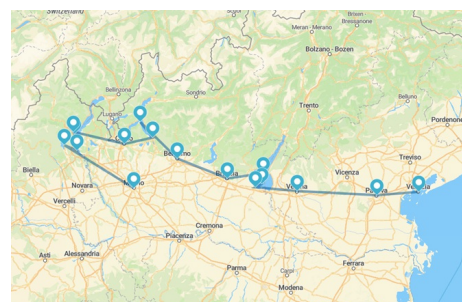




Italy, 7 Days · Tailor-made by car

The idyllic Lakes of the North Route, from Milan to Venice

Formed in the Ice Age and surrounded by sublime natural beauty and timeless glamour, the Lakes of Northern Italy have been one of the most famous holiday destinations in the world since Roman times. Visitors have included emperors, Napoleon, Princess Diana, Hollywood A-listers, and great artists, writers and thinkers such as Hemingway, Goethe or Byron. This beautiful Italian region cherishes a seemingly endless list of attractions. One of Europe's most spectacular road trips is between the attractive and cosmopolitan Milan, one of the most interesting cities in Northern Italy, and the ever-romantic Venice. It certainly doesn't lack attractions. You'll go home with memories of the area's charismatic villages and photogenic deep blue lakes, sheltered by the majestic peaks of the Alps and verdant vegetation. You'll see breathtaking landscapes, fishing boats bobbing up and down alongside enchanting piers, magnificent romantic villas, palaces in the Borromean Gulf and Islands, churches and castles perched on hills or cliffs, and beautiful lakeside hotels that today still ooze the glamour so characteristic of the Belle Époque. The "Idyllic Lakes of the North, from Milan to Venice" tour is an itinerary to be enjoyed from behind the wheel, savouring every kilometre of the way. It weaves through enchanting villages such as Orta di San Giulio or Bellagio; skirts along stunning lakes such as Orta, Maggiore, Como and Garda; and takes the traveller to cities in northern Italy as seductive as Milan, Bergamo, Brescia, Verona and Padua. We'll end this legendary tour exploring the amazing city of Venice and the islands of Murano and Burano. Don't forget to take a ride on a typical gondola under the Bridge of Sighs and savour an Aperol at one of its typical osterie (bars)!



NATURE

FAMILIES

Departure date: Departures from June 2026 till June 2027

From: Cork, Shannon, Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - MILAN

Flight departure from the city of origin to Milan. Arrival and rental car pick-up. And here your adventure on Italian soil begins! The road trip through Italy's beautiful lakes kicks off in the mighty and attractive city of Milan. Capital of fashion and design, and many other things, visiting it always is a great idea. From Charlemagne to Napoleon, many historical figures set their eyes on this vibrant city that masterfully combines a turbulent past with a modern and creative present. A gentle stroll along the city centre streets will reveal an important architectural and artistic heritage. Must-sees include the Piazza del Duomo, with the incredible Cathedral; the Royal Palace and the entrance arch to the Vittorio Emanuele II Gallery; the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie, which houses the priceless "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci; the Teatro de La Scala, one of the most important opera houses in the world; and the bohemian and artistic Navigli, a buzzing waterfront area where great food, art, nightlife and a fantastic atmosphere are guaranteed... Enjoy a mouthwatering dinner by the canal! In the beautiful Sempione Park, one of the main green areas of the city, you can admire the Sforzesco Castle (which houses interesting art galleries) and the Peace Arch. But Milan is much more. The city is a true paradise for shopping lovers, who flock here from all corners of the world attracted by its infinite range of stores, artisan workshops, avant-garde outlets, showrooms and high-end boutiques... Make sure you take a leisurely stroll around the glamorous Quadrilatero d'Oro! For art lovers, we recommend the Brera district, with its must-visit Pinacoteca.

Dotted with cosy cafés and terraces, Brera is perfect for savouring the delicious typical Milanese antipasti, as famous as they are delicious.

Our final recommendation takes us to the City, where you can discover the most modern face of the city.

Overnight stay in Milan.

