2019
HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

Village Life® around the Italian Lakes
September 21 - 29, 2019
with Sue Weaver Schopf, Distinguished Service Lecturer in Extension
The Romantic Allure of the Italian Lake District

For centuries, Italy’s Lake District has seduced hearts, minds, and souls, including those of Virgil, Napoleon, Byron, Stendhal, Wordsworth, Shelley, Wharton, Verdi, Puccini, Toscanini, Twain, and Hemingway. Long before the Romans annexed the region 2,000 years ago and began to build their well-ordered towns, it was settled by Etruscans and invaded by Celts. Following the Roman era, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, nobility built palatial holiday villas, filled them with priceless art, and laid out extraordinary gardens. European aristocrats of the 18th and 19th centuries considered the Italian Lake District an essential stop on their “Grand Tour” of Europe.

Lombardy became one of the richest and most economically developed areas of Italy and Europe, thanks to its agricultural production, trade, and banking activities that extended throughout the continent.

To this day, the region remains of paramount importance to Italy. The mild climate and the snowcapped Alpine peaks descending to serene lake shores continue to lure the wealthy, as well as celebrities and visitors from around the world. From the deep-blue glacial lakes of Como, Maggiore, and picturesque Orta to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, and from colorful Bellagio—“Pearl of the Lake”—to the modern sophistication of Milan, discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.
Immerse yourself in the true essence of Italian life in the fabled Lake District, an impressively picturesque setting that has inspired poets, composers, artists, and philosophers for centuries. For one full week, enjoy charming accommodations in the belle-époque Palace Hotel in the heart of lovely Como and just steps away from the local market. Cruise by private boat on Lake Como, Lake Maggiore, and Lake Orta. During expert-guided excursions and time on your own, explore beautiful villages and artistic and architectural treasures. Visit Bellagio, Villa del Balbianello, Stresa, the Borromean Islands, and the Sacro Monte di Orta, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend a day in Milan to visit the Duomo and Teatro alla Scala, and see Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece The Last Supper. Enriching lectures and the exclusive Village Life® Forum with local residents provide personal perspectives.

Activity Level 2: 🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️🚶‍♂️

LOW KEY
Many of the cities and towns being visited were founded centuries ago, and the terrain is rugged. Therefore, a fair amount of walking along narrow cobblestone streets, stone floors or uneven and/or slippery terrain and climbing several flights of stairs (some without railings) is to be expected. Walking excursions often cover distances of at least one mile and are approximately three hours in length.
Experience the beauty of Bellagio, the "Pearl of Lake Como," beloved by many for the colorful homes, exquisite gardens, and lovely villas against a scenic Alpine backdrop; countless elite guests have enjoyed this lakeside retreat.

Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

U.S.
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Milan, Italy.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

**Milan, Italy/Como**
Arrive in Milan and transfer to Como to check into the Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the unforgettable grotto, decorated entirely with mosaics of marine life.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

**Como**
Founded by the Romans in 196 B.C., Como has been internationally known for its silk-weaving industry since silkworms were first imported here in the 14th century. At one time, Como was the largest European silk-producer—dyeing, weaving, and designing fabrics to be shipped to the fashion houses of Milan, Paris, and London. Stroll beside medieval towers and walls, Renaissance palaces and churches, neoclassical 19th-century villas, and small family-owned negozii (shops) leading to the Piazza Cavour and the tranquil lakeside promenade. See the magnificent Duomo di Como, considered the most beautiful cathedral in Lombardy—which took nearly 400 years to complete, reflecting a seamless blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles. (L,D)

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** A local scholar of Como from the Roman era to the present, and resident art historian Giuseppina Lucini will present private, expert lectures.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

**Lake Maggiore/Borromean Islands/Stresa**
Italy’s second-largest lake is a natural boundary between the regions of Lombardy and Piedmont and a close rival to Lake Como as the most spectacular in the Lake District. Lake Maggiore’s mild climate allows gardens to grow rare and exotic plants beneath the high Alps, particularly on the remarkable Borromean Islands. Isola Bella, Isola di San Giovanni, Isola Madre, and Isola dei Pescatori are collectively known as the Borromean Islands, named after the powerful and influential Borromeo family. Enjoy a private boat cruise amidst Lake Maggiore’s enticing islands that inspired Flaubert, Wagner, and Goethe, graced with elegant villas and striking natural beauty.

