Tourist suggestions

Discovering Lake Como and its mountains

If you take the opportunity to stay the weekend, you will soon discover that Lake Como (the lake upon which the city of Lecco overlooks) is surrounded by beautiful places to visit. In this pamphlet you will find some suggestions of sites that are easily accessible by public transport, with some brief descriptions and directions on how to get there. We hope you enjoy your free time!

Varenna – Bellagio

Also called “the pearl of the lake”, Varenna is a beautiful ancient fishing village just 20 km from Lecco and is a part of the “golden triangle” with Bellagio and Menaggio. You can walk through its little alleyways and stairways next to the lake, visit some beautiful historical and artistic places (San Giorgio Church and Villa Monastero) or just relax eating and drinking in one of the many little restaurants. For the most athletic, in a 20-minute walk uphill you can get to the Castle of Vezio, where you can visit the ancient ruins and enjoy the wonderful view on Bellagio and the “three arms” of the Lake. Varenna is also an ideal base for getting to Bellagio by ferry. Probably the most famous village on Lake Como, Bellagio is located just in the middle of the Lake. Its position made Bellagio a perfect place for building Villas with incredible gardens such as Villa Melzi d’Eril and Villa Serbelloni (now property of the Rockefeller Foundation) and shooting films like Mission Impossible.

How to get there. Lecco-Varenna roundtrip: You can get to Varenna and back by train in about 30 minutes. Trains depart once an hour from both station of Lecco and Varenna-Esino (for details, see: http://www.trenord.it/EN/)

Varenna-Bellagio by ferry: Varenna ferry station is 5 minutes from the train station and is connected with the center of the village by a beautiful path on the Lake called “Lovers’ way”. Ferries depart every hour from Varenna to Bellagio and back.

Suggested itinerary. Get to Varenna in the morning; visit the village and the ancient churches of San Giorgio and San Giovanni (free access), just in the town square. If you have time, you can visit the beautiful Villa Monastero – an eclectic villa built on a XV century monastery – and its beautiful gardens (5 € for the garden; 8 € with the House museum). After lunch (you can taste the famous lake fish), you can go to Bellagio by ferry, visit the town with its characteristic stairways, the Romanesque church of San Giacomo and the gardens of Villa Melzi d’Eril (6,50 €).
Piani d’Erna

Piani d’erna is a place located at 1300 meters above sea level just in front of Resegone, the beautiful mountain upon Lecco with its characteristic chainsaw shape (“resega” in Lombard dialect). Easily accessible with the cable car, in a few minutes you can go from the city to a high mountain landscape.

How to get there. Piani d’Erna is accessible by cable car in 10 minutes with runs every hour from 8.30 to 17.30. To get to the cable car take the bus, line n° 5 to Funivia – Villa Brick, starting from the train station in Lecco (stop: Via Sassi-Stazione F.S.).

Suggested itinerary. The climb to the top of Resegone (1875 mt) is really challenging and requires appropriate equipment and training. We suggest to choose the nature path (“sentiero natura”), an easy and for-everyone circular trail which allows to discover the flora and fauna of this place by walking through secular woods, while enjoying the beautiful view of Lecco. If you are lucky you could find very rare alpine flowers or animals such as deers, chamois and golden eagles. For lunch, you can go to one of the shelters and taste typical dishes with game, polenta and mountain cheese.

Como

Como is the most important city in this area, rich of beautiful architectures, churches, gardens and Villas. Founded by the celtic tribu of Orobii, the city was rebuilt with the name of Novum Comum by Julius Cesar. The importance and history of Como is manifested by the many famous people that were born or that lived there, such as the roman philosophers Pliny the Elder and the Younger, the historian Paolo Giovo and the inventor Alessandro Volta. In the last two centuries, Como has became an important tourist center, loved by celebrities such as George Clooney, Madonna and Gianni Versace. The proximity with the Swiss border enhance Como’s charm as an international city. Here you can visit ancient churches, wonderful villas on the lake or just shop in one of the many boutiques.

How to get there. The easiest way to get to Como from Lecco is by bus. Take the bus n° C40 at the Lecco train station (departs every 30 minutes) and get off at the end of the run (1 hour), just in front of the Lake (stop: Como bus station). In 5 minutes you can get to the city center (the dome). Same applies for your journey back to Lecco.

Suggested itinerary. There are so many places that you can visit in Como, all you have to do is choose. The dome is a wonderful example of Gothic art, and the near San Fedele church with its square will bring you back to the Middle Ages. If you prefer something modern, you can visit the Volta temple dedicated to the famous inventor, take a photo of the rationalist architecture “Casa del Fascio”, or walk alongside the Lake to Villa Olmo where modern art expositions are displayed. To enjoy the view, you can take the funicular (next to the bus station) up to Brunate, a little village on the mountains with villas in liberty style.