● **DAY 2 · MILAN - ORTA SAN GIULIO / LAKE ORTA - LAKE MAGGIORE (ARONA - STRESA - BORROMEAN GULF AND ISLANDS (ISOLA BELLA, ISOLA MADRE, ISOLA SUPERIORE O DEI PESCATORI)) - COMO / LAKE COMO**

Milan is an excellent starting point for exploring the idyllic Italian lakes by car. A famous summer hideaway since Roman times, these magnificent lakes formed at the end of the Ice Age captivate the most experienced traveller for their exuberant natural beauty, artistic heritage, luxurious villas and palaces, beautiful gardens and attractive harbours dotted with boats, resorts and elegant Belle Époque hotels. Get ready to discover one of the most hypnotising routes in Europe! It weaves its way through picture-postcard towns and cities on the shores of beautiful lakes and at the foot of the snow-capped peaks of the Alps. Off we go! From Milan, we'll set off for Orta di San Giulio, a small medieval town on the shores of Lake Orta. After visiting the historic quarter, we'll drive to Lake Maggiore, the westernmost of the three Alpine lakes and the second largest in Italy. Packed with walking trails and viewpoints, on its shores you can visit Arona and Stresa. If you have enough time, we recommend taking a boat over to the Borromeo Islands (Bella, Pescatori and Madre). (Note: Stresa is the best place to take a boat over to the nearby Borromeo Islands and discover the impressive palaces found there. Don't miss the Palazzo Borromeo and the Galleria dei Quadri, located on Isola Bella, and the Palazzo Madre, on Isola Madre.

There's a public boat service over to the islands.

You can't take the car). We'll finish today's journey at the stunning Lake Como, the third largest in Italy, carved out over the centuries by glacial action. With timeless glamour and a romantic spirit, its magnificent mountainous amphitheatre - with the Eastern Alps as its backdrop - and its laid-back atmosphere have been seducing famous Hollywood stars and A-listers for decades.

Its rural landscapes have inspired leading artists and been the stage of numerous films.

So what are you waiting for?

(Note: The roads surrounding the lake are simply breathtaking.

At the local Tourist Office, you can consult the hiking trails available in the area). Once in Como, we'll enjoy its charming historic quarter, its outstanding restaurants and great nightlife. (Note: Como became one of the leading exporters of silk from Europe, a story that you can see at the Museum della Seta. We recommend visiting the Passegiata Lino Gelpi, the Vila Olmo and taking the funicular that links Como with the small town of Brunate, located about 720 metres above sea level. From there, the views over the lake are magnificent. The journey takes about 7 minutes).

Overnight stay in Como.

DAY 3 · COMO / LAKE COMO - LECCO - BELLAGIO - BERGAMO - BRESCIA

More time to enjoy the town of Como, perched on the shores of the lake, with a stroll around its twelfth-century walls, the Porta Torre, the popular Piazza San Fedele, where you can visit its magnificent three-nave basilica, the Gothic Cathedral, and its medieval alleys dotted with charming attractions... Later in the morning, we'll head back on the road to visit Lecco, one of Italy's most important industrial hubs and which commands a unique location between towering mountains and Lake Como itself. (Note: If you have enough time, you can detour to the enchanting Bellagio, one of the true gems of the lake and the only place where you can see the three "branches" of the lake that make up an inverted "Y". Admiring this beautiful panorama, which fuses the best of the Mediterranean and Lombardy landscapes, will let you see why Lake Como became the golden dream of the European aristocracy. It's impossible to not fall in love with this town, with its boats bobbing up and down on the shore and its winding stone stairways flowing into dreamlike gardens... Here you can visit the beautiful villages of Serbelloni and Melzi, the source of inspiration for international figures such as the writer Stendhal and the musician Liszt Schubert. Back on the road, this time to visit the monumental Bergamo, a walled city perched atop a hill that surprises visitors with one of the most attractive medieval ensembles in the country. The city is divided in two: Città Bassa and the Città Alta (where the new districts are located), joined together by a picturesque funicular that provides welcome relief from the steep slopes. Its unique atmosphere, a mix of medieval, Renaissance and Baroque style, gives it an extraordinary beauty. (Note: The Civic Tower provides beautiful views of the historic quarter). Don't miss the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore!, one of the most prominent sights in the city.

And if you're peckish, head to one of its typical trattorias and savour delicious dishes such as "casonsei" or "scarpinocc".

We'll finish today's journey in the Lombard town of Brescia, which is of great archaeological, artistic and historical interest. Located at 149 metres above sea level, it boasts many artistic and historical attractions. Don't miss its castle, its two cathedrals and the archaeological site of the Roman Forum and the Monastery of Santa Giulia.

Overnight stay in Brescia.

