

Village Life[®]
Italian Lakes

A JOURNEY IN LOMBARDY

October 10 – 18, 2026

One of the world's most captivating destinations, northern Italy's fabled Lake District beckons with its sublime vistas of shimmering glacial waters, soaring Alpine peaks and coastal villages. This 9-day, 8-night Italian land trip boasts medieval sites to discover and stunning art to admire. Unpack once at the lovely *Palace Hotel* on the shores of Lake Como, then spend your week exploring this beautiful area. Marvel at sites embellished with lavish Renaissance and Gothic architecture; take in beautiful frescoes and a master artwork by Leonardo da Vinci. Travel to bijou towns, exquisite islands and the vivacious metropolis of Milan. And of course, sample Italian culinary delights and wine throughout your stay. From the deep-blue lakes of Como and Maggiore to the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, to colorful Bellagio — the “Pearl of Lake Como” — discover the exquisite gem that is the Italian Lake District.

Exclusive Highlights

- Accommodations for the week at the exclusive *Palace Hotel*.
- Specially arranged private boat transfer from Stresa to Isola Bella.
- An insightful lecture into the history and heritage of the northern Italian region of Lombardy and its famous lakes.
- Specially arranged viewing of one of Leonardo da Vinci's master artworks — either “The Last Supper” or the “Codex Atlanticus.”



**Above: Villa del Balbianello
on Lake Como**

Cover: Bellagio, Italy

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TEXAS EXES®

FLYING LONGHORNS

Dear Texas Ex:

Join us and discover the fascinating culture and breathtaking scenery of Italy's sublime Lake District. Start and end each day of this 9-day, 8-night program in the luxurious *Palace Hotel* in Como.

Experience the sights within the medieval walls of Old Como and admire the awe-inspiring frescoes inside the San Fedele Church. Enjoy a guided tour through Milan's Duomo, and gaze at its wondrous artistic and architectural relics. In an exclusive boat ride, glide across Lake Maggiore to Isola Bella, home to unique caves previously used as living spaces for villagers to escape the summer heat.

Learn about Villa del Balbianello's humble beginnings as a small Franciscan monastery and present-day home to a rich collection of Chinese, African and pre-Columbian art. Meander through picturesque Bellagio ("the Pearl of Lake Como") and plunge into its colorful coastal culture.

This outstanding itinerary is brought to you by the Texas Exes travel program, which supports the association's mission of promoting and protecting The University of Texas at Austin and uniting its alumni around the world. While you do not have to be an alumnus of UT to travel with us, we do ask that all Flying Longhorns travelers have an active membership in the Texas Exes. Memberships start at just \$50.

The association is a huge proponent of continuing education and there is no better classroom than our world. Experience rich history and culture in the company of your fellow Longhorns! Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? We're standing by to answer all of your questions and take your reservation. Group size is limited on this popular program and likely to sell out quickly. Additional information about all Texas Exes Flying Longhorns trips can be found at travel.texasexes.org.

Best regards,

Your Flying Longhorns Travel Team,
Margaret, Janice, and Catherine



Isola Bella Island, Lake Maggiore

**Contact the Flying Longhorns office to secure your spot:
1-800-594-3900 or travel@texasexes.org**



Day 1 | October 10

Depart home city.

Day 2 | October 11 **R-D**

Milan, Italy | Como

Arrive in Milan and transfer to Como, the perfect “home” for our soggiorno in the spectacular mountainous Italian countryside. Check into the charming *Palace Hotel* on the shore of Lake Como and settle in. This evening, join your traveling companions for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 | October 12 **B-D**

Como

Start your morning by listening to a fascinating lecture about Como’s history. On a guided walking tour, stroll through Old Como and admire magnificent architectural sites such as the Gothic *Duomo di Como*, the fresco-adorned Romanesque *Basilica di San Fedele*, the 13th-century town hall *Broletto* and the 12th-century gate tower *Porta Vittoria*. During the

walking tour, you will also visit the grand *Volta Square*, which commemorates the credited inventor of the battery, *Alessandro Volta*. Enjoy lunch on your own and a provided dinner at the hotel.

