialties** during select meals at featured **local restaurants**.
- Take advantage of **leisure time** to try the **local cuisine** independently.

MANY INCLUDED EXTRAS

- Consultation services of a dedicated **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a friendly, professional **Campus Director** and expert **English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in planning.
- **Tipping** of all guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

AIR PROGRAM

- Round-trip, scheduled jet service.
- Round-trip motorcoach transfers between the airport and hotel, with baggage handling at the hotel.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel, subject to policy terms.

INCLUSIVE PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Milan, Italy**, aboard scheduled jet service. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

DAY TWO

Upon arrival, transfer to **Stresa** and the **Hotel la Palma**. (Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.)

This evening, gather for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner*.

DAY THREE

Educational Focus: *The Development of the Lake District.*

Excursion: *Walking Tour of Stresa, Intra and Pallanza.* Enjoy magnificent views of Lake Maggiore as you begin exploring Stresa, which is famous for its beautiful 18th-century Villa Ducale and the 19th-century, neo-classical Villa Pallavicino. Admire Intra's Peretti and Scaramuccia Palaces against the backdrop of the azure lake. View Pallanza's Palazzo Dugnani, St. Stephano's Church, and beautiful villas and gardens. Return to Stresa after lunch for a guided tour. Enjoy time at leisure in Stresa.

Local Flavor: Enjoy lunch in Pallanza.

Educational Focus: *The Gardens of Lake Maggiore.*

DAY FOUR

Educational Focus: *The Golden Age of the Renaissance.*

Excursion: *The Borromean Islands.* Cruise Lake Maggiore to Isola Madre and visit its botanical gardens. Then, walk along the narrow streets of Isola dei Pescatori, a peaceful fishing village. Continue to Isola Bella, the *Beautiful Island*, where you'll visit a 17th-century palace full of antiques. Stroll through the palace gardens which provide a safe haven for a variety of rare birds.

Local Flavor: Lunch is served during your excursion the islands.

DAY FIVE

Excursion: *A Cultural Visit to Milan.* Visit Santa Maria Delle Grazie and its rectory to see Leonardo da Vinci's magnificent *Last Supper*. Enjoy the museum at La Scala, Italy's premier

opera house before entering the 14th-century Duomo.

Independent Exploration: Spend time on your own getting to know Milan.

DAY SIX

Excursion: *Lake Orta.* Enjoy a scenic transfer to Lake Orta, where you set off on a walking tour. Take a boat trip on Lake Orta to the island of San Giulio. Admire the spectacular frescoes housed in San Giulio Cathedral, its fourth-century basilica. Return to Orta by boat.

Independent Exploration: Enjoy lunch at leisure in Orta.

Educational Focus: *Contemporary Italy.*

Educational Focus: *Meet the People.*

DAY SEVEN

Excursion: *Bellagio.* Explore Bellagio, jutting out into Lake Como, with its pastel-colored houses and lovely villas.

Local Flavor: After lunch at a restaurant in Bellagio, set off on a brief guided tour.

Excursion: *Como.* Travel by private boat to Como. Enjoy a guided walking tour starting with the Piazza Cavour surrounded by cafés, hotels and the beautiful lake.

Independent Exploration: You'll have time to explore Como and Bellagio at your leisure.

DAY EIGHT

Independent Exploration: The entire day is at leisure in Stresa. This evening, join your friends for a *Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony* followed by a festive *Farewell Dinner*.

DAY NINE

After breakfast, transfer to the Milan airport for the return flight(s) to your gateway city. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

ACCOMMODATIONS



HOTEL LA PALMA

Accented by beautiful flower gardens, the Hotel la Palma is situated in a quiet, centrally located neighborhood on Lake Maggiore. The hotel offers comfortable, well-appointed guestrooms; a stylish restaurant specializing in Italian and international cuisine; and an inviting lounge. Take a dip in the lakeside swimming pool, which affords superb views over the Borromean Islands. Soak up the Italian sunshine on the poolside terrace. Enjoy an invigorating workout in the panoramic fitness room. Relax in the sauna, Jacuzzi or on the sun terrace. Each air-conditioned guestroom features a private bath with jacuzzi, shower, hair dryer, two telephones, radio, minibar, satellite television, safe and a terrace.



Front page (top to bottom):
Stresa
Duomo, Milan

NOTE: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change due to local conditions. Many excursions in this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are located in areas not closely accessible by motorcoach.



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