DAY 4 · BRESCIA - LAKE GARDA - SIRMIONE - GULF OF DESENZANO DA GARDA - VERONA

Today, we'll explore the final great lake on the route. Nestled among forests, the beautiful Lake Garda stretches over the regions of Lombardy, Veneto and Trentino. A sanctuary of artists, thinkers and dreamers, everyone from Kafka to Freud, Churchill, James Joyce or Thomas Mann have sat in the lakeside cafes of Gardone. Due to its glacial origin, the waters of the lake boast a deep blue colour that contrasts with the verdant vegetation around it. We'll skirt the southern shore of the lake to Sirmione, a great starting point for discovering the environs. This charming medieval town of narrow alleyways offers stunning sights such as the Roman villa of Catullo and the Rocca Scaligera castle, whose walls speak of ancient struggles, when the Scaligeri of Verona and the Visconti of Milan vied for power in this privileged area. On with our journey. To the west of Sirmione, we'll discover the beautiful gulf of Desenzano da Garda. Surrounded by mountains, it's a destination highly appreciated by lovers of sailing and water sports. From the Old Port, we can admire a photogenic medieval district built atop a hill. (Note: The "Gardesana", a narrow curved road stretching about 150 kilometres, provides vehicle access to the main towns on the outskirts. If you want to change your means of transport for a few hours, take a picturesque boat trip on the lake). In the afternoon, we'll set off for the romantic city of Verona.

Few places in the world have such a seductive atmosphere. Known as the city of Romeo and Juliet, the lovers immortalised by Shakespeare, Verona is the perfect place to round off an unforgettable day. Take a leisurely stroll along its enchanting streets in search of the eternal lovers and head to the House of Juliet, a magnificent twelfth-century palace which is the supposed residence of the Capulets, where you can climb up to the mythical balcony from where she spoke with Romeo (Via Capello, 23). Nearby is the Nogarola Palace, believed to be Romeo's house.

But this city of Roman monuments, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches has much more to offer to the traveller. From the River Adige, which runs through the city, you can marvel at unique sunsets. Cross the bridges that join both parts of the city and head to the stunning historic quarter, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. And as a finishing touch, the elegant Piazza dei Signori, where you can have a coffee and a delicious "pandoro" or enjoy a romantic candlelit dinner.

Overnight stay in Verona.

● DAY 5 · VERONA - PADUA - VENICE

Further time to explore the romantic city of Verona: the Arena di Verona: Amphitheatre, Via Mazzini and its chic boutiques, Piazza Erbe with the Lamberti tower and the Palazzo Comunale, the Scaligleri arch, and Piazza Bra...

We hit the road again, this time to discover Venice - located about 120 kilometres away - a unique city which, along with Verona, always appears in the rankings of the most beautiful and romantic cities in the world.

On the way, we recommend that you stop off at the university city of Padua and enjoy its spectacular artistic and cultural heritage. The city, known for its connection with Saint Anthony, is dotted with magnificent churches and civil buildings which devotedly guard major works by artists such as Giotto, Luini and Mantegna. The Musei Civici agli Eremitani and Scrovegni Chapel, commissioned by Enrico Scrovegni in memory of his father, are must-visits. The Chapel, created by the brilliant Giotto, is famous for its humanist approach, which was to represent a revolutionary approach in contrast with the artistic dictates of the Middle Ages. Take a leisurely stroll through the lively squares and visit the Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua (with the saint's tomb and the Equestrian Statue of Gattamelata by Donatello), the cathedral baptistery, the magnificent Palazzo della Ragione with its wonderful collection of fifteenth-century frescoes... And let's not forget the beautiful botanical gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and considered some of the oldest and most beautiful in Europe. Say farewell to the city with a delicious gelato in busy plaza Prato della Valle.

Onward with our journey. There are now only 40 kilometres between us and the captivating city of Venice. One glance at the four-kilometre-long Grand Canal, which is criss-crossed by bridges as famous as the Rialto, and you will realise why this city is unique in the world. (Note: Line 1 of local water taxi Vaporetto runs the full length of the Grand Canal. The legendary Rialto Bridge and its surroundings feature markets and small shops where you can find beautiful souvenirs). End this unforgettable day with a trip on a gondola underneath the Bridge of Sighs.

Overnight stay in Venice.

● DAY 6 · VENICE - ISLANDS OF MURANO AND BURANO - VENICE

Again we wake up in a magical city, which shifts between real and dreamlike in time with the rhythm of the water.

