LAKE MAGGIORE AND SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS
Sales Guide 2016-2017
BORBONEO ISLANDS Central Lake
Incontrovertibly the heart of Lago Maggiore and a place of art “par excellence”: Isola Bella, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori. Situated in the Gulf of Boroemoe, all three of them have fascinated people throughout history: with the art and culture of a great ruling dynasty: the Borromeo family. There are so many attractions for the visitor to wonder at: grandiose terraced gardens with palazzi, an authentic fishing village with picturesque houses, one of the most spectacular botanic gardens anywhere in the world with many exotic plants — and so much more.

VILLA TARTANTO Verbano-Pallanza
A villa built in the 1830s by a Scot, Captain Neil McEocham, and in the meantime one of the richest botanical gardens in the world. With thousands of plant species — eucalyptus, azalea, rhododendron, magnolia, maple, camellia and dahlia, it stretches over an area measuring 16 hectares.

PARCO NAZIONALE VAL GRANDE Ossola Valley
This national park situated between the Val d’Ossola, the Val Vigezzo and Lago Maggiore measures 75,000 hectares and is noted as one of the most outstanding Romanesque buildings in the whole of Piedmont.

ISOLA DI S. GIULIO Lake Orta
Legend has it that St. Guilo was a dangerous snakes’ nest transformed by St. Julius in 390 AD into a centre of the Christion mission. Its Basilica di San Giulio is noted as one of the most outstanding Romanesque buildings in the whole of Piedmont.

ALPE VELGIA E ALPE DEVERO NATURE PARK Ossola Valley
This nature park at the Swiss border, dominated by the towering skyline of the Alpe Veglia and Alpe Devero, is fascinating for its diversity of vegetation: with waterfalls, rivers, lakes, and above all vast stretches of untouched countryside with the Castelli di Codelago; a thrilling experience, and not only for nature lovers.

VILLA PALLAVICINO Stresa
The villa gardens extend over an area of more than 16 hectares and form the “balcony” of Lago Maggiore. Visitors young and old can delight in its glorious world of plants and a zoological garden with palazzo, an authentic fishing village with picturesque houses, one of the most spectacular botanic gardens anywhere in the world with many exotic plants — and so much more.

CASTELLI DI CANNERO Upper Lago
These ancient fortifications rise up out of the water between Cannobio and Cannero Riviera. They were built between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries and are divided up onto two islands. In their time, they served as a place of refuge for the feared robber baron family of the Mozzanotte, before the Borromeo family put a stop to their games and usurped them of their possessions.

SACRI MONTI Chiillo — Orto — Domodossola — Varese
Four places of pilgrimage in the overall region of Lago Maggiore, the so-called “Sacri Monti”, have been declared world heritage sites by the Unesco. Each “Sacri Monti” consists of several chapels along the Way of the Cross; step by step they lead up the mountain into the natural landscape, so if by reaching the top the pilgrim has come as close as possible to God.

SANTA CATERINA DEL SASSO East Shore and Varese
The monastery of Santa Caterina del Sasso is indubitably one of the most beautiful and popular sightseeing attractions on the Lombardian side of the lake. It lies between Arona and Riona on a rocky promontory above Lago Maggiore and is accessible by ship and by car. The monastery itself can be viewed best from the water, but when you climb down the many steps from the car park above the monastery, you are rewarded with a breathtaking view onto the lake.

ROCCA DI ANGERA East Shore and Varese
The Rocca of Angera was built on the remains of a previous castle and inhabited in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries by the Viscontis; it was extended and then acquired by the Borromeo family, who still own it today. Fascinating art treasures can be seen inside the castle, among them the frescoes of the Sala di Giustizia in the Visconti Wing.

SAN GAUDENZIO DOME Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields
Novaro’s most important church is the Basilica of San Gaudenzio built in 1559 with architecture by Palladino Tibaldi. Its dome is 397 feet high, the city’s landmark, heralding from afar the approach to the city. It is also a work of Alessandro Antinori (completed in 1588) and crowned by a gilded figure of Christ. Inside, one of its most interesting features is the Scuola, a kind of ground-level crypt, holding the mortal remains of Novaro’s patron saint, St. Gaudenzio.
GETTING THERE
Because of its favourable geographical position in the north of Italy at the Swiss border, the region of Lago Maggiore is very easy to reach for tourists from the British Isles and Northern Europe.

**BY CAR/BUS**
From the Mont Blanc tunnel via the A4 and A26 motorways in Italy, to Lago Maggiore or Lake Orta.

From Basel via the St. Gotthard motorway to Locarno on the Swiss side of Lago Maggiore. Then across the border at Rovigo Valmora and via federal road 334 along the shore of Lago Maggiore.

From Basel via Bern direction a) Lötschberg Tunnel or b) direction Vevey, Sion, Brig to the Simplon Pass. From there to Domodossola on federal road 33 to the Ossola Valleys, Lago Maggiore or Lago d’Orta.

From Lindau (O) /Bregenz (A) via Chur/St. Bernardino motorway to Locarno (CH). From Locarno as described above.

From Milan via A8 or A26 motorways to Sesto Calende for the East Shore of Lago Maggiore.

**BY TRAIN**
Via Paris with the TCV high speed train to Milan. From Milan to Lago Maggiore via rail route Milan-Domodossola.

From Basel, rail route Basel-Milan via the Simplon Tunnel to Domodossola or Verbania or Stresa.

**Regional Railways:**
Italian State Railways: Trenitalia

[www.trenitalia.com](http://www.trenitalia.com)

(+39) 06 68475475

Regional Railways: Trenord

[www.trenord.it](http://www.trenord.it)

(+39) 0323 552172

BY PLANE
From Basel via Bern direction a) Lötschberg Tunnel or b) direction Vevey, Sion, Brig to the Simplon Pass. From there to Domodossola on federal road 33 to the Ossola Valleys, Lago Maggiore or Lago d’Orta.

Train information (Germany)

[www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)

Train information (Switzerland)

[www.sbb.ch](http://www.sbb.ch)

Train information (France)

[www.voyages-sncf.com](http://www.voyages-sncf.com)

Train information (Italy)

[www.trenitalia.it](http://www.trenitalia.it)

Motorways (Autostrada) information (France)

[www.autoroutes.fr](http://www.autoroutes.fr)

Further information and air traffic


[www.turin-airport.com](http://www.turin-airport.com)

Motorway (Autobahn) information

[www.bis.bmvbs.de](http://www.bis.bmvbs.de)

**BY CAR/BUS**

**LOCAL SERVICES**

Central Tourism Authority of the Region Ascona Locarno, Switzerland

Settore Turismo - Provincia di Varese

Via Caravaccio 36

21100 Varese

(+39) 0332 252412

[www.turismovarese.com](http://www.turismovarese.com)

Central Tourism Authority of the Region East shore and Varèse

Settore Turismo - Provincia di Varèse

Via Caravaccio 36

21100 Varese

(+39) 0332 252412

[www.turismovarese.com](http://www.turismovarese.com)

Central Tourism Authority of the Region Ascona Locarno, Switzerland

Ascona Locarno Tourism Incoming & Hospitality

Piazza del Plebiscito 1

6600 Locarno

(+39) 091 394059

[e-mail] info@ascona-loccarno.com

www.ascona-loccarno.com

Further information andอาจารย์ for the region’s overall public transport network:

[www.vcoinbus.it](http://www.vcoinbus.it)

Motorways (Autostrade) information

[www.autopista.it](http://www.autopista.it)

Motorways (Autostrade) information

[www.autoroutes.fr](http://www.autoroutes.fr)

Further information and air traffic


[www.turin-airport.com](http://www.turin-airport.com)

Motorway (Autobahn) information

[www.bis.bmvbs.de](http://www.bis.bmvbs.de)

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(+39) 091 394059

[e-mail] info@ascona-loccarno.com

www.ascona-loccarno.com

Further information andอาจารย์ for the region’s overall public transport network:

[www.vcoinbus.it](http://www.vcoinbus.it)
The upper Lago Maggiore is the northern part of the lake extending towards Switzerland and stretching as far as Cannobio, the last town on the Italian side. The secret of this region’s beauty lies in a breathtaking contrast of lake and very steep mountains. The thickly wooded mountains make a more dramatic impression here than for instance the gentler hills of the southern side of the lake. Travelling along the lakeside road 34 leading from the famous Simplon road all the way to Switzerland, you pass several picturesque lakeside townships that have taken shape between mountains and the lake. The Malpaga castles, also called “The Castles of Cannero”, can be seen near Cannero Riviera. These fascinating ruins situated on two tiny islets visible from the lakeside are the landmarks of the upper Lago Maggiore. Here we find miniature copies of tradition in the small villages built directly into the nearby rocks of the mountains. They have remained almost unchanged for centuries. The Valle Cannobina connects the Val Vigezzo with Lago Maggiore and offers many options for excursions and rambling.

The Upper Lago
CANNERO RIVIERA, TRAREGO VIGGIONA

Cannero Riviera was built on an alluvial promontory on the small river Rio di Cannero. Because of its extremely mild climate the town was given the additional name of “Rivero”, lemons, oranges, olives, Bougainvillea and even bananas thrive in its gardens. For a long time the town was the object of strife between the rival families of the Scarpa and the Viscioni. The town has also been given a picturesque and shady lakeside promenade and has an enchanting historic part with narrow alleys, arcours, restaurants and many small shops. The bathing beach of Cannero Riviera is also a beauty spot that attracts a great number of visitors, especially in summer.

Sightseeing

Visible on two offshore islets are the famous Castelli di Cannobio, also called “Torchio dei Terrieri”, if you follow the signs in the vicinity you cannot help but be entranced by the magic of past ages. Today the community consists of three mountain villages – Trarego, Viggiona and Chaglio – situated in green countryside on the slopes of Monte Carza (3661 feet), with a breathtaking view toward the lake. The ruins of the castle are spread over the two islets and from the shore look as if they themselves are growing out of the water.

In the vicinity

Champey Superiore

The landscape of this small, medieval town Champey Superiore is the fourteenth-century church of San Gottardo. This intact, medieval village is located on the rambling road from Cannero Riviera to Cannobio.

CHIFFA, OGGEBBIO

Chiffa also has elegant villas surviving from the nineteenth century, among them the Villa of the Russian Prince Pietro Tresbitzkyov. The township has become known since the nineteenth century for its production of felt hats, and the milliners of Chiffa have made a name for themselves all over the world. A millinery museum has been set up in a section of the former Panza hat factory.

Sightseeing

The Sacro Monte delle SS. Trinità di Chiffa and its pilgrimage church, three church-sized chapels and a Way of the Cross from the seventeenth century are situated in the middle of an extensive nature reserve of 200 hectares, the Riserva Naturale Speciale di SS. Trinità di Chiffa. This woodland nature sanctuary around the Sacro Monte is today a centre for leisure activities; there is a keep-fit course and a restaurant. The monument complex consists of famous shrines, chapels, and portico of the Way of the Cross. It lies in a breathtaking spot above Cannobio Lago Maggiore, in the middle of a nature reserve. Tradition has it that it is the location of many miracles. Sources from the sixth century already testify to an oratory; the church was probably first built in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries and enlarged in the seventeenth. The square in front of the shrine is enclosed by the portico of the Way of the Cross; it consists of 14 arches with cross vaulting resting on stone columns and leading into a Lady Chapel.

The nature reserve covers 184 hectares of woodland and also a rich range of flora, above all chestnut trees, and fauna of many species – from the wren to mighty birds of prey. Numerous teaching paths run through this protected region; you can even find traces of ancient settlements and learn something of the region’s religious traditions. The nature reserve has become a popular area for ramblers, who can follow its paths even as far as the Val Grande National Park.

The late-thirteenth-century Palazzo delle Ragione, today called Parasio, for short, dominates the town centre, and the church of San Vittore. The lakeside promenade of Cannobio is renowned as one of the most beautiful on the entire Lago Maggiore. Just visible beyond it are the fishermen’s houses. Piazza Vittorio Emanuele III is situated directly in front of the old harbour and is the main meeting point of the town. Finally you come to the lido, a wide-ranging and well-tended beach near the Cannobio river estuary. Naturally this is always a popular goal in summer for a great number of bathers and sun-worshippers.

In the vicinity

Carmine Superiore

This community of three mountain villages – Trarego, Viggiona and Chaglio – situated in green countryside on the slopes of Monte Carza (3661 feet), with a breathtaking view onto Lago Maggiore. It has a church dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto and a bridge from Roman times.