An 18th- and 19th-century “Grand Tour” of Europe was considered incomplete without a visit to Stresa to experience its spectacular mountain views, tropical gardens, and the resplendent glistening waters of Lake Maggiore. A young Ernest Hemingway, recuperating in Stresa during World War I, was inspired to make it the setting for Frederic Henry and Catherine Barkley’s famed reunion in A Farewell to Arms. (e)

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** Visit the masterpiece ablaze with roses, gardenias, azaleas, and rhododendrons. Commissioned by Count Carlo Borromeo III in 1632, this secluded Baroque retreat is dedicated to his wife, Isabella. Tour the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo, filled with priceless masterpieces by such artists as Tiepolo and the sculptor Canova, and see the unforgettable grotto, decorated entirely with mosaics of marine life.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

**Milan**
The recognized capital of the design and fashion worlds, Milan has an ancient cultural heritage that blends its ornately preserved palaces, churches, and museums with vibrant contemporary life, an abundance of haute cuisine, art, and operatic traditions. Visit the world-famous Teatro alla Scala opera house and Milan’s exquisite Duomo. (e)

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:** By special arrangement, visit the UNESCO World Heritage-site Santa Maria delle Grazie to experience the enduring genius of Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, The Last Supper.

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636. FOR DETAILED ITINERARIES, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
Bellagio is the magnificent Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio, a cross Lake Como from San Giulio Island. Serene Lake Orta, nestled in the captivating Piedmont region of northwestern Italy, is considered a lake District’s best-kept secret. Enjoy a walking tour to the heart of Orta San Giulio’s medieval village center, replete with cobblestone lanes that open up to a picturesque piazza; rich, ochre-hued houses fronted by decorative wrought-iron balconies; and attractive palazzos, once home to Italian nobility. Cruise across cobalt-blue Lake Orta in a private boat to diminutive Isola San Giulio, taking in stunning views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS: During the exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM, residents will discuss contemporary life in the dazzling and historic Italian Lake District. Savour the delights of a northern Italian dinner in a local ristorante.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Como

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Cultural Enrichment: A visit to the UNESCO World Heritage site—San Giovanni in the Holy Land. Explore the village of Assisi, decorated with elaborately carved frescoes and built between the 16th and 18th centuries.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Lake Orta/
San Giulio Island

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Lake Como/ Villa del Balbianello/Bellagio

Composer Franz Liszt romanticized, “When you write the story of two happy lovers, place them on the shores of Lake Como.” Cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Italy’s deepest—perhaps most paradisal—lake and learn more about its fascinating history and allure as you survey the quaint coastal village of Bellagio and grand Renaissance villas, built on the slopes of snow-capped mountains. Across Lake Como from Bellagio is the magnificent Villa del Balbianello and its unique terraced gardens. Built in 1787 by Cardinal Angelo Maria Durini, this consummate Italian lake villa was renovated in the early 20th century by an American veteran of World War I and more recently purchased by Italy’s first explorer to Asia. Centrally located on the hilly promontory punctuated by stands of cypress trees, Bellagio enchants with its authentic Italian ambiance. Since the 14th-century, the Piazza del Duomo has marked Milan’s geographic, social, and cultural heart.

Robert Browning, Honoré de Balzac and Lord Byron all wrote of this intimate island’s sublime beauty. Visit the 12th-century Romanesque-style Basilica San Giulio, whose opulent interior is adorned with richly detailed frescoes painted upon the nave, chapel, vaults and aisles; then, stroll the monastery’s lush grounds. Return to Orta for time at leisure in this beautiful village.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: atop the summit of Sacro Monte di Orta—one of nine sacred mountains in northern Italy and a UNESCO World Heritage site—amidst a picturesque landscape of forested hills, visit several small chapels dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, decorated with elaborate frescoes and built between the 16th and 18th centuries.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: A visit to the heart of Orta San Giulio’s medieval village center, replete with cobblestone lanes that open up to a picturesque piazza; rich, ochre-hued houses fronted by decorative wrought-iron balconies; and attractive palazzos, once home to Italian nobility. Cruise across cobalt-blue Lake Orta in a private boat to diminutive Isola San Giulio, taking in stunning views of picture-perfect Italian villas and gardens along the way.

What is Included:

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Harvard Study Leader Sue Weaver Schopf, local scholar of Como Fabio Cani, and resident art historian Giuseppina Lucini
- Seven nights in the charming family-owned PALACE HOTEL in Como
- Regional wine served with each included dinner
- Exclusive VILLAGE LIFE® FORUM with residents will discuss contemporary life in the dazzling and historic Italian Lake District
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees, and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to guides, and drivers
- Complimentary bottled water provided on motorcoaches during excursions
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
Alumni Travels

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

The beautiful stone arch Rialto Bridge stretches across the renowned Grand Canal.