To this day, it's still surprising just how audacious the Venetians were in daring to square up to the high tides and design a city full of marble palaces in the middle of a lagoon. The city, famous for its carnivals, is also a renowned centre for art, music, and Italian cuisine. Your sightseeing tour should definitely take in unique places such as the Palazzo Ducale, the Museo Correr with the Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, the Gallerie dell'Accademia, and San Giorgio Maggiore Monastery... Venice is also famous for the captivating Piazza San Marco, a true treasure trove waiting to be discovered. The image of doves flying over the imposing basilica is famous worldwide. Soak up the atmosphere that for centuries has attracted major artists and writers to Caffè Florian. And climb up Il Campanile bell tower to enjoy one of the best views in the city. The square is surrounded by a maze of romantic canals flanked by palaces and domes that will evoke a golden age in which the Republic of Venice was a leading Mediterranean powerhouse.

If you have time, we recommend a boat trip to the islands of Burano, famous for its fine lace, and Murano, known for its excellent glass crafts. (Note: Cars are not allowed on the islands. You can reach the islands in a "vaporetto" (local water taxi). The journey from the quay to the islands takes about 30 minutes. Tour not included). The day ends with a glass of Aperol in one of the typical osterie (taverns).

Overnight stay in Venice.

● DAY 7 · VENICE - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Milan.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Milan.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Como.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Como.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Brescia.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Brescia.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Verona.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Verona.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Venice.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Venice.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.
- ✓ Amount of the supplement for collection and return of the vehicle in a different office.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Milan direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Verona direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Accommodation taxes in Venice direct payment in facility.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.
- ✗ Vaporetto (water taxi).

Destinations Visited

Milan



Orta San Giulio



Arona



Stresa



Isola Superiore



Como



Lecco



Bellagio Como



Bergamo



Brescia



Lago De Garda



Sirmione Brescia



Desenzano del Garda Brescia



Verona



Padua



Venice



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- Explore Verona at your pace and avoid long queues thanks to the 24-hour or 48-hour Verona Card. Designed to save you time and money, the card will give you access to the city's main attractions, museums and churches. Check out all the benefits on www.turismoverona.eu. You can buy it online, at kiosks, at the city's tourist information offices and at the main attractions and museums covered by the card.
- 1. The transport card for Venice and its islands is the best way to get around the city, either by water or by land. It gives you access to the public transport network of Venice, which includes the famous vaporetti along the canals, the islands and Lido, and the ACTV urban bus network on the mainland, Mestre and Marghera (it doesn't give you access to ACTV transport lines to/from Venice Marco Polo Airport, lines 16, 19, 21 and the Casino and Alilaguna water buses). 1.1. The duration of the transport card begins when it's first used. From then on, you can use it for the specified time: 1, 2, 3 or 7 consecutive days. 1.2. To use public transport services in Venice, you can get the transport card at the ACTV automatic vending machines located throughout the city. 1.3. The price includes the transport of a piece of luggage where the sum of length/width/height is less than 150 centimetres. 1.4. Children under six years old go free on all public transport in Venice. 2. The Venezia Unica City Pass offers free and skip-the-line access to the main museums and churches in Venice, with savings of up to 28%. 2.1. The must-see attractions that you can enter for free with the Venezia Unica City Pass card are: - Venice Ducal Palace. - Three of the civic museums of the Marciana Area (San Marcos City Pass mode): Correr Museum, National Archaeological Museum, monumental rooms of the Marciana Library; or ten of the civic museums of Venice (City Pass Completa mode): Correr Museum, Archaeological Museum National, monumental rooms of the Marciana Library, Ca'Rezzonico, Mocenigo Palace, Carlo Goldoni House, Ca'Pesaro, Murano Glass Museum, Burano Lace Museum and Natural History Museum. - Three or sixteen of the churches included in the Chorus, depending on the mode selected. You can find the Chorus Pass churches on this link. - Querini Stampalia Foundation. 2.2. The modes are: 2.2.1. San Marcos City Pass: includes access to the Doge's Palace, three of the civic museums of the Marciana Area, three of the Chorus churches, the Querini Stampalia Foundation and the Venice Casino. 2.2.2. And City Pass Completa: includes access to the Doge's Palace, ten of the civic museums of Venice, sixteen of the Chorus churches, the Querini Stampalia Foundation and the Jewish Museum. 3. The Venezia Unica City Pass lets you enter each attraction once and is valid for seven consecutive days from the time it is first used. 4. To activate the card and enter any of the attractions for free, just show the voucher at the ticket office. 5. The Venezia Unica City Pass is available for children over six years old. Most of the city's attractions have free admission for children under six years old.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.