

# Cycling Safaris

## Lakes of Lombardy 2024

### SELF GUIDED TOUR

7 nights/8 days, total cycling distance approx. 285 km



This itinerary runs from east to west mainly in the hilly areas south of the big Alpine lakes in the Lombard region. The first part, going along the Mincio River, coincides with the Cycling Route del Sole and with Eurovelo 7. In Como it crosses La Via dei Pellegrini, which is Eurovelo 5.

Being well connected to the main international tourist cycling routes, the beautiful nature of the areas and the rich artistic sights make this a fantastic route. Cycling tourists will generally find little traffic on these roads with some sections where cars are not allowed.

The route is mainly on roads with low traffic density and in some places on dedicated bicycle trails.

### TOUR ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Arrival Peschiera del Garda

After your arrival you can check in to your accommodation and enjoy the town or relax. Peschiera is surrounded by the river Mincio, a small jewel of architecture, enclosed in a mighty sixteenth-century pentagonal wall with beautiful ramparts and imposing access doors.



**Day 2**                      **Peschiera del Garda - Brescia**                      **53 / 63 km**

If you choose the long, quieter and more hilly route, cycle along the Mincio cyclepath and then pass by San Martino della Battaglia with its big tower reminiscent of the wars of independence. The short route passes closer to the lake and takes you to Desenzano and Sirmione, one of the most beautiful places on Lake Garda. Arrival in Brescia, a city rich in Roman and medieval remains, surmounted by the ancient castle.

**Day 3**                      **Brescia - Sarnico/Paratico (Lake Iseo)**                      **35 km**

Today is a short and relaxing cycle that leads you into Franciacorta, a land of wines of excellence. The route takes you to Rodengo Saiano, home to a Benedictine abbey where monks still live, passes near the castles of Passirano and Clusane and at the Sebino Nature Reserve, a protected area rich in water birds, and then ends on the banks of the lovely Lake Iseo. Your destination today is Sarnico on the banks for the Oglio River.



**Day 4**                      **Sarnico/ Lake Iseo - Bergamo**                      **35 km**

You cycle along the Oglio river that comes out from Lake Iseo; in short you reach Grumello del Monte, a pretty village with the stone houses; then, past a small bridge, you enter the beautiful medieval old town of Montello, all in stone.

The day on the bike ends in Bergamo, the pearl of northern Italy, where you will arrive early enough to visit both the elegant lower town, but above all the splendid upper town, accessible by a funicular.

**Day 5**                      **Bergamo - Garlate/Lake Garlate**                      **45 km**

Today you arrive the branch of Lake Como called Lago di Lecco. The route takes us to Mapello, where there is a sanctuary dedicated to the Madonna of Prada; another place of great spirituality is Sotto il Monte, the town where Pope John XXIII was born; his birth place is a nice free museum.

A memorable experience is the crossing of the river Adda on a Leonardesque ferry pulled by cable. You reach Garlate by pedaling through the green of the beautiful cyclepath along the Adda.

**Day 6****Garlate - Como****40 km**

This is the day when you cycle past the largest number of lakes, all very small:

Annone, Pusiano, Alserio, partially riding on dirt roads. The end of the path is the most beautiful part; in Solzago you take the Passeggiata Voltiana that takes its name from Alessandro Volta, buried nearby; with an exciting descent first through the woods and then along a beautiful road you will arrive in the centre of Como and then on the shores of the beautiful lake.

**Day 7****Como - Ranco (Lake Maggiore)****60km**

The last day you set off along the lake surrounded by splendid villas, in particular Villa Olmo, in the direction of Cernobbio; you cross the border with Switzerland and then you reach Varese and immediately after its lake with the bike path; along the Monate lake from the clear waters where it is possible to swim ; finally you are in Ispra on the Lake Maggiore and passing through the green Quassa cyclepath you arrive to Ranco, where you will enjoy a splendid view of the lake.

**Day 8****Ranco**

Tour ends after breakfast.

**2024 DEPARTURE DATES**

Every Saturday from 16<sup>th</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> September, minimum 2 people  
Other dates available for 4 people or more

**2024 TOUR PRICE**

€1120.00 per person sharing (2/3 pax)  
€910.00 per person sharing (4 pax and more)  
€265 for single room occupancy

€140.00 for a touring bike  
€290.00 for an e-bike

## INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

### Included in tour price

- 7 nights' accommodation in 3\* hotels and 4\* hotels with breakfast
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel (1 piece per person)
- Road book, maps (1 set per room), tourist information in English
- Telephone service hotline

### Not included:

- Bike rental is not included in the basic tour price (€140 21-gear hybrid bike and €290 e-bike)
- Travel to starting and ending places
- Lunches at noon
- Meals and beverages
- Entrance tickets to museums
- Helmet ( €5 )
- Local taxes

### Additional nights:

Additional night in Peschiera 3\* €95 per person in double / €135 single room

Additional night in Ranco 3\* €100 per person in double / €145 single room

## BIKE RENTAL



Bike rental is of course possible to include in your tour which will be a 21 gear hybrid bike.

The bikes will be delivered by our local bike mechanic.

Your bike has a single waterproof pannier bag (Ortlieb), there's a good lock and you'll get a repair-kit including a pump and a water bottle.

We draw your attention to the fact that you will be held responsible for damage or theft of the bike. Above all watch your bike: in Italy a good number of bikes get stolen, so never leave it unattended. Always lock it and fasten to a fixed object if possible or to another bike.

At the end of the last cycle day you have to return your bike. When you leave that morning from the hotel, please make sure to bring back all the equipment.

Generally speaking, the routes you will follow are nearly always on cycle paths or minor roads, but sometimes you will cycle on main roads for short stretches (for instance in towns) and you have to pay attention, because Italian drivers don't always respect the rules! Cyclists, of course, have to observe traffic rules and regulations. The most important rule is to remember that you are not alone on your bike and that you are sharing the road with other road users.

## WHAT TO BRING

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Specialized cycle clothing is not strictly necessary. What you need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers
- shirts/sweater
- rain clothes
- sandals when you cycle and good shoes
- sunglasses/cap
- swimming costume
- camera
- insect repellent
- helmet ( possible to rent one for €5 )

## TRANSFER

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### **Airplane:**

The closest airport is **Verona**; there is a shuttle bus from the airport to the train station of Verona Porta Nuova, from there there's a direct train to Peschiera del Garda.

From **Milano** Airports (Linate and Malpensa) take the bus to Milano central station and then the train to Peschiera

From Bergamo Airport take the bus to Brescia train station and then the train to Peschiera

### **Train:**

Peschiera del Garda is linked directly to the train stations of Milano (1 hour), Brescia (25 minutes) and Verona (15 minutes)

### **Car:**

From Austria/Innsbruck take Highway A22/E45, exit Affi/Lago di Garda sud, then follow direction "Peschiera" on SR450 until Peschiera.

From Austria/Villach take Highway A23/E55 until the end, then A4/E70 direction Venezia/Padova/ Verona/Milano and exit PESCHIERA

From Switzerland/Chiasso take Highway A9/E35 until Milano, then A4/E70 direction Verona and exit PESCHIERA

The Hotel is located near the train station.

Taxi from Ranco to Milan Airport costs €35- €45