Day 4 | October 13 **B**

Como | Milan

Visit Milan’s world-famous *Teatro alla Scala* opera house, a neoclassical jewel of gilt boxes and glittering chandeliers. Continue to the city’s social hub, the *Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II*. Visit the *Duomo*, a Gothic cathedral that took nearly 500 years to complete. Enjoy lunch on your own. By special arrangement,

view artwork created by Renaissance polymath *Leonardo da Vinci*, who lived in Milan for 22 years and created some of his most famous works of art here. Tonight enjoy dinner on your own.

Day 5 | October 14 **B**

Como | Stresa for Borromean Islands

Enjoy a private boat transfer on Lake Maggiore, sailing past islands with beautiful villas, graced with natural beauty. Visit the crown jewel of the Borromean archipelago, *Isola Bella*, boasting the 17th-century *Palazzo Borromeo*. Explore the





baroque palace with its astounding collection of art and antiques, and the summerhouse, which is home to a mosaic marine-themed grotto. Stroll the lush gardens, filled with rare flowers and plants, statuary, architectural details and strutting white peacocks. Reboard the boat for the return to Stresa, the setting for Hemingway’s iconic novel “A Farewell to Arms.” Enjoy spectacular mountain views as you explore the town and have lunch on your own. This afternoon at the hotel, hear a lecture by a local expert on the silk industry, then enjoy dinner on your own.



View from Stresa on Lake Maggiore

Day 6 | October 15

B

Como

Today, delve deeper into Como during your choice of one of the following activities: pasta fresca cooking class, Como culinary tour, wine tasting at La Costa Winery or Como silk tour. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, and make your own plans for lunch and dinner.

Day 7 | October 16

B-D

Como | Bellagio

After a delicious breakfast buffet at the hotel, cruise by private boat across the sparkling waters of Lake Como, Italy’s deepest and perhaps most spectacular lake, while learning about its

fascinating history and allure. Visit the magnificent Villa del Balbianello, which you may recognize from “Casino Royale” and other films. Unique terraced gardens surround the villa, where holm oaks — evergreens native to the Mediterranean — are pruned into a distinctive umbrella shape.

Continue to the celebrated town of Bellagio. Often thought of as the most beautiful town in Italy, Bellagio flaunts a promenade lined with lime trees and oleanders, a city center of cobblestone streets and picturesque alleyways, and charming buildings painted in shades of cream, peach and

Pasta fresca hands-on cooking class





Interior of Duomo Cathedral in Milan

butterscotch. Enjoy time to explore Bellagio at your own pace and browse through its lovely boutiques. Enjoy lunch on your own at a local eatery before heading back to Como. Later, immerse yourself in the local culture and traditions in a conversation with residents, and savor the delights of a provided Northern Italian dinner in a local ristorante.

Day 8 | October 17

B-D

Como

Following a breakfast at the hotel, the day is free for independent pursuits, which may include a visit to the Como public market or Villa Carlotta, an elegant botanical garden and museum on Lake Como. Enjoy lunch on your own. Tonight, join your fellow

travelers for a Farewell Dinner at the hotel, and raise a glass to your week of La Dolce Vita!

Day 9 | October 18

B

Como | Milan |
Return to home city

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.

Surrounded by Art



There is no shortage of magnificent art to admire as you traverse the Italian Lake District. Vibrant frescoes adorn the walls and ceilings of San Fedele Church, depicting religious scenes and figures with intricate details and beautiful colors. Learn all about them from an enthusiastic and knowledgeable local art-history expert on this

exquisite trip. While visiting Milan, marvel at one of Leonardo Da Vinci's renowned masterpieces — either “The Last Supper,” depicting the final meal of Jesus Christ with his apostles, or the “Codex Atlanticus,” a collection of his acclaimed notebooks.

Take in the stunning views of 18th-century Villa del Balbianello on Lake Como.

Boasting immaculate gardens and ornate architecture, the villa is an oft-used location for noteworthy films.

Explore the 17th-century Palazzo Borromeo with its astounding collection of art and antiques. These picturesque sites and marvelous works of art make them must-visit attractions on this exclusive tour.



Bellagio, Lake Como



Lakeside Restaurant, Bellagio, Lake Como



Borromeo Palace, Isola Bella



Palace Gardens, Isola Bella

INCLUDED FEATURES



- 7 nights at the first-class *Palace Hotel* in Como, Italy.
- Included Meals