The ideally located, classic belle-époque Palace Hotel is a delightful establishment with an ideal setting on the lungolago (lakefront promenade) overlooking Lake Como, just steps away from Como’s beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Venetian stucco artistry, Italian marble, and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19th-century elegance throughout the hotel, while its expertly landscaped gardens are the perfect setting to admire enchanting views across Lake Como. The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its summer terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent place to enjoy the hotel’s renowned homemade ice cream or a cup of cappuccino.

Each of the hotel’s 94 comfortable guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar, and hair dryer. Meals feature fresh, seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties, and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

Tour Cost Per Person: Double Occupancy: $4,395; Single Occupancy: $5,395

Tesori di Verona e Venezia

POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Discover the delightful treasures of two beloved Italian locales—fair Verona and extraordinary Venice. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Verona is renowned for its well-preserved Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals, delightful piazzas, and magnificent Roman monuments and is the legendary setting for Shakespeare’s timeless romance, Romeo and Juliet. See the star-crossed Juliet’s famous balcony and the spectacular 2,000-year-old Roman Arena—the third-largest such edifice in the world still in use today.

Tour Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural masterpiece, and the Gothic-style Doge’s Palace. Visit the charming archipelago of Burano, known for its skilled fishermen and their colorful houses. Enjoy three nights in the Hotel Bonvecchiati, an 18th-century palazzo ideally located just a short walk from Venice’s famous Piazza San Marco.

Trip Sampling

LAND & RAIL

Amsterdam: from Golden Age Canals to Dutch Masterpieces
MAR 29–APR 3, 2019
Sara Schechner

Private Homes & Gardens of Bermuda
APR 1–5, 2019
Michael Weishan

The History & Culture of Poland: With an Emphasis on Jewish Heritage
MAY 11–21, 2019
Jay Harris

Village Life in Dordogne
MAY 16–24, 2019
Robert J. Kiely

Gateway to Authentic Ireland
JUN 7–17, 2019
Catherine Mckenna

England’s Suffolk Coast & Aldeburgh Music Festival
JUN 12–18, 2019
John Stewart

Exploring the Wine Regions of Bordeaux & Rioja
OCT 12–20, 2019
Tom Conley

Cultural Legacy of Pittsburgh, America’s Steel Town
OCT 24–28, 2019
Alice Delana

CRUISES

Cruising the Rivieras of Italy, France, Spain on L’E Bougainville
MAY 29–JUN 6, 2019
Daniel Donoghue

ARCTIC EXPEDITION: SPTISBERGEN AND SVALBARD ON L’AUSTRAL
JUN 21 – JUL 1, 2019
Lisa Randall

Changing Tides: The Baltic Sea Countries on DUPONT d’URVILLE
JUN 23–JUL 2, 2019
Richard Thomas

Cruising Alaska’s Glaciers & The Inside Passage on Le Soleal
JUL 6–13, 2019
James Engell

Circumnavigation Of Iceland on Le Champlain
JUL 31–AUG 8, 2019
Fran Ullmer

Trade Routes Of Coastal Iberia On Le Lyrial
OCT 13–21, 2019
Harvey V. Fineberg & Mary Wilson

New Year’s Galápagos on Origin
DEC 28 2019–JAN 6, 2020
Daniel Lieberman

RIVERS & LAKES

The Pride Of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana & Zimbabwe
MAR 14–30, 2019
Suzanne Blier

Dutch Waterways on AMADEUS Silver II
APR 25–MAY 3, 2019
Peter Bol

Passage Along The Danube River: Vienna To Black Sea on AMADEUS Queen
OCT 12–24, 2019
Tom Simons
TERMS & CONDITIONS

TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Taxes; all transfers and baggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s); all activities, excursions, entrance fees, accommodation, and meals per detailed itinerary; local guides; and drivers; tour manager throughout; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance.

TOUR COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare from the U.S.; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; associated local taxes, airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Inclusions” section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); passport fees; visas and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage handling under these circumstances. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travels/trips/italian-lakes-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs, and guest lecture series are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator are not responsible therefore and are not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

TO CANCELATION SERVICES: Cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs, and guest lecture series are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator are not responsible therefore and are not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travels/trips/italian-lakes-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

TO CANCELATION SERVICES: Cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

Registration Form

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person, plus $200 per person for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY AND COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs, and guest lecture series are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator are not responsible therefore and are not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE: We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by the Harvard Alumni Travels upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY: Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travels/trips/italian-lakes-2019. If you are not able to access the Internet, please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

TO CANCELATION SERVICES: Cancellations 21 days or less prior to departure, no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.
Alumni Travels

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL • 800-422-1636 • HAATRAVELS@HARVARD.EDU

124 MOUNT AUBURN STREET, 6TH FLOOR
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138