The town of Gorgo from Cannobio, visitors can experience a breathtaking natural spectacle: the “Sant’Anna Gorge”, the start of a track which was originally the only connection between Val Cannobio and Lago Maggiore. Today it is a popular rambling route through the Val Canna. It has a church dedicated to Our Lady of Loreto and a bridge from Roman times.

Stroll in the vicinity

The Swiss part of the Lake

Towns and Villages

Sightseeing
There was already a human settlement here in primeval times and remains of the Bronze Age and of the Roman Imperial age have been found. Today Premeno is the chief tourist centre of the Verbania interior. Hospitality has a great tradition and is combined with a unique spirit of enterprise. The first tennis court in the whole of Italy was opened here in 1903 and was subsequently host to many national tournaments. In 1965 a nine-hole golf course was opened, the first of its kind in Europe.

Premeno lies in the centre of a basin covered in deciduous and coniferous forests surrounded by the hills of Sassoro Corbè and Pizzo d’Omo. Both heights protect the location from the cold north winds and ensure a mild climate and bracing air, making it a popular recuperative resort for tourists and holiday-makers.

The wealthy Lombardian middle-class already discovered Premeno in the nineteenth century by, who built elegant villas here, such as the Villa Cahi, Villa Bonomi, Villa Mursi, Villa Mangiagalli and Villa Bernocchi. Villa Bernocchi is today owned by the municipality and presents major exhibitions, concerts and other events.

The green meadows and slopes were used until recently for pastoral agriculture, testified by the many surviving mountain huts on the alpine pastures and by many well tended walking routes lined by enchanting votive chapels.

In the vicinity

Several types of traditional handicraft have survived in the little village of Eio near Premeno: copper work, wrought iron and, first and foremost, woodwork, especially for agricultural implements.

**Valle Cannobina**

Valle Cannobina is a wild, spacious, very green and in large areas still unpopulated valley connecting the Vigezzo Valley with Lago Maggiore. Geographically the valley belongs to the Alpi Lepontine. The Cannobino rivulet flows through the valley, its banks lined by steep walls of rock that occasionally form spectacular narrow passes, as in the famous Ormito di S. Anna — a well-known and very popular excursion destination for tourists and visitors to this region. The mountains attain a height here of 2189 m.

Monte Limidario at 2189 m is the highest mountain in the Valle Cannobina and the Rocce del Gridone separate the Val Vigezza from the region of the Centovalli. The townships oriented towards the lake include S. Agata, Campeggio, Saccargia, Cinzago, Ronco, Marchile, Rondonico, Formine, S. Bartolomeo, Pioggia.

Among the various centres of the Valle Cannobina are Cavaglio, Gurrono, Spaccio, Orazio, Cunsolo and Finerno on the left side of the valley. On the right side are Soccorcio, Cavalla, Falmenta and Gurro, all localities that have shaped the region with their own particular traditions. Notable places situated on the valley plain are Ponte Soccorcio, Nivetto, Luencce, Ponte Falmenta, Ponte Spaccio, Anletta and Cieves. One of the valley’s characteristic features is that it is very narrow and dark down below and opens up increasingly as it ascends.

**Museo Etnografico di Gurro e della Valle Cannobina**

Ethnographic Museum of the Valle Cannobina

The museum is in an historic sixteenth-century building on the town’s central square. It collects various traditional objects and original costumes from the Valle Cannobina.

Stresa has become renowned as the “Pearl of Verbano”, and all together these places have the highest share of tourists throughout the whole of Lago Maggiore. Their splendid hotels form a scenery that has caused tourism to thrive ever since the late nineteenth century. Today major events take place in these towns, to which many prominent people and VIPs are invited.
If Stresa is the green paradise of love, Baveno is the serene and enchanted isle of dreams, thus Nino Bazzetta’s description of it in his Guida del Lago Maggiore in 1931. The town is Roman in origin, seen from Milan it lies beyond Stresa and is today a famous tourist destination and holiday village. Baveno is also renowned for its water with low mineral content and its granite quarries. Its villas are a great sightseeing attraction: Villa Henfrey-Branca, the Villa Barberis and the Villa Fedone and Villa Durazzo (Lido Palace Hotel), each one of them well worth a visit. The town of Baveno is one of the starting points for visiting the Borromean Islands.

Culture
The Romanesque church of SS. Gervasio and Protasio was consecrated on 13 May 1343. It was recorded as a parish church as early as the 10th and 11th centuries.

In the vicinity
Feriolo
You reach the small district suburb of Feriolo from Baveno via the shore road. Here you see the pretty churches and modest houses. Its name – formerly Inferior – stems from the town’s original location near the lake shore. Today it is called the Upper Lake, thanks to the mild climate this included a stupendous botanical garden: more than 150 different sorts of camellia, a special cypress from Kashmir, tropical plants and flowers of unique and exotic types. The fascination of Baveno’s nature is enhanced even more by the exotic fauna living and running free. The palace was built in the sixteenth century and refurbished by the Princess Borromeo in 1978, who fitted it out with furniture taken from various residences of her family. The palace was converted into a museum. It contains interesting reconstructions of ancient rooms, numerous collections – frescoes, tapestries and porcelain, a puppet theatre, a splendid picture gallery with sixteenth century Lombard paintings, and a doll collection with French and German collector’s pieces from the nineteenth century.

THEBORROMEOISLANDS

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1 Minori: from age 6 to 15 years.
For special quotes, reservations and guided tours please contact:
Tel: (+39) 0323 924632
info@bavenoturismo.it
www.bavenoturismo.it

Isola Bella Gardens of Borromeo

The Borromeo Islands are without doubt Lago Maggiore’s trademark. They lie in the bay of the same name, which is lined with the towns of Stresa, Baveno and Verbania. Here Lago Maggiore is at its widest. The imagination and hard work invested by its population throughout the course of history have made the islands into a region that is outstanding for its rich culture and art.

ISOLA BELLA

Isola Bella may be described as the most famous of the Borromean Islands and the one most popular with the tourists. Its name – formerly Inselo Inferior – stems from Isabella, the wife of Carlo III Borromeo. He started the work of transforming this formerly infertile, rocky island in the first half of the seventeenth century, a task finished in 1671 by Vittalino VI. The great baroque palace is a fully fledged museum with unique exhibits of significable value, including original furniture, paintings and frescoes from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, Flemish tapestries of silk and gold, sculpture and ancient weaponry. There are resplendent halls in the interior of the building: a ballroom, a throne room, an armoury, an alcoved hall and the Salon Napoléon, where Napoleon is supposed to have lingered on several occasions. In addition, the building has six subterranean halls with natural grottos, their walls rendered with tufts and adorned with mosaics. The Italian gardens consist of ten terraces designed like a blunt pyramid. The terraces form a semi-circle, so grandiose in effect that it is called the Theatre, standing at the centre is a sculpture of a unicorn, heraldic beast of the Borromeos, next to it allegorical statues of nature and art, also other mythological stone figures.

ISOLA DEI PESCATORI (OR SUPERIORE)

The unique outline of an ancient village makes this the most picturesque of the islands: its pointed triangular towers up over the red roofs, the houses, pretty adorned with low arcades, look out onto the lake where many boats are moored at the shore. The island is named after the fishermen, the pescatori, who have lived here for centuries. The fishing island enchants young and old with its simple houses, its narrow alleys and stone portals and passages. The church of San Vittore is a national monument and has an original apse with single-arch windows from the eleventh century. There are several typical shops and well-known restaurants on the island, where you can try dishes made of freshly caught fish.

ISOLA MADRE

Isola Madre is the largest of the Borromean Islands. It lies in the middle of the gulf and is home to a resplendent Renaissance palace with one of the most renowned and oldest gardens in Italy. Starting in the sixteenth century, the Borromeo family gradually transformed the original fortress into a luxurious summer residence. Thanks to the mild climate this included a stupendous botanical garden: more than 150 different sorts of camellia, a special cypress from Kashmir, tropical plants and flowers of unique and exotic types. The fascination of Baveno’s nature is enhanced even more by the exotic fauna living and running free. In the vicinity of the palace, the church of San Vittore is a national monument and has an original apse with single-arch windows from the eleventh century. There are several typical shops and well-known restaurants on the island, where you can try dishes made of freshly caught fish.

ISOLA DELLA

Isola Bella:
Gardens of Borromeo

Isola Madre:
Villa Fedora and Villa Durazzo

Isola Madre:
Granite Museum

Isola dei Pescatori:
Museo Gramun

Adventure Park - Aqualake

Renaissance palace

Granite Museum

Isola Bella + Isola Madre + Rocca di Angera

Tuition Information
Postale: 28031 - Province VB
Altitude: 209 m
Populations: 4745
Market day: Monday
Tourist Information
Piazza della Chiesa 10
Tel: (+39) 0323 924632
info@bavenoturismo.it
www.bavenoturismo.it

Admission
For special quotes, reservations and guided tours please contact:
Tel: (+39) 0323 924632
info@bavenoturismo.it
www.bavenoturismo.it

Isola Bella + Isola Madre + Rocca di Angera
Opening season: 18 March to 23 October
Opening time: Every day from 9:30 to 5:30 pm

There is another lake in the immediate vicinity of the Borromean Bay — a miniature, so to speak, of its big brother Lago Maggiore. The lake was originally connected to Lago Maggiore and first separated in the ninth century by the alluvial land of the Tice. This division caused Lago di Mergozzo to develop a markedly warmer average temperature. At the west end of Lago di Mergozzo we find the town of the same name. Motor boats have been prohibited for some years now. It is moreover noted as one of the cleanest lakes in Upper Italy, thus its camping grounds and beaches are extremely popular with people who know and love the region. The banks and mountain slopes around the lake are far less populated than the other banks of Lago Maggiore.

Culture
Mergozzo is still excellently preserved in its medieval structure. The location was once known as the old trade route from Italy via the Simplon Pass (Sempione) to Valais (Wallis) in Switzerland. Today Mergozzo seems as if time has stood still, with its alleys for pedestrians, pretty churches and modest houses. The lakeside promenade of the little town is outstanding for its beauty and cultivation, inviting all comers to take a revolting walk.
By the late nineteenth century, Stresa had developed into the “Pearl of Verbano” and is one of the most famous destinations on Lago Maggiore. The town lies directly opposite the Borromeo Islands, and its location has made it a central launching point for boat excursions across the entire Borromeo Bay.

This “little strip of land” was originally a farming settlement. Later it developed into a populous slopes of the Mottarone, also called the “noble” mountain of Stresa, offers many excursion options for lovers of nature. There is a funicular railway between Stresa Lido and Mottarone leading directly to the summit of the mountain, altitude 4897 feet. Halfway you can make a pleasant stop and visit the Alpine Gardens, famous for their alpine mountain flora. There is a funicular railway between Stresa Lido and Mottarone leading directly to the summit of the mountain, altitude 4897 feet. Halfway you can make a pleasant stop and visit the Alpine Gardens, famous for their alpine mountain flora.

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**District of Intra**

The picturesque alleyways of Intra’s medieval town centre are today alive with the bustle of people working and shopping. The richly ornamented Palazzo Peretti in the Via De Bonis is one of the most resplendent buildings in the town. Shaping the town’s character, too, are the alleyways of Via San Vittore, Vicolo del Freschettò and Vicolo del Moretto, also the Piazza Ranzani. Centre of business and animated hub of the town is the Palazzo delle Beccherie. From the lakeside promenade you can see the ancient harbour with its imposing granite columns from Montorfano and the old landing pier. All Italian and Swiss harbours on Lago Maggiore can be reached from the new harbour. And every Saturday on Piazza del Mercato you can enjoy one of the largest weekly markets on Lago Maggiore.

**Villa Taranto**

The grandiose park of the Villa Taranto connects the two sections of the town. The villa gardens have been laid out in English style, although Italian elements are not missing: statues, fountains, ponds, terraces, waterfalls. Here the visitor can encounter all the elements of the earth, which lends a magical aura to these sacred grounds. The Villa Taranto gardens has one of the most important botanical gardens in the world. Thousands of plant species and flowers of all kinds cover an area of 16 hectares, interlaced by four miles of avenues.

**Villa Taranto Botanical Gardens**

Via V. Veneto 111

Verbania - Pallanza

Telephone: (+39) 0323 556667 / 404555

Fax: (+39) 0323 556667

e-mail: entevillataranto@tin.it

www.villataranto.it

In the vicinity

**Monterosso**

The round, characteristic profile of this 2,276 feet-high mountain looms up in front of Lago Maggiore. You can see it directly beyond the localities of Fondotoce and Suna. Interesting archaeological finds have been made in this region, testifying to human settlement of at least 3000 years. A trip to the summit of the wooded Mount Monterosso rewards you with a 360° panoramic view across the entire Bay of Borromean.

**Opening times**

March to September 9 am to 5 pm
April to September 8.30 am to 6.30 pm
October to November 9 am to 4 pm

**Admission**

- Adults: € 10
- Children (aged 6 to 14): € 5.50
- School groups (per person): € 4.50
- Tourist couriers: free
- People with disability/care person: free
- One teacher per 20 school goers: free

**THE LOWER LAGO**

This zone covers the shorelines of the lower Piedmontese Verbano region. Belonging to it are Arona, Mount Mottarone in the north and the town of Invarie in the direction of the southern summit of Lago d’Orta. There are many enchanting townships in the environs, including Arona, Massino, Verbania, Meina, Belgirate and Laveno. A breathtaking landscape has evolved in the Lower Lago. The surrounding mountain range of Alto Vergante reaches a maximum altitude of around 2625 feet; mountains and valleys teem with water — a characteristic feature of the region — as are the many scattered mountain villages. Before the major roads and railways were built and the steamship line started on Lago Maggiore, there was a flourishing harbour in Castelletto Sopra Ticino and Sesto Calende on the southern mouth of the Lago; it was of grave import for trade with the whole of Northern Italy and Switzerland.
In the vicinity

St Charles Borromeo was born in 1538 in the castle above Arona, the Castello delle Rocce, where a monument is dedicated to him. Beyond the town the monumental statue of St Charles Borromeo rises up as its landmark, it is called San Carlo by the local people. At 20.68 m it is one of the largest statues in the world and thus an outstanding religious monument in the region around Lake Maggiore. It was commissioned by Cardinal Federico Borromeo and executed between 1614 and 1618. And there’s an extra trick to it: you can actually go into the statue, which has small windows on various sides providing a fantastic view onto the surrounding landscape and the lake. On the opposite, east shore of the lake in the province of Varese is the Rocca d’Angera, a fascinating medieval castle.

South of Stresa is the elegant village of Belgirate. Belgirate is ten kilometres from Verbania and 80 km from Milan. It is favourite Lago Maggiore address for prominent people and VIPs. When you enter the name of the town is called Caffè or Lombard in origin it still is a matter of controversy. The locality was inhabited as early as Roman times, as is proven by coins found in the region. But the area was a place of settlement even before this — demonstrated by finds from the Stone Age. Belgirate was the meeting place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries of several intellectuals, among them the author Stendal. Some scenes from his work “The Coruscations of Parmo” are located here. But other famous personalities were attracted by the locality, including Gozzano, Romeni and de Arimis — and Fest and foremost the great Italian writer Alessandro Manzoni; they returned time and again to sojourn in the area.

Located between Meina and Baldissero is the charming resort of Lesa, noted among other things for its typical arcades lining the shore. It is situated in one of the sheltered coves of Lago Maggiore and can be described as a typical, elegant holiday resort with luxuriant gardens and beautiful summer palaces.

Arona lies in the province of Novara and was originally built between the precipitous rock masses of the Vergante mountain range foothills. The town has every right to be named the Gate to Lago Maggiore, as it drops down from the surrounding slopes towards the water. Its lake-side promenade is lined with ancient trees, and its character is shaped by medie-

val and baroque architecture. Early urban development originated in antiquity. A Benedictine abbey dominated the town from above until it became part of the domain of the Torniani in the twelfth century — and of the Visconti from 1277. The fief of Arona went to the ruling family of the Grassi from 1439, who held it until the eighteenth century. In 1744 Arona was endowed the status of a city by Carlo Emanuele III of Savoy. Primarily owing to its favourable geographical location the city of Arona soon became an important trade centre between the region’s capital of Milan and the Swiss canton of Tessin (Ticino).

Sightseeing

Among the jewels of the town centre is the collegiate church of Santa Maria, a Renaissance building housing a polyptych by the renowned artist Cauetario Ferraro. Also well worth a visit are the churches of the Sant Martiri and Santa Maria di Loreto. And there’s always something going on Corso Cavour, the pedestrian precinct and main shopping street in the historic centre. You can also find villas with beautiful gardens, such as the Villa Canavesio, noted for its exhibitions, and the Villa Cantoni — one of the most elegant and resplendent villas of Verbano; then there is the Villa Zuccoli with a terraced park, always a great attraction for a multitude of visitors. The medieval trading centre of the Piazza del Popolo is particularly impressive, it is situated directly on the lake-side promenade and opens up to the lake. Here, in the heart of the town, you will also find the so-called Casa del Podestà, with an enchanting pointed-arch arcade and the Museo Archeologico, with fascinating archeological finds. Arona is in addition one of the headquarters of the shipping company (Navigazione Lago Maggiore) and thus an ideal embarkation point for boat excursions across the entire Lake Maggiore.

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The Lombardian east shore of Lago Maggiore stretches from Sesto Calende on the southernmost point of the lake to Zenna on the Swiss border, a distance of around 45 miles. Compared to the Piedmontese west shore opposite, it makes a wilder and more elemental impression.

The Lombardian shore is surrounded by gentle hills all the way up to Laveno. The thick reed belt is also a characteristic feature of this section, which is extremely interesting as well for its wealth of prehistoric and Roman archaeological finds. Moreover, the many medieval buildings here provide an in-depth view of their epoch. Further north the lake shore becomes much steeper. Like the Swiss State Railways.

The little island of Partegora lies on the Lombardian shore opposite Angera we come to the little township of Angera. Close by the harbour is the pilgrimage church of Madonna col Bambino. Among its treasures inside is a very beautiful altar fresco of the Virgin Mary and Child (dating 1443). Other pleasures awaiting the visitor include a walk along Anger’s lakefront promenade, lined by a double row of chestnut trees and looking out towards the little island of Portegora.

In the vicinity
Not far from the southernmost point of Lago Maggiore where the Ticino leaves the lake is the little town of Sesto Calende on the left bank of the river. A double-level iron bridge leads across into the Piedmontese province of Novara. A must-see in Sesto Calende is the Museo Civico Archeologico e Naturalistico. It houses impressive archaeological finds of the Gallo-Roman and Iron Age culture (9th – 5th centuries BC), which was so called after the spot where the finds were excavated, the nearby Gallo-Roman settlement. Outside the town the Romanesque Church of San Donato is especially worth a visit. North of Angera we come to the little town of Rocca d’Angera, noted for its traditional architecture. The Transport Museum here has an interesting collection of diverse transport vehicles.
Sightseeing

Sightseeing attractions include the two churches Madonna del Carmine and San Giuseppe. On Lago Maggiore, a beautiful plane-fied lake with a panoramic view. In the church of San Pietro there is a fresco portraying the Adoration of the Three Kings (Adorazione dei Magi), attributed to an unknown painter. The church of San Pietro is reached by a narrow alleyway, with many of them restored and refurbished. The parish church of San Pietro is also located in this part. Not far away you can visit several palazzi from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; among them the Palazzo Crivelli Serbelloni, now accommodating the town hall. Other interesting sights can be found in the town library and the Museo Civico housed in the Palazzo Verbania near the shore, including a small painting collection and archaeological finds from the vicinity.

In the vicinity

Laveno’s church is situated at the foot of the mountain, densely populated Trevaglio Valley, whereas Maccagno lies further north at the exit of the narrow, wooded Veddasco Valley. The town is divided into two by the river Giona, Maccagno-Inferiore and -Superiore. At its heart, the small tourist harbour is the open space of the Piazza Roma, dominated by a medieval tower, the so-called Torre Imperiale. Visiting the church of Madonna della Punta (sixteenth century) also rewards you with a breathtaking view onto Lago Maggiore and the Castelli di Cannero, which are located on two tiny islands in the Fondamente dell’isola di Cannero. More: Maccagno has a most charming lake promenade. A futurist bridge leading across the Giona is the supporting structure for the Museo Civico. Various twentieth-century works of art have been shown here since 1975, among them by Da Chirico, Fiume, Levi, Parisi and Picasso. East of Maccagno in the Veddasco Valley is the little village of Monticello, at an altitude of 3031 ft. You reach it either by a cableway from Mulini di Piero or on foot via steep steps. All of the old village buildings have been restored in their original styles and are now holiday homes.

SANTA CATERINA DEL SASSO

The monastery of Santa Caterina del Sasso is indubitably one of the most beautiful and popular sightseeing attractions on the Lombardian side of the lake. It lies between Arona and Ranco on a rocky promontory above Lake Maggiore and is accessible by ship and by car. The monastery itself can be viewed best from the water, but when you climb down the steps from the car park above the monastery, you are rewarded with a breathtaking view onto the lake. According to legend, in the twelfth century a hermitage was situated on the spot where the monastery is now, inhabited by an eremite rich merchant, Alberto Besozzi, who had made a vow to become a hermit. On the other hand, there is historic evidence that Dominicans settled here in the early thirteenth century and built a small priory and oratory. In other words, relations followed; reconstructions, extensions and artistic enhancements were carried out. Ownership of the monastery passed to the surrounding parish churches in the nineteenth century and since 1920, the complex of buildings only rarely opened its gates. After years of neglect, ownership of the monastery was granted to the Province of Varese. The province had it restored and has thus bequeathed a genuine treasure to the east shore of Lake Maggiore.

Special features of architecture and art history

The tour of the site, which consists of three building complexes, begins with the Convento meridionale. Of the former monastery building, the church has an outstandingly beautiful fourteenth- and fifteenth-century frescoes especially rewarding to visit. After crossing a central courtyard, you enter the Convento meridionale, the monastery complex. Its Gothic cloistered house is encased within an ancient Romanesque, early thirteenth-century church. The church is dated 1541 and consists of several chapels, with an early date between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Not far from among them are the chapels of Santa Caterina and Santa Maria Nova, and above all the chapel of San Niccolò with a fresco by Christofor Usminick. Meanwhile, the chapel of St. Albert holds the memory remains of the hermit. The oldest part of the church is probably the Memorial Chapel located behind it.

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Varese, Battistero

Varese Poliziano Estense and Garden

Varese Corso Matteotti

Sacro Monte di Varese

**Sightseeing**

Varese is the north-west of Lombardy at the foot of the massif of Campo dei Fiori has been the capital of the province with the same name since 1927. The town’s past goes back to prehistoric times; it has been an important town since the eleventh century, in later centuries encouraging the growth of various other industries and trade. Varese is famous most of all for its many gardens and parks, which is why the town was also called “città giardino” — garden city — in the nineteenth century. Varese has “shared” the University of Insulinvà with Como since 1998.

**East Shore and Varese**

The Swiss part of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by the towns Locarno, Ascona, Brissago and further small villages, prides itself on its numerous and extraordinary nature beauty spots as much traditionally and curiously interesting sites. Thanks to the enchanting flowers and plants from all 5 continents, the Botanical Garden of the Brissago Island is of major importance. In the Città Vecchia, the old town of Locarno, you can visit several churches. Other important locations of Locarno are the Visconti Castle, the Rivellino and the Sanctuary of Madonna del Sasso in Orselina.

In Ascona you can visit Monte Verità and the Museum of Modern Art. In Brissago you will find the Tobacco Factory. On the opposite shore of the lake are located the natural reserve Bolle di Magadino, a refuge for different animal and plant species and, on the hillside, the Park of Campargno, with great panoramic views.

Traveling up into the valleys you will note that the landscape changes radically. Mountains, deep valleys, wonderfull forests make this territory very fascinating, wild and unique. Here you can find small and typical villages almost intact from the elapse of time, considered real architectural jewels and living evidence of their secular history. This region is the ideal place for hiking (with a very large network of hiking trails) and for practicing many different sports. Thanks to several modern cable cars, it is possible to easily reach very small settlements and mountainous areas of extreme beauty.

**THE SWISS PART OF THE LAKE**

**Varese**

Town Information

Varese (21050) - Province VA

Altitude 324 m

Population 85796

Market day Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Tourist Information - IA Varese

Via Romagnosi

Telephone (+39) 0332 281913

e-mail atavarese.it@provincia.va.it

www.tavarese.it/giardini.it

Parchi e Giardini Sacro Monte di Varese

Colle-Battisti

Telephone (+39) 0332 225549/821270

e-mail info@ticvarese.it

www.avtvarese.it

Sacro Monte di Varese

www.sacromonte.net

Museo

Museo di Varese

Piazza della Mercanzia 1

Telephone (+39) 0332 238390

e-mail info@msmavarese.it

www.sacromonte.it

Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza

Museo del Novecento

Piazza Litta 1

Telephone (+39) 0332 238390

e-mail foil.it@fondiambiente.it

www.villamenzano.it

Sacro Monte di Varese

www.sacromonte.net

Museo Civico Archologico di Villa Mirabellino

Via Cola di Rienzo 42

Telephone (+39) 0332 255485

e-mail museocivico@comune.varese.it

Opening times

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

Admission € 4

Castello di Mirabello

Pinacoteca e Museo d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Piazza Litta 1

Telephone (+39) 0332 225549

e-mail museo@comune.varese.it

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

Admission € 4

Museo Baroffio e del Sacro Monte di Varese

Art Museum

Piazzetta Monastero

Telephone (+39) 0332 255485

e-mail museo@comune.varese.it

Opening times

May to September

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

closed on Mondays

Admission € 4

Museo Civico Archeologico di Villa Mirabellino

Art Museum

Via Cola di Rienzo 42 – Loc. Miranda

Telephone (+39) 0332 820409

e-mail info@museobaroffio.it

www.museobaroffio.it

Admission

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

Closed on Mondays

Admission € 4

Museo Civico Archeologico di Villa Mirabellino

Pinacoteca e Museo d’Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Piazza della Mercanzia 1

Telephone (+39) 0332 255485

e-mail museocivico@comune.varese.it

Opening times

9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

Admission € 4

Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza

Museo del Novecento

Piazza Litta 1

Telephone (+39) 0332 238390

e-mail info@msmavarese.it

www.sacromonte.it

Opening times

Tuesday to Sunday. 10 am to 6 pm

Varese in the north-west of Lombardy at the foot of the massif of Campo dei Fiori has been the capital of the province with the same name since 1927. The town’s past goes back to prehistoric times; it has been an important market town since the eleventh century, in later centuries encouraging the growth of various other industries and trade. Varese is famous most of all for its many gardens and parks, which is why the town was also called “città giardino” — garden city — in the nineteenth century. Varese has “shared” the University of Insulinvà with Como since 1998.

**Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza**

In the vicinity the remaining six castellanze, once autonomous localities, have been integrated in the meantime now mostly part of the municipality. Varese has “shared” the University of Insulinvà with Como since 1998.

**Sightseeing**

Varese’s historic centre is for the most part situated within its former limits fortified in the Middle Ages. The Basilica of San Vittore is on the central piazza and dominates the square with its neo-classical façade and imposing baroque tower. The interior is memorable for the high altar and the apse, and above all for the paintings by Lombardian masters. The sacristy, directly next to the basilica, was built between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries on a previous building (8th–9th century); it contains very beautiful Gothic frescoes. Other churches will worth a visit in the centre are San Antonio alla Mezza, San Giuseppe and the Santuario della Madonna in Prato. Moreover, the visitor should not miss the Palazzo Estense. Francesco III d’Este, the former governor of Lombardy — then ruled by Austria — commissioned Giuseppe Bachi to build it between 1766 and 1771. A feature of great note is the park behind the palazzo, in Italian style and known as the Giardini Estensi. From the park you arrive at the adjoining gardens of the Villa Mirabellino. The Villa itself stands on a hill, a vantage point for a wonderful view. Today it is the home of the Museo Civico, which contain a prehistoric department, a historical section, a natural history collection and a painting gallery. The Corso Martesotti is Varese’s popular promenade, a busy pedestrian precinct with well-preserved palazzi and arcades, all in all where no one can resist the desire to stroll and linger. From here you soon reach the former Benedcitine convent of St. Antonio, a rewarding declaration above all for its cloisters and the former refectory, today the Sala Veronii. Orbiting around the old centre of Varese is a group of seven Castellanzee, once autonomous localities, in the meantime now mostly part of the municipality. The Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza in the Castellanzee Biumo Superiore is not only an architectural jewel, but also contains an impressive collection of contemporary art. Not far from the Villa Panza is the Villa Ponti, today a congress centre with gardens. There are other splendid villas and much green to be found in the remaining six castellanze.

In the vicinity

Above the town near the wooded slopes of the Campo dei Fiori is the Sacro Monte, one of the largest and most impressive Ways of the Cross in Italy and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2001. The procession route was laid out between 1605 and 1680. It is over a mile long and leads from the Prima Cappella (1919 ft.) to the church of Santa Maria del Monte (2887 ft.). All together 14 oval chapels line the way of contemplation; they are dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary. Santa Maria del Monte, the centre of the place of pilgrimage, shows stylistic elements ranging from the Romanesque to the baroque era. The climb up to it is a rewarding experience, not least owing to the harmonious interplay of landscape and architecture.

**THE SWISS PART OF THE LAKE**

The Swiss part of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by the towns Locarno, Ascona, Brissago and further small villages, prides itself on its numerous and extraordinary nature beauty spots as much traditionally and curiously interesting sites. Thanks to the enchanting flowers and plants from all 5 continents, the Botanical Garden of the Brissago Island is of major importance. In the Città Vecchia, the old town of Locarno, you can visit several churches. Other important locations of Locarno are the Visconti Castle, the Rivellino and the Sanctuary of Madonna del Sasso in Orselina.

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Traveling up into the valleys you will note that the landscape changes radically. Mountains, deep valleys, wonderful forests make this territory very fascinating, wild and unique. Here you can find small and typical villages almost intact from the elapse of time, considered real architectural jewels and living evidence of their secular history. This region is the ideal place for hiking (with a very large network of hiking trails) and for practicing many different sports. Thanks to several modern cable cars, it is possible to easily reach very small settlements and mountainous areas of extreme beauty.
The Valle Onsernone is one of the most impressive and mysterious valleys in Ticino. Characteristic are the thick forests, spectacular gorges and white water; this rather isolated place can be reached by a winding road. Along this road, which leads up to the village Spruga, there are some fantastic villages, built on sunny terraces with an interesting traditional architectural style. Numerous internationally renowned writers and artists of the past and present found and still find the Valle Onsernone the ideal place for inspiration, thanks to the extraordinary and up to this day intact natural and human surroundings. To be visited: the Onsernone Museum and the mill of in Locorno, where the traditional flower of the valley, “Faina Bona” is ground.

The Centovalli is named a hundred valleys because of the countless side valleys leaving the main valley to the left and right. It is an important transit route between Switzerland and Italy. Its natural scenery, of outstanding beauty, offers nature- and hiking friends a wide range of recreational activities. The many villages, which you pass by, while travelling through the Centovalli, allow you to discover many characteristic corners, where traditions of the past are still lived. Verdasio, Rosà and Palagnedra are only a few of the small villages, enchanting in their simple and authentically beautiful way. To be visited: the regional Museum and the bell tower in Intragna as well as the Dimini Theatre in Verscio (www.teatrodimitri.ch).

The Swiss part of the Lake Maggiore, also known as the “Green Court”, offers a fantastic view of the Borromean Islands. The picturesque small island of Isola Bella is renowned for the production of high quality cigars. The lake and the mountains, there is a world of traditions and mysterious scents, and the panoramic view is overwhelming. Two hundred kilometres of hiking trails wind along the mountains and villages of the Centovalli, the promenade along Lake Maggiore which hosts a series of events, markets and festivals, the most world-famous being the New Orleans Jazz Festival.
The Ossola Valleys and their towns and villages in the north of the Lago Maggiore region are again a cosmos in themselves: here you can enjoy both the beauty of the valleys – around Domodossola, for instance – as well as the fascination of high mountains. The entire region is characterised by very diverse landscapes. It evolved between the Lepontine Alps, the lakes in the south and in the north towards Switzerland. As a whole, the Ossola Valleys are more tranquil in impression, more natural, yet sometimes they manifest an aura that is nothing less than dramatic. From the northernmost township in Piedmont, Valle Formazza, you travel through one valley after another – Valle Antigorio, Valle Diverio, Valle Bognanco, Valle Antrona and the famous Vigezzo Valley, and into the Valle Anzasca to the peak of Monte Rosa: In Macugnaga you find yourself at the foot of the awesome, snow-covered massif of Monte Rosa, at 4637 metres the second highest mountain in Europe. The Ossola Valleys are particularly fascinating for individual tourists: they are ideal for hiking – alone around 1553 miles of walking paths await the visitor. Furthermore, you can go on unforgettable trips on the Vigezza railway through the Centovalli region in Switzerland, which takes you through a wild, rugged landscape seemingly untouched by human hand. The Val Grande National Park, if after all the greatest wild life reserve in the whole of Italy – an attraction in itself. The Parco Naturale Alpe Veglia e Devero – a protected nature reserve at the Swiss border in the canton of Valais (Wallis) is also well worth a visit. Alone 70 different types of cheeses can be tasted here, among them of course the king of cheeses, the Betteamm. This produces various kinds of salami, too, not to forget the famous gnocchi made of chestnut flour.

The Antrona Valley is the least known part of the entire Ossola region, thus its extraordinary tranquillity and originality amid pastures and woodland, small villages and old-world alpine huts. Absolute stillness reigns in the valley; time itself seems to have stood still. Numerous alpine lakes form the main feature of this landscape, evolved through glacier erosion. The “main road” through the Val Antrona starts in Villodossola. It leads past small townships like Vignola and, even smaller, the villages belonging to the municipality of Antorna Schieranco, until it divides in Antropona. While the northern fork leads to a main-road lake, the Lago Alpe dei Cavalli, the southern route takes the traveller to Lago di Antrona. The lake came into being in 1542 when a huge fall of rocks from Monte Pizzoazzu tumbled onto what was once the village of Crogna. The mass of rocks interrupted the course of the Troncone river, damming the water and eventually forming the present lake Antrona. There many other lakes to be discovered in this area from this, all in idyllic settings, including the Lago di Complìccoli and the Comospecce Reservoir at a height of 1325 m. You can not only feel the past in this alpine region, but actually experience it as reality. The pastures and clusters of villages are centuries old and testify to an archaic world – a living history book, so to speak. A really unique feature is the typical architecture of the villages scattered throughout the valley, where customs and traditions are preserved which have otherwise long fallen into oblivion in other alpine regions. Anyone who travels along the roads from Montescheno, Viganella, Seppiana and Antronapiana will encounter owls where people still bake their own bread, and buildings are raised in a typical style of the alpine region. Another common feature of the valleys in the valley are the old wine presses – one of them for example goes back to the year 1745 and after restoration is still in use. It is set up in Antropona.

This is the wildest valley of the Ossola Valleys. Though not the most famous, it is undoubtedly the most secluded, a special circumstance to which the Valle Antrona owes its natural, unaltered character until this very day. The Antrona Valley is the least known part of the entire Ossola region, thus its extraordinary tranquillity and originality amid pastures and woodland, small villages and old-world alpine huts. Absolute stillness reigns in the valley; time itself seems to have stood still. Numerous alpine lakes form the main feature of this landscape, evolved through glacier erosion. The “main road” through the Val Antrona starts in Villodossola. It leads past small townships like Vignola and, even smaller, the villages belonging to the municipality of Antorna Schieranco, until it divides in Antropona. While the northern fork leads to a main-road lake, the Lago Alpe dei Cavalli, the southern route takes the traveller to Lago di Antrona. The lake came into being in 1542 when a huge fall of rocks from Monte Pizzoazzu tumbled onto what was once the village of Crogna. The mass of rocks interrupted the course of the Troncone river, damming the water and eventually forming the present lake Antrona. There many other lakes to be discovered in this area from this, all in idyllic settings, including the Lago di Complìccoli and the Comospecce Reservoir at a height of 1325 m. You can not only feel the past in this alpine region, but actually experience it as reality. The pastures and clusters of villages are centuries old and testify to an archaic world – a living history book, so to speak. A really unique feature is the typical architecture of the villages scattered throughout the valley, where customs and traditions are preserved which have otherwise long fallen into oblivion in other alpine regions. Anyone who travels along the roads from Montescheno, Viganella, Seppiana and Antropona will encounter owls where people still bake their own bread, and buildings are raised in a typical style of the alpine region. Another common feature of the valleys in the valley are the old wine presses – one of them for example goes back to the year 1745 and after restoration is still in use. It is set up in Antropona.

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The best way to get to know the Anzasca Valley is to take a trip to one of its famous alpine refuges: for instance the alpine hut of Zamboni-Zappa. You can get directly to Macugnaga by charter from there along a marked, circular route to the alpine hut. Here, on the Pedrera alpine pasture at a height of 2070 m., you have a breathtaking view over the troughs of the Del Belvedere glacier.

Macugnaga rises up at the foot of Monte Rosa and is a well-developed, modern tourist centre both in summer and winter, yet at the same time has preserved its historic and valuable heritages as a witness to the Walser culture. For winter sports fans there are two cross-country routes as well as any other ways of the ancient houses of Piemento and Isola. Then leading on into the forests. From here you can start out on foot or skis along the most beautiful routes around Monte Rosa. Hinterhalmo is the name of a collection of huts and alpine farms at an altitude of 1950 m. above Macugnaga.

To the right of the path leading up here and about 500 m. before the hut you arrive at a large, irregularly shaped rock with inscribed signs on it in various places. Notwithstanding that the typical inscribed signs are missing, they are possibly the traces of pilgrims wandering through from Vallais (Wallis).

The historic town of Macugnaga has been shaped first and foremost by the mountain people of the Walser. This Allemannian people settled in Upper Vallais (Wallis) in the thirteenth century, later expanding their own colonies from the Bern uplands as far as the Crimal Pass and the heights of the Com. The Walser settlement also extends to include the Val Foremazz, the Simplex Valley, the Asola Valley and the valley hollows of Monte Rosa — and thus also to the town of Macugnaga. It is significant that Italian was first made the teaching language in schools as late as 1880. The influence of Walser culture is still evident in the structure of the houses built of wood and masonry. A church of Our Lady was built in the second half of the 18th. Century, reconstructed several times in the course of the centuries, it is also a witness to Walser culture. Not far from the church, now surrounded by a cemetery, is a lime tree from the 13th. Century, where in earlier times elders were deposed and councils held.

Not far from the Walser House Museum is the village of Foremarrei, the location of the godimine of Guia. The mine was in operation for more than two hundred years (1730 to 1946) and was the first in Italy to be re-opened as a cultural facility.

Two alpine country skis-room close to Macugnaga are bound to make the hearts of winter sports fans beat faster. They wind their way between the old buildings of Piemento and Isola and then lead into the woods. Numerous options for excursions on foot or on skis start here, leading you to the most breathtakingly beautiful routes around Monte Rosa. Very popular among hiking experts is the village of Vanzone con San Carlo further to the east. A widely ramified network of well-marked routes offers a great variety of hiking and rambling excursions to Alpine pastures and mountains; these include Pizzo San Martino (2733 m.). Since 1903, a great iron cross has crowned the peak and its stunning panorama.

The Diablo, Antigorio and Forzasou valleys begin near Crevola Boscella in the vicinity of Domodossola. The Antigorio and Forzasou valleys together form a geographic unit, extending as the vail of the river Tic to the township of Riise close to the Swiss border. This is also the northernmost point in Padon. A formative feature of the Divoval Valley in the direction of the Simplon Pass is the torrent of Divena. There is also railway line passing through the Divoval Valley, and the old Napoleonic road leading to Switzerland. When you leave the Orin of Uricea — improving gorges — in the Antigorio-Forzasou Valley, you arrive at the Cona di Formazz, one of the most important of Divena. The road continues steeply uphill as a footpath and ends at 7585 feet at the pass of San Giacomo at the Swiss border. The Rivere Forzasou is a famous cross-country circuit and was used in recent years by several national teams in preparation for competitions. The Divero Valley opens up at Bazano, leading to the well-known Alpe Veglia and Divero Nature Park.

The inhabitants of the Antigorio and Forzasou Valley stem from the mountain people of the Walser, who have influenced this region with their original way of life and traditions. This is noticeable in the language, in the architecture, and in the traditional dishes, which have all acquired their own quite individual character. Although the Antigorio and Forzasou valley is one single valley, it has two different cultural origins: that of the Rhaeto-Romansic culture and that of the Walser. The Antigorio Valley always formed an important connection between Vallais (Wallis) and Tessin (Ticino). One of its townships is Riise, well known for its excellent water and source of the famous Italian aperitif Crodino. The Antigorio Valley is very diverse in its geology. The parish church of San Gaudenzio in Bazano is well worth a visit in itself.

VALLE BOGNANCO

Town Information Bognanco
Postcode: 28845 - Province VB
Altitude: 900 m
Population: 319
Travel Information
Via Conzalino
Telephone (+39) 0322 234 109
www.valbognanco.com
www.alpabognanco.it

The Diablo di Bognanco stretches out from Domodossola in a westerly direction. It is only eight or nine miles long, very green and is also called the “Valley of the Hundred Waterfalls”. The hikers’ heart can look forward to a delightful variety of landscape and a haven of unspoilt nature. The Bognanco Valley is known first and foremost for its mild climate and prolific thermal springs.

However, the Bognanco Valley has other entrancing qualities besides its thermal springs: it lies in the natural amphitheatre formed by the breathtaking, seemingly infinite stretch of the Alps. It offers innumerable options for excursions and trips, for example up the Alpe Monsorana or to the summit of the Pizzione and the Pizzo Stroscia, rewarded by an incomparable view of the Alps and the surrounding valleys. And the valley is a must for trekking fans: starting out from San Bernardo de Bognanco there are many excellently marked cycle and hiking routes leading to the surrounding peaks. The villages of Amsano and Possetto are well worth a visit for their numerous mills.

VALLI DIVEDRO, ANTIGORIO AND FORMAZZA

Town Information Varzo
Postcode: 28850 - Province VB
Altitude: 564 m
Population: 918
Travel Information
Proloco Val Divedro
Piazza Apparecchio 1 - Varzo
Telephone (+39) 0324 706610 / 335 548 964
E-mail info@valdivedro.it
www.valdivedro.it

Museo Varzo
Archaeomuseum Multimediale
Archaeological Museum
Via Piacenza 27 - Varzo
Telephone (+39) 0324 27527
E-mail info@prolocowarzo.it
www.mosuo.it

Town Information Crudo
Postcode: 28802 - Province VB
Altitude: 503 m
Population: 1700
Travel Information
Ufficio Turistico Val Secco
Piazza G. Crudo 2 - Crudo
Telephone (+39) 0324 648 005
E-mail info@prolococrudo.it
www.prolococrudo.it

Museo Crudo
Casa Museo della Montagna
Ethnographic Museum
Via Vicenza 1 - Crudo
Telephone (+39) 0324 648 005 (Proloco)
E-mail info@prolococrudo.it
www.prolococrudo.it

Centro Studi Pietro Giovanelli
Museo di Scienze della Terra Ubaldo Baroli
Natural History Museum
Via Poldana 15
28852 Crudo - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 234 109
www.prolococrudo.it

THERMAL BATHS SPA

Alpe Devero Nature Park

Sightseeing

Ossola Valleys

Val Valtellina

Novara, Ossola Valleys and Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services

www.illogomaggiore.com
Ossola Valleys

**Sightseeing**

Val Grande National Park

**Valle D’Ossola**

- Town Information Domodossola
  - Postal Code: 28845 - Province: VB
  - Altitude: 271 m
  - Population: 18,334
  - Market day: Saturday
- Tourist Information (Piazza C. Corridoni 28)
  - Telephone (+39) 0324 248265
  - e-mail: info@promodossola.it
  - www.promodossola.it
- Sacro Monte Calvario
  - Borgata Sacro Monte Calvario 5
  - Telephone (+39) 0324 241076
  - e-mail: sacro.monte@promodossola.it
  - www.sacromodossola.it
  - www.sanmontino.net

**Castello di Vogogna**

- Visconti Castle of Vogogna
  - 28850 Vogogna - VB
  - Telephone (+39) 0323 872200
  - e-mail: info@visitvogogna.it

**Valle Vigezzo**

- Town Information Viverone
  - Postal Code: 28854 - Province: VB
  - Altitude: 375 m
  - Population: 1,216
  - Tourist Information: Piazza Canton 1
    - Telephone (+39) 0324 925901
    - e-mail: info@visitviverone.it
    - www.valleromaggiore.it

**Sacro Monte di Varese**

- Museum: Museo della Spazzacamino
  - Chiesa San Giorgio
  - via Varese, 28850 - Viverone - VB
  - Telephone (+39) 0324 872200
  - e-mail: info@visitviverone.it

The actual Ossola Valley extends between Lago Maggiore and the municipality of Crevoladossola and is the most centrally situated of the valleys throughout the Ossola region: these radiate away from it in the form of a maple leaf. The Toce flows through the Val d’Ossola, as it does the Val Formazza and the Val Antigorio. Its source is in the Rodo di Formazza at a height of 1643 feet, after 90 miles it merges into Lago Maggiore at Borromeo Bay. The Ossola valley is especially famous for its diversity of minerals and rich resources of stone: granite, marble, bauxite (type of ore) and Serizzo (a type of granite) are its most precious treasures, immortalised in the local architecture.

The town of Domodossola has existed in the centre of the Ossola valleys from time immemorial. It had already known in the second century AD, but under the name of “Ossola Leonopterus”. Later it was called Domus Onuata and served the entire region as the centre of Christianity. The construction of the Simplon Pass road in 1805 and the Simplon Tunnel in 1906 brought the town out of its historical isolation. For a good 1000 years Domodossola itself has been the Piazzo Mercato, lined with elegant manor houses with arcades and the wooden balconies typical of the region. There are abundant sightseeing destinations in the close vicinity, for instance the Pizzulo di Chia, the Pizzulo Silvo, the church of S. Gregorio and Protasio and the Internazionale Station with its underground platforms, from which the Vigezzina Railway trains leave for Locarno. An absolute must for visitors is a detour to the Holy Mountain of Calvario, the so-called Sacro Monte Calvario. The ascent of the Way in the Cross in the seventeenth century heralded the advent of Baroque art into the Ossola valleys.

Another name for the municipalities of Montevecchia, Crevoladossola, Mosera and Trontano is the “Rivero Ossola”: they form a kind of crown over Domodossola. Thanks to their amenable climate, their location in the Toc valley and their infrastructural function in connecting to the high-altitude Alpine pastures, they have always been well populated. In Boldo, a hamlet belonging to the village of Montevecchia, visitors can see an impressive pagan temple from the fifth or fourth century BC, while in Crevoladossola the parish church of Santissimi Pietro e Paolo (16th century) is of particular interest for the sightseer. Another essential sightseeing destination is encountered on entering the village of Masera, the little church of S. Abbondio (17th century). It lies on the road leading through the Val Vigezzo, and its purity of style makes it one of the most outstanding Romanesque buildings in the entire Ossola region. Subsequently a breathtaking approach to the Val Grande National Park leads via the mountains of Trontano, a village renowned for its resources of stone and wine. Incidentally, another convenient route to the National Park starts out from the municipality of Beora Cordezza. Villodossola, on the other hand, is located at the entrance to the Valle Antersa. The townships is primarily well known for its lively cultural centre LaFabbrica. Another rewarding experience awaits the visitor at the Romanesque church of San Bartolomeo a short distance outside the town. Piedimulera lies between the Toce and the mountain stream Anza at the entrance to the Valle Antersa. It was a key traffic junction in the nineteenth century, for trade in grain, wine and other goods.

The most important military fortification here is the Torre Ferreria, dated 1594. The castle of Vogogna was built in 1348 on commission of Giovanni Visconti to safeguard the little township of Vogogna and the valley. Today there is almost nothing left of the wall encircling the town as an added fortification, while the castle with its towers and crenellations still looms up as majestically as it did in the Middle Ages, dominating the entire village from its mountain slope.

The valley starts in Masera and Trontano, a municipality of the Val Grande Nature Park. The villages of Santa Maria Maggiore and Mallesco are among the most well-known localities in the valley. Santa Maria Maggiore is renowned throughout Italy as a good-luck spot, for this where the spazzacamini, the “black men”, come from, in whose honour a Chimney Sweep Museum has been founded – the only one of its kind in Italy. The so-called blue Vigezzina Railway passes through this landscape. The panoramic route of this railway line is 32 miles long, travels over 83 bridges and through 31 tunnels, passes over awesome gorges, past houses of local stone and eclectic melange, and in one and a half hours connects Domodossola with Locarno on Lago Maggiore in Switzerland. It also stops at several stations in Vigezzo. The valley is named Cantelli between the Swiss border and the lake. This is where lovers of untouched nature and serene adventure and skilled hikers will find a genuine paradise, because the mountain peaks in Val Vigezzo seldom surpass an altitude of 7874 feet.

The village of Drungo goes back to Celtic times, its name means “Village of the Oak”. Scholars find it the suggestion of the presistent human settlement, like the crucible-shaped signs marking rocks of the Campa alpine pasture. Today this is primarily a region of pastoral agriculture.

The Vigezzo valley during its time was known amongst connoisseurs as the valley of the painters. Artists like Rossetti Valentini, Gian Mario Rastelli, Lorenzo Peretti, Enrico Cavalli et al. worked here and became renowned beyond the borders of Italy particularly for their landscapes. Almost at the end of the valley in Re is a Gothic or Byzantine pilgrimage church. It is dedicated to the Madonna of the Blood, which is supposed to have appeared there miraculously in 1494. Devout pilgrims have come in droves to Re throughout the ages to wander at the miracle of Re and pray at the shrine of the “Blood Madonna”. On 29 April 1494, Giovanni Zuccone is supposed to have thrown a stone at the picture, hitting the Madonna on her forehead. It was reported that blood flowed from the face of the Madonna for 20 days. A few years ago a hostel for pilgrims and a retreat house was built next to the shrine.
Situated between the Valsesia and Lago Maggiore we find Lago d’Orta, also known under its Latin name of “Cusio”. It is surrounded by a landscape more charming than overwhelming, scattered with old stone houses. The region is generally noted as being one of peaceful and picturesque holiday resorts, with San Giulio the most popular. There is noticeably less residential settlement and tourist bustle here than in the neighbouring townships of Lago Maggiore – except twice a year, when the famous flower show transforms the Ortafiori streets and squares into a sea of flowers.

The west shore of Lago d’Orta is steep and rugged; its mountains already part of the foothills of the Monte Rosa massif, the second highest mountain massif in the Alps, whereas the east shore rises more gently towards Mottarone, which attains an altitude of 1491 m. and separates the Lago d’Orta from Lago Maggiore.

The climate is extremely mild – especially on the east shore – until well into autumn, meadows and forests cover wide areas: here we mainly find sweet chestnut trees and beeches, in higher regions also pine and spruce forests.

The town of Omegna lies at the north mouth of the lake. It is renowned world-wide for its design label companies, for example Alessi. The Vallec Strona begins westwards from Omegna. Throughout its history the valley has always been completely secluded and for this reason has continued to keep its independence and autonomy – something its inhabitants are still very proud of and value greatly. Other outstandingly attractive places along the lake are Pattenasco, Armeno, Agrano, Miasino, Pella and Ronco.

Ameno

Ameno can look back to a centuries-old tradition in gastronomy and the hotel and catering business and is renowned above all for its world-famous chefs de cuisine. The Museo degli Albergieri houses many exhibits illustrating the history of this service industry. Emblem of Ameno is the church of Santa Maria Assunta (Our Lady of the Assumption, 12th century). It is the patron saint example in the Cusio region of a Romanesque building, fascinating in its simple, mystical beauty. Visitors can marvel at the precious sixteenth-century frescoes, including the famous Trinità tricolore, a rare, anthropomorphic portrayal of the Trinity.

Miasino

In Miasino we can find traces of a settlement dating back to the Iron Age. In the Middle Ages the civic and religious life of the townfolk was closely connected to the other coastal municipalities of Lago d’Orta, which were all under the sovereignty of the bishops and dukes of Novara. The town has acquired cultural significance among other things through a private school specialising in the humanities. Major sightseeing destinations are the parish church of San Rocco and the adjoining Villa Nigra, both from the Baroque era.

Ameno

The parish church of Santa Maria Assunta (Our Lady of the Assumption) with its Late Romanesque campanile stands on the outskirts of Ameno, a municipality which can glory in the Villa Torrielli and its exquisite Baroque garden in its centre. Also of particular interest is the Fondazione Calderara museum in the district of Vacciago. The region is known as Cossine di Ameno and lies at the edge of the Asegna Valley. Small, picturesque nati, villages have grown up along the wooded river course, among them Pezzicozza, Tarchino and Staulzo. Myriad well-maintained paths and tracks for rambling and mountain-bike tours lead through the woods. South of Ameno we find the Monte Mesma nature reserve stretching out before us, named after the mountain rising up above it (1890 feet). Soiled its peak rewards with glorious views over the surrounding countryside. Nor should the visitor miss the monastery of Santuario del Monte Mesma still occupied by the Carpinet friars. The salutary Torre di Bucione dates from the thirteenth century, a unique relic of early medieval castle architecture and situated southwest of Monte Mesma. It likewise gives its name to a nature reserve. Further south, the village of Bolzano Novarese is worth a mention, its main feature of interest the Romanesque church of St. Martino di Engervo.

Lake Orta

Sightseeing

Lake Orta

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Lake Orta

Sightseeing
Val Strona, though less known, has a most charming landscape, stretching from Omegna on Lago d’Orta in a north-westerly direction and is bordered there by the end of a grandiose valley. This valley ascends to 4205 feet in Campello Monti. The Strona Valley is part of a breathtaking landscape and a parade for hikers and riders of all grades of proficiency. Almost lost in the stillness of the Val Senasca, Campello is a tiny, very ancient village, once subject to the jurisdiction of the Waldens. It has lost none of its original charm. Campello Monti consists of a cluster of houses in delicate colours, with characteristic slate roofs. Framed by the utter greenness of the valley slopes and high mountain peaks, the village is an ideal starting point for excursions, for instance trips to the alpine lakes of Capezzano and Ravinella. Apart from the landscape, the beautiful eighteenth-parish church of San Giovanni Battista is well worth a visit.

The valley rises in the vicinity of the village of San Giovanni. The ancient Parish of San Giovanni lies on the terrace of the river, where the Lago d’Orta flows from the Borromeo Lake. The parish of San Giovanni is the most ancient and the most ancient, as the name San Giovanni Batista is mentioned in the year 217. The church is the oldest in the region and is dedicated to Saint Giovanni. The church is surrounded by a series of chapels, which are dedicated to the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and Saint Peter. The church is well worth a visit for its ancient architecture and its beautiful paintings.

In the vicinity

Sightseeing

Lake Orta

In the vicinity

Sightseeing

Lake Orta

In the vicinity

Sightseeing

Lake Orta
The Piedmontese Province of Novara borders on Lombardy to the south and extends in the north to the lower Lago Maggiore and the southern section of Lago d’Orta. Its landscape is dominated by hills, water courses, meadows and forests, with the two rivers Sesia and Ticino setting its natural boundaries. While the northern part of the province is famous for the wine-growing region of Colline Novaresi, the south towards the Po Valley is characterised in the main by countless paddy fields.

But not only its natural beauty urgently recommends a visit to this part of Piedmont, also its art and culture. Whether Borgomanero, Chermé, Oleggio or Borgolavezzaro: each of the townsships here has its own very individual cultural, folk, and of course gastronomic traditions. Many “monumental witnesses” testify to the past history of the Novarese heights - well-constructed fortifications, country estates, places of refuge and hair-raising bridges. From the culinary point of view, the typical products of the region – apart from vintage wines – are rice and gorgonzola cheese.

Novara itself is the capital of the province with the same name and lies in East Piedmont in the middle of an enormous rice plain. From here it is about 100 km to Turin and around 50 km to Milan. It is the second largest city in the region and a popular destination for excursions from Lago Maggiore.

**NOVARA, VINEYARDS AND PADDY FIELDS**

The heart of the Province of Novara stretches out between the lowest tip of Lago Maggiore in the north and the flat paddy fields in the south. The so-called Alto Piemonte is thickly populated and, contrary to its name, is anything other than flat. Besides the two main rivers Sesia and Ticino, there are many other water courses permeating the region and spreading out over slip-slip terraces formed in the Ice Age. The vines has been cultivated for millennia on the gentle hills of the Colline Novaresi, with grape varieties such as Nebbiolo, Vespolana and Bonarda. Today the region boasts a great number of wineries, welcoming visitors to taste its choice and vintage wines and to do a delicious extra to savour its other local products.

Borgomanero was founded by the Novarese people in 1194 with a location to the north of their own township as a kind of fortress playing a strategic role. When the building was finished in the early thirteenth century, it received its name of Borgo Mainario in honour of the city battal of Novara, Jacopo Mainario. Today, Borgomanaro is a flourishing centre of trade and industry, yet it has preserved its historical and artistic attractions. Piazza Martiri is the actual town centre where the façade of the Collegiate Church of San Bartolomeo (12th century) is of exceptional interest. Inside there is a wonderful triptych, dating from 1556, frescos and paintings by Morazzone, and a magnificent baroque wooden altar. The Oratory of San Leonardo with its beautiful frescos dating from the thirteenth century is the oldest church in the town (11th/12th century). The façade and the supporting columns are made of great ashlar, while the side walls and apse were built of gravel. Additional rewarding sights await the visitor: the Corsa Roma, where a market is held every Friday, as has been the custom for five hundred years, the Palazzo d’Este, an old residence from the fifteenth century, a medieval bridge called “del Torrione”, the palace of Vergano from the fourteenth century and the Oratory of San Nicola alla Borgogna, a rustic, proto-Renaissance building with a stone bell tower. West of Borgomanero surrounded by woodland and vineyards is the picturesque villages of Maggiora and Bocca, the latter well-known and beloved for its wine. Set off somewhat from the village we see the monumental pilgrimage church del Crespillo rising up, a work of the renowned architect Alessandro Antonelli (completed in 1917), and the fortress of Montabano where are still some interesting frescos to be seen. East of Borgomanaro is the village of Cattica in beautiful and exceptionally diverse countryside. It is a region of much Romanesque architecture, including the ruins of the Basilica San Martino and many other churches. Near the road from Borgomanaro to Cattoica you shouldn’t miss seeing the splendid, seventeenth-century Villa Leonard and its English garden, and the Oratorio della Madonna di Campagna. Moreover, further East from Borgomanaro, by the village of Camignago, the Nature Reserve of Lago Aglio and its late roman Necropolis is well worth a visit.
The Piedmontese city of Novara lies in the midst of a plain dominated by rice fields. The city was settled long before the Romans came and in the first century BC was elevated to a municipium, which during the Roman Empire developed into a flourishing centre. The remains of the ringwall on Piazza Cavour still testify to this era today. Besides the sights and sites relating to (art) history, Novara’s historic city has other features to recommend it – with its stately palazzi and baroque colonnades it also offers a change from the stress of the big city.

Momo and vicinity

It’s worth travelling just over a mile north of Momo to the little rural church of Santissima Trinità del XVIIIth century, which lies on the old Francigena pilgrimage way, which led from the Simplon Pass via Lugano d’Orta and Bormio, and then proceeded to Novara and the Po Valley. Our itinerary takes us via Bereguardo and Castello di Dongo to Fontanetto d’Aronico, situated near the village of ancient origins stems from the countless ground water sources to be found in the close vicinity. The shrine of St. Alexander in the parish church of Santa Vittoria Assunta (Blessed Virgin Mary of the Assumption) is the work of Alessandro Antonelli. Another destination not to be missed is Careggio, the Bonsertorium of San Giovanni. The octagonal baptistry stands near the parish church of S. Maria Assunta and dates from the twelfth century. Archaeological excavations have revealed a previous building from the 5th century; the frescoes date from the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Oleggio and Pompei

About two and a half miles outside the village of Bellinzago Novarese we come to the Abbey of Oleggio. The most interesting building complex, this religious and agricultural centre was erected in the twelfth century on the remnants of a Roman settlement and is still occupied by several families. A “must-see” is the church of San Giulia with its exquisite frescoes from the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. The heart of Oleggio situated a little further to the north is the triangular, arched Piazzette Martiri della Libertà. A mighty clock tower rises up in the market; a hall has been held here every Monday for over 500 years. Two places well worth a visit are the museum of religious art and, top of the list, the “Fancioli” ethnographic museum. More than 100,000 exhibits give a dynamic view of local life and work traditions. It is one of the most important collections in the entire province. A visit to Oleggio would not be complete without viewing the façades of a castle built in the fourteenth century on San Michele. It lies northwest of the historic centre next to the cemetery and is built of bricks and river pebbles. Via the tiny township of Mezzovico – yet again famous for its excellent wine – we then move on in a northerly direction to Pompei. The small municipality has a Safari Park and is situated at the edge of a river terrace. In prehistoric times the Colosacco Culture was domiciled in this region. Finally, we come to the township of Divignano enshrined on one of the last monastic halls before the start of the plain. It is crowned by a Gothic Visconti Castle.

**NOVARA**

Town Information Novara
Postcode: 28100 – Province: NO
Altitude: 161 m
Population: 103,262
Market day: Monday to Sunday
Via Beltrami and Via Dantes

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Telephone (+39) 0321 394599
Fax (+39) 0321 394598
E-mail info@torismonovara.it
www.torismonovara.it

Museums
Museo di Storia Naturale e Museo Etnografico
Natural History and Ethnographic Museum
Viale delle Vittorie 15
Telephone (+39) 0321 370764
E-mail museo@comune.novara.it
www.museo.comune.novara.it

Museo della Canzone del Duomo
Sicilian Museum of Music
Viale della Canzone 9–17
Telephone (+39) 0321 390958
E-mail museo@comune.novara.it
www.museomusicale.com

Complesso Monumentale del Broletto
History, Art and Archaeology Museum
Via Filippo Rossetto, 20
Telephone (+39) 0321 372720
E-mail museo@comune.novara.it
www.brolettomuseo.it

NOVARA VINEYARDS and Paddy Fields

Castle of Briona

Ethnographic Museum

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Sightseeing

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Sightseeing

Novara Cloister

Wine barns

Pompi Park Safari Park
Visitors’ Area
Via S. Graziano 28906 Pompe – NO
Telephone (+39) 0321 394599
Fax (+39) 0321 394598
E-mail museo@comune.novara.it
www.museo.comune.novara.it

Ossola Valleys

Lago Maggiore

Lake Orta

Hotels

Local Services

The Swiss part of the Lake
The PADDY FIELDS

The southern section of the Province of Novara — all around the capital city, so to speak — is an immense flat plain characterised primarily by paddy fields. It is most impressive when the innumerable parcels of land are flooded in spring. Then the so-called Bassa Novarese is transformed into what seems to be an endless lagoon formed of fragmented planes of water, interspersed by doms, poplars and canals. The loamy soil is optimally water-retentive and thus cultivated by the mercantile. In between these paddy fielnd, towns, churches and farmsteads rise up above them Tornaco and Trecate

Situated in the centre of the sleepy little village of Tornaco we find the Villa Marzoni dating from the late nineteenth century and preceded by a fifteenth-century castle, of which the gate arch and the remnants of two towers have been preserved. Today the villa houses the ‘Museo di Local History’, presenting a view of local agriculture. Trecate is a small agricultural and industrial township of ancient origin, with a main square, the Piazza Cavour, and, rising up behind it, the parish church of S. Maria Assunta (Our Lady of the Assumption, 14th century). Although the building has been remodelled several times, a fresco portraying S. Catherine of Alexandria has been preserved from the early period.

Borgolavezzaro, Nibbiole and Casalino

Borgolavezzaro is a municipality on the southernmost tip of the province. If the first official records date from the eleventh century, numerous archaeological finds prove that the Romans had already settled here. A cyclic path leads from here to the Campo della Chino Botanical Gardens, where various habitats of the Po Valley have been reconstructed. Keeping to a northerly direction you come to the municipality of Vispolate and then the small village of Nibbiole dappled around is the Palazzo del Cittadino, now housing a very interesting natural history museum; it contains works of taxidermy showing around 2500 species of animals from all over the world. Again only a few steps away we enter the Castello Cavour: Novara’s promenade along the route of the ancient Roman road lined with elegant houses and shops.

In the vicinity

East of Novara is the municipality of Galliate, landmarked by an enormous redbrick tower crowning in its centre. Erected on the foundations of an ancient fortress destroyed by Frederick I Barbaras in 1514, it was restored and extended in 1476 by Galeazzo Maria Sforza. Most of the Castello Sforzesco is today owned by the municipality; the northeast tower now houses the modern art department of the “Angelo Bazzolo” Museum. No more than a stone’s throw from Galliate and from Romantina sits a little further to the south is the huge natural reserve of the Parco Naturale Valle del Ticino.

Casalovale, Casalbeltrame and San Nozzaro Sessa

The three-nave parish church of S. Pietro al Cimitero stands on the outskirts of Casalovale. Built of river stones, it is of Romanesque origin, has three apses aligned to the east and is decorated with several very beautiful frescoes. The campanile adjacent to the building stems from a previous church. The small agricultural township of Casalbeltrame 5 km to the north is a member of the Italian circle of “Città Sile”, the Slow Food organisation. Well worth a visit also besides the Castello Ricetto are the Agricultural Museum “L’Civile” and the Villa Brocrens Savoiroux. The latter is a bustling cultural centre, with an enormous garden that dominates the garden. There are more flora and fauna for visitors to marvel at in the Riserva naturale delle Palude di Casalbeltrame not far from here. The nature reserve covers approximately 600 ha of land consisting of woodland, heath and marshland offering a habitat for around 200 species of birds. One of the most notable monastery complexes in the history of art in Piedmont is the Abbazia dei Santi Nozario e Celso in the municipality of San Nozzaro Sessa in the far west of the province. The abbey was founded in 1040 and restored in the mid-twelfth century. Among its most striking features are its campanile, its cloisters and Late Gothic frescoes.

Cameri, Calgitnago and Silvaggio

Barely 10 km to the north of Novara is the small township of Cameri, its vicinity landmarked by several farmsteads of exceptional artistic and architectural significance. The Cascina Pichetta, for instance, is a two-storied, U-shaped building with interesting frescoes and a beautiful garden. Today the sixteenth-century building accommodates the administration headquarters of the Parco Naturale Valle del Ticino. And there are two “must-see” sights further to the west in Calginago: the Romanesque oratory of San Salvatore (late 11th century) and the Castello built by the noble family of the Coccia (15th century). Finally, in Silvaggio, visitors are rewarded by the imposing sight of the two churches S. Maria Nova and S. Maria delle Grazie. The former possesses very beautiful frescoes but can only be viewed during special cultural events. The parish church of S. Maria delle Grazie (16th century) rises up on the main square of the town. Its organ was made in the second half of the seventeenth century by Giovanni Battista Giovannelli and is of great value. It was restored in 1994.

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Novara Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields
Parco Nazionale Alpe Devero

This national park in the province of Verbano is surrounded by Val Vigezzo, Val d'Ossola, Val Cannobino and Lago Maggiore. Its 15,000 hectares make it the largest wild life and nature reserve in Italy. It is the only European region of this nature to be honoured by the global organisation Wilderness. The landscape here has retained wild and elemental. There are signed walking paths leading the visitor into the region’s depths.

Parco Naturale Alpe Veglia – Alpe Devero

Sheltering the nature park at the Swiss border between Val Divedro and Val Formazza are the Alpe Veglia (5777 ft) and the Alpe Devero (3351 ft), also two alpine pastures of the Ossola Valley. The landscape here is characterised by lakes, waterfalls and rivers. The park is renowned above all for its rich mineral resources: 127 kinds of stone were counted here alone.

Monte Mesma, Sacro Monte di Orta and Torre di Buccione Nature Reserve

The nature reserves of Monte Mesma, Sacro Monte di Orta and Torre di Buccione in the south-eastern part of Lago d’Orta are divided up by three hills. Remains of Middle Ages civilisation have been preserved in an elemental landscape. The connection of architecture and nature makes every walk or hike into an experience of a very special sort.

Riserva Naturale Speciale Sacro M.te della SS. Trinità di Chița

Chița is a place of pilgrimage situated in a breathtaking spot above Lago Maggiore at an altitude of 1481 feet. The complex of buildings is baroque in style, its architecture inspired by the places of pilgrimage Sacri Monti of Orta and Varese. The nature reserve is about 200 hectares in area, extending along the sides of Monte Cargiago. It is combed through by numerous walking paths flanked by old stone walls.

Riserva Naturale Sacro Monte Calvario of Dormedossola

This nature reserve was initiated in 1987 by the region of Piedmont and stretches over the hills of Mottarone. Starting from here the entire area of the Sacro Monte is protected – for example an observation cage was installed here for the observation of nocturnal predatory birds.

Lagone di Mercurago – Parchi Lago Maggiore

The nature park Lagone di Mercurago near Arona is administered together with the nature reserves of Fondotoce and Dormelleto by the Association of the Parks of Lago Maggiore. The wetlands of which the Lagone is the most extensive, are of exceptional importance for the fauna and rare genera of water and swamp flora.

Gorges of Uriezzo

The gorges of Uriezzo near Baveno in the Antigorio Valley were formed during the Ice Age. Today you can walk through three of these gorges on foot. The most fascinating the South Gorge, 656 feet long and between 65 to 86 feet deep, called “Groove of Uriezzo” by the locals. Incidentally, the region is also an interesting eco-system: many types of plants can be found here that scarcely exist anywhere else, above all mosses and ferns.

 Ticino Valley Nature Reserve

The nature reserve covers more than 175 miles of the Ticino river valley, from Sesto Calende to Mezzosinno, in the Provinces of Varese, Novara, Milan and Pavia. The park area exceeds ninety thousand hectares and is divided into different zones: the river valley and surroundings, the plains, the irrigable plain and the morainic hills.

Monte Fenera Nature Reserve

The park is named after the mighty and solitary Mount Fenera on the relief of Lower Valussia. Its profile is clearly recognisable from the Novarese and Vercellese plains. The nature reserve territory is an ideal choice for an alternative holiday and has a favourable central position with the rice plains to the south, the Upper Valussia, the Mt. Rossa, and Lakes Orta and Maggiore to the North.

Campo dei Fiori Nature Reserve

The Campo dei Fiori and Mount Martica massifs rise up between the Valcuva, the Valganna, the city and lake of Varese, forming the Campo dei Fiori Natural Park. The highest point of the massif is the Paradiso peak (3727 ft.). The picturesque village of St. Maria del Monte, landmark of the city of Varese, lies on top of the Sacro Monte (2675 ft.) and is also part of the Reserve.

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The Lago Maggiore region offers a wonderfully diverse range of food and wine. Each of the three Provinces of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola, Novara and Varese can serve up quite exceptional delicacies designed to make a gourmet’s heart beat faster.

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Cheese

Cheese is a foodstuff closely linked to the history and tradition of the Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola. Cattle and goats have grazed the {green} expanses of the valley floors ever since the days of Ancient Rome. Free-grazing herds can be met even today when roaming in the summer months through the high-altitude mountain country. Cheese always was and still is one of the main ingredients of the local cuisine. The regional cheese varieties are also renowned beyond the Provincial borders: both the Ossolano A-d’Alpe and the Ossolana di Lattine, also the various caprino, ricotta and mascarpone sorts are taking over an increasing share of the cheese market.

Saliscia – sausages and sausages

Lamb-killing farm has always been great import for the Alpine population. Gourmet products like Mortadella Ossolana (selected Slow Food product) and the Prosciutto della Valle Vigezzo are among the specialties of the region thanks to their professional and richly traditional production methods. Other typical sausage and meat products such as salami, bacon, belly of pork and bresaola are essential items on the menu for light meals and snacks. Today, these products are no longer made by the breeders themselves as in former times, but by butchers who over the years have specialised in traditional methods of meat preparation.

Honey

Together with bacon or cheese, as emblem for sweets and desserts, even added to dishes with pasta, meat and fish; the hon- ey of the Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola is one of the region’s most-try quality specialties. The origins of today’s bee-keeping industry lie in the fourteenth century. The conditions for this are ideal: firstly, the geographical characteristics peculiar to the region, which stretches from the shore of Lake Maggiore all the way to the highest mountain ranges; secondly, the diverse vegetation, and thirdly state-of-the-art bee-keeping technologies. Today, the province produces seven different types of honey with organoleptic proper- ties: chestnut, lime, rhododendron, honeydew, mixed flower and alpine flower honey. The different nuances of taste and colours range from mild to slightly bitter and from light to amber gold.

Wine

Wine is cultivated in the Province of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola in areas with a special microclimate. There is little wind here, and it is

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Gastronomy

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The delicious cutting cheese Formaggio della Valle Vigezzo is a DOC of the delicious Varese Alpine foothills, white of colour and cylindrical shape. It is very delicate, which becomes increasingly intense as it matures, thanks to the raw, full-bloom goat’s milk is made from, which comes from the breeds of goats named “Comissacata delle Alpi” and “Nera di Versazza”. The Formaggio del lumeo matures in a moist cold-storage cell at a maximum temperature of 15°C, or in a cellar with natural humidity. The period of maturation must last at least 20 days.

Honey

Honey is a further delicacy typical of the Province of Varese. It is a quality product with DOC status and includes three spe- cifically protected sorts; mixed flower honey has a pleasant taste, which varies according to location, which has a strong aroma and is made from the pollen of different flowers and the honeydew of several plants. It is ideal for breakfast and the preparation of desserts. Meanwhile, the very sweet acacia honey has a delicate aroma and is amber-coloured. It is an excel- lent complement for mature goat’s cheese and seasonal fruit. Finally, chestnut honey has a special aroma and is, almost black in colour. It goes well with mature cheese sorts — whether made of pure goat’s milk or a mixture of goat’s and cow’s milk.

Confectionery

Simple but utterly delicious: these are the fitting adjectives to describe the sweet delicacies of the Province of Varese. The best known among them have roots that go back a long way in country-folk tradition. Their basic ingredients are simple and natu- 

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**PROVINCE OF NOVARA**

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**CULTURE AND GARDENS**

*Borromeo Islands*  
**Description**  
The famous Palazzo Borromeo on Isola Bella – the most famous of the Borromeo Islands with its Italian garden – isolo Madre with its Renaissance palace and the oldest English garden in Italy, and the fisherman’s island Isola dei Pescatori with their picturesque aura are the most attractive sightseeing venues in the region of Lago Maggiore.

**CULTURE AND NATURE**

*Lago Maggiore Express: Water and Mountain Tour between Switzerland and Italy*

**Description**  
The tour "Lago Maggiore Express" offers a unique opportunity of discovering the landscapes of Lago Maggiore and its mountains. The tour can also be undertaken in the opposite direction, but usually starts by ship from Stresa (or from any locality on Lago Maggiore) to Locarno (Switzerland). The route from Locarno to Domodossola passes through the Swiss Centovalli Valley and the Italian Val Vigezzo, also known as the "Valley of Painters". Running through these valleys is the regional light railway “La Vigezzina”. The tour continues from Domodossola to Stresa or Verbano and back to the starting point by Italian Railways.

**Alternative Tour**

Duration of this alternative tour includes the visit of the Borromeo Islands. For further information please contact your local tour operator, there is the option of modifying each excursion package according to individual ideas. For further informations, prices, accommodation, other options and queries please contact the listed incoming agents of the Lago Maggiore region.

**LAKE MAGGIORE: SANTA CATERINA HERMITAGE AND THE ROCCA BORROMEO**

**Description**  
Departure by boat from Luino for a sailing or motor boat trip by the eastern shore of Lake Maggiore. The trip ends at the Santa Caterina del Sasso Hermitage. This monastery was founded in the XII century and is one of the most notable landmarks of the region. Its breathtaking position, perched on a cliff overlooking the lake, makes it unique. Lunch can be provided on board or at a restaurant in Leggiuno.

**VARESE AND SACRO MONTE**

**Description**  
Departure from Varese city centre to the cable car station. The ascent to the top of the Sacred Mountain of Varese and the village of Santa Maria del Monte can be done by cable car, or on foot along one of the largest and most impressive Ways of the Cross in Italy, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003. The penitentiary route was laid out between 1605 and 1680. It is over a mile long and leads from the Prima Cappella (1919 ft) to the church of Santa Maria del Monte (2827 ft). A visit of this mountain village and museum will be followed lunch at one of the local restaurants overlooking the Lombardy plains.

The return trip can be on foot or by cable car, then transfer to the city centre of Varese. An afternoon stroll will include shopping in the pedestrianised area of the city and a visit of the Este’s Palace and gardens. In the late afternoon, there will be the opportunity to visit the famous villa situated in the city’s surroundings (including Villa Recalcati or Villa Panza).

**NATURE AND WELLNESS**  
**Nature Park Alpe Devero Alpe Veglia – Ossola Valleys**

**Description**  
The Lant Irene Alps’ lush forests and mountain huts are the ideal setting for those searching a ultimate relax experience. In the stillness and natural harmony of the Alpe Devero and Alpe Veglia nature parks three professional wellness trainers will lead you in the realms of perfect relaxation. Massage, Tai-Chi, meditation and Hata Yoga are just some of the 3 days package highlights. A participant may choose six courses in three days. A warm welcome in a typical local hotel will be the ideal complement to an unforgettable mountain experience.

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*Further information, admission fees and reservations please contact your local tour operator.*
**TRADITION AND NATURE**

On the trail of the Valser (Valsesian) Civilisation and Gold-diggers in Valle Anzasca

Description

The tour starts at Lago Maggiore, continues into the southern part of the Osso Valley and then ascends into Val Anzasca towards Monte Rosa. A green plain opens up at the end of the valley; the location of the mountain village of Macugnaga, one of the centres of Valser culture. This Alemano people settled in these mountains very early on. Their autonomous culture still lives on today and has left its traces in the language, cuisine and architecture. Monte Rosa is the second highest mountain in Europe, looming up here to an altitude of over 4,000 m. It is an extraordinary backdrop to the landscape, reminiscent of the Himalayas. The region was dominated for centuries by the work of the gold diggers. One of the gold mines formerly active here can still be viewed today.

**CULTURE AND LEISURE**

Province of Novara, Piedmont: Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Description

After a morning visit to the impressive monastery complex of Abbazia Benedettina di San Nazzaro Sesia, the tour continues to the provincial capital of Novara 8 miles to the north. The extensive tour of the city starts at the Piazza Martiri with the Teatro Coccia, the Palazzo Comunale, the Capitolo Visconte-Foscarini and the Vittorio Emanuele II local products market, followed by a visit to the Casa del Corpo di Guardia, the cathedral, the baptistery and the adjoining basilica. The tour continues through the Lapidary Museum. After having seen the Broletto, the Palazzo Tornelli-Bellini and the basilica of San Gaudenzio, there is the opportunity of getting a glimpse of the cathedral, the baptistery and the adjoining basilica. The afternoon programme includes a visit to the fortress complex of Ghemme, later there is the option of visiting a cantina, a local wine-cellars, to taste the wines of the region.

**LAGO DI VARESE**

Bike trip round the lake

Description

The bike tour of 28 km around Lago di Varese starts and ends at the foreshore of Gavirate on the north shore of the lake. The route (best by mountain lunch) consists almost exclusively of asphalt roads and paths, mostly reserved for pedestrians and cyclists. Moreover, motor traffic never exceeds a reasonable limit wherever public highways join the route. Riding anti-clockwise, the first half of the tour takes you past townships such as Bagliano and Capolago. As you travel on, you can enjoy wonderful views onto the lake and along the way such sights as the church of Madonna del Lago in Azzate. While the route from Bagliano to Torino-Bellini - the steepest section worth the name (10% gradient over 100 m) – leads a little into the hinterland, after Capolago it runs through the glorious Parco di Schiarena. A final highlight shortly before Gavirate is the cultural association “Corte di Brus” in the suburb of Gropello. There are ideal places to stop for refreshment on the tour in Gavirate, Cutlione Lombardo, Capolago, Schiarena and Crollalanza.

**NOVARA – BIKE**

A round trip by bike through the Novaresi plain

Description

The bike tour through the Novaresi plain is 37 km long, a delightful round trip leading cyclists between canals for irrigating the rice fields, wonderful abbeys, and agricultural concerns, the so-called cuscine. The route runs anti-clockwise and starts and ends in the town of Callignano. Between Cavagliano and Alotta it integrates a stage of the Sentiero Novaro. The road surface varies, sometimes gravelled, sometimes tarmac; there are no ascents worth the name. In contrast, there are a multitude of sights to see on the way, for instance the castle in Callignano, the medieval church in Agnelengo, the Sforzesco castle in Prah and the Abbey of SS. Nazaro d’ Calso in San Nazzaro Sessile. A landscape of outstanding beauty can be enjoyed in the sections through the rice fields, which are veined with watercourses such as the Tendoglio and the Monte Maggiore. There are plenty of places to stop for refreshment on the way. In Prah we recommend you try “panisic”; the typical dish for the Province of Novara is a riceotta with vegetables and saliscica.

**HIKING TRAIL THROUGH THE NATURE RESERVE OF CHIFFOIA**

Hiking with dramatic views of Lago Maggiore

Description

The Sacro Monte dello SS. Trinità di Ghiffa is a place of pilgrimage as well as a nature reserve, listed in both categories as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located in the middle of a lush landscape on the hills west of Lago Maggiore, the site offers an experience that is rich both in culture as well as in natural beauty and last but not least, offers a superb vantage point onto the lake. The trail is very well marked and leads you through the nature reserve, listed as a nature reserve, and finishing in Verbania-Intra. The first part of the hike follows a mule trek through the village of Ronco. After arrival at the Sacro Monte a must for hikers is a visit to the shrine, as well as the nature park walk, accompanied by local tour guide. In addition there are plenty of places to stop for refreshment on the way. A restaurant on site offers typical regional specialities. The trail continues towards the villages of Caramo and Bigogno, from there to Ponte Vecchio and then back to the shores of Lago Maggiore along the lake promenade of Verbania-Intra, where the trail ends.

**MONSERA–LAKE HIKING TRAIL**

Hiking in the Bognanco Valley

Description

The Bognanco Valley, green and rich in water, so that it is also known as the thousand waterfalls valley, is located west of the town of Domodossola, north of Lago Maggiore. The 10km hiking trail to the Monscera Lake in the upper part of the Bognanco Valley starts and finishes at San Bernardino, an Alpine township with a mountain hut of the same name at an altitude of 9828 m. The trail runs partly on surfaced roads, but mainly on mountain paths. Highlights of the trek are the Rosagio ridge, the Rosagio lake surrounded by spruces and many potted peat. The Castiglione Alto mountain hut (Rifugio) is ideal as half-way house for a typical mountain lunch break. After the Rifugio the next stop is the Monscera Lake and the pass (2103 m) of the same name, where you can take in the breathtaking view. To hike back to the starting point you first reach the “Il Doss” mountain hut and then continue to the “rifugio San Bernardo”. It goes without saying that the two latter rifugios are also perfect places to enjoy the local culinary specialties.

www.lngomaggiore.com

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**LOCAL SERVICES**

East Shore and Varese Region

Excursion duration 3 hours

Distance 37 km

Altitude difference 50 m

Suitable for all, year round

The bike tours and hikes described on these pages are no more than a selection of various tour suggestions around Lago Maggiore. You can find out more information about these and other routes at www.lngomaggiore.com (Active holiday, itineraries).
**LAGO MAGGIORE CONFERENCE**

Lago Maggiore Conference is the competent local partner for your congress and conference organization!

Lago Maggiore Conference is a leading reference for international planners; it is supported by the Chamber of Commerce of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola and consists of 30 members.

The members of the association were selected rigorously according to the quality and standards of their organizational structure and service options. From congress hotel to golf course, from taxi service to Michelin Star restaurant – Lago Maggiore Conference offers an all-round service for congress organization.

Facilities for congresses, restaurants for gala dinners, incentive programmes, 4- and 5-star hotels, approx. 1,500 rooms, 124 meeting rooms with a capacity of 10 to 1200 seats, and a total of around 12,000 seats are available locally for events, also floor space for exhibitions and presentations.

Aim of the association is to offer international planners a complete congress organisation service. Over and above this, useful information on the organisation of congresses or incentive trips along the shores of Lago Maggiore will be given to those who wish to organise a congress or an event further themselves. Tasks further undertaken by the Lago Maggiore Conference involve supporting these clients professionally, providing them with quick and qualified help and answers to queries on the programme, as well as on availability of facilities and on prices for individual events.

**VARESE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

Varese Convention & Visitors Bureau is an institution founded by the Chamber of Commerce and the Province of Varese to promote its territory as a conference and incentive destination and as an ideal location for national and international conference and events. Varese Convention & Visitors Bureau acts as a reference and coordination point for the conference structures offered in Varese and its surroundings and represents an independent and reliable contact for professional operators, in order to guarantee both the quality and the standards of their organisational structure and service options. From congress hotel to golf course, all local services are at disposal of those people who wish to find in the Varese area the ideal location for their conference activities.

**ASCONA-LOCARNO CONVENTION & INCENTIVE BUREAU**

Our Convention Bureau and Incentive & Groups department are ready and willing to help you organise all aspects of conferences, seminars, incentive travel and group excursions in the Lake Maggiore region. Our office can help you find a solution tailored to your requirements and will provide all the support you need to ensure the success of an event, regardless of the funds available. Our services are: Action plan, Venue, Specific services, Hotel booking center, Thalass, Social events and spouse programs, Guided tours and excursions.

**INCOMING AGENCIES UPPPER, CENTRAL AND LOWER LAGO, LAKE ORTA AND OSSOLA VALLEYS**

Q Travel is the new seal of quality of the Verbano Cusio Ossola Chamber of Commerce, which certifies and markets the quality and professional standards of the travel and incoming agencies of the region.

**INCOMING AGENCIES NOVARA, VINEYARDS AND PADDY FIELDS**

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OLGA
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CAROLA DEBORAH MANGIALARDO
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MICALEA
English

GERMAN/ENGLISH

ILIENNA
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