

**DURGAN TRAVEL**  
**NORTHERN ITALY LAKES ITINERARY**  
**SEPTEMBER 4 - 14, 2018**

**Day 1:** Tuesday, Sept 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Depart early evening ( 5:00 PM ), from Logan International Airport for your overnight flight to Milan, Italy (via Zurich) to arrive at 8:25 AM on Sept 5th.

**Day 2:** Wednesday, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Arrive Milan

Your private transfer with assistance from your guide will be waiting to assist you in boarding our private motor-coach upon your arrival in Milan. Transfer to Lake Garda today, where we will check in at our hotel, Hotel Oliveto, and have time at leisure. Welcome dinner at the hotel tonight. (Dinner)

*Your accommodations from 9/05 to 9/09:*

*Hotel Oliveto*

*Via Tito Malaguti 2*

*25015 Desenzano del Garda*

*+39 303 991 1919*

*Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, hairdryer*

*Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 1.50 Euros payable directly to hotel*

**Day 3:** Thursday, Sept 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Lake Garda

Following breakfast at our hotel, we will enjoy Lake Garda, which consists of both touring and a boat tour. Of all the great lakes of Northern Italy, Lake Garda is the greatest! It is an oasis of Northern Italian light and color. We'll enjoy a pizza lunch and a wine tasting during our travels. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch, wine tasting and dinner)

**Day 4:** Friday Sept 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Venice

Breakfast at our hotel. Today, we are off to Venice! We will be dropped at the train station in Desenzano and travel by train for a full day tour of Venice. Venice is a "must see" when visiting Italy. This fantastic metropolis was built on 118 small islands, with countless canals and bridges. We will tour along the Grand Canal to St. Mark's Square, the heart of Venice. There will be free time to enjoy the unusual beauty of this city. Mid- to late-afternoon return by train to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

**Day 5 :** Saturday, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> ~ Verona & Padua

After breakfast at our hotel. We will depart today for Verona, the setting for Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet". We will be taken on a sightseeing tour of the Church of San Zeno, Piazza Bra and The Arena, Piazza delle Erbe (with its marketplace), Piazza dei Signori, the Tombs of the Della Scala Family, and the House of Juliet. Our next and last stop today will be to the ancient university city of Padua, the seat of its famous university founded in 1222. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

**Day 6:** Sunday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> ~ Bergamo

Breakfast at our hotel, followed by hotel check out. Today's excursion will take us to Bergamo, which against the backdrop of the Bergamese Alps, is one of the most beautifully situated cities in Lombardy. Bergamo's Old Town is perched on a hill above, enclosed by ancient Venetian walls, while the modern city center sprawls across the plains below. Our walking tour begins in the Piazza Vecchia - the heart of the Old Town - and we will have the opportunity to view many of its most significant civic and religious monuments, including the Palazzo del Comune,

Palazzo della Ragione, the magnificent Cathedral, St. Maria Maggiore, the Colleoni Chapel, with its frescoed dome by Tiepolo, and the beautiful Baptistery. In the late afternoon we'll head to our Lake Como hotel, Hotel Britannia Excelsior, for check in, dinner, and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

*Your accommodations from 9/09 to 9/14:*

*Hotel Britannia Excelsior Cadenabbia*

*Via Regina 41*

*22011 Griante-Cadenabbia*

*Province of Como*

*39 0344 40413*

*Free Wi-Fi (in public areas only -elsewhere there is a small fee),hairdryer, a/c, outdoor pool*

*Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 2.00 Euros payable directly to hotel*

**Day 7: Monday, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> ~ Lake Maggiore & The Borromean Islands**

Breakfast and then we will discover wonderful Lake Maggiore and the Borromean Islands. First on our agenda, we will drive to the pier where we will board the boat for our cruise to Isola Bella for a tour of the sumptuous Borromeo Palace, and its magnificent and massive Italian-style gardens. We will next cruise to tiny Isola dei Pescatori, once a fisherman's island and Hemingway's favorite Borromean Island. While on Pescatori, we will have a delicious fish lunch with wine included. We will spend the afternoon exploring the island with its narrow alleyways and romantic churches. Return to Stresa by boat, then back our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

**Day 8: Tuesday, Sept 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Lake Como**

After breakfast, we will tour Como for a guided morning tour of the beautiful town, which has kept much of its ancient Roman street plan, beginning in the lovely Piazza Cavour which is surrounded by quaint cafés, colorful houses, and stately hotels. In the afternoon, we will travel by boat on a cruise from the town of Como, up the lake past gorgeous villas, to the picturesque town of Bellagio, where we can wander through the peaceful, narrow lanes and covered walkways lined with pastel-colored houses typical of the area. Return by boat and motor coach to our hotel. (Breakfast and dinner)

**Day 9: Wednesday, Sept 12<sup>th</sup> ~ Lake Como**

Day at leisure. Dinner will be on own. Overnight. (Breakfast)

**Day 10: Thursday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> ~ Lugano**

Breakfast at our hotel. And then check out of hotel. This morning, we will again cross the Swiss border for our full-day tour to Lugano, Switzerland. Lugano is nestled in a bay on the northern side of Lake Lugano, surrounded by the nearby Swiss Alps. The town center, with its Mediterranean-style squares and arcades, and numerous parks, invites us to laze around and enjoy the atmosphere. By the lakeside promenade are the famous Belvedere Gardens, which boasts not only magnificent camellias and magnolias, but also countless sub-tropical plants and modern works of art. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Breakfast and dinner)

**Day 11: Friday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup> ~ Milan - Boston**

Following breakfast and hotel check-out, we will be transferred to Milan Airport where we will board our return flight to US! (Breakfast)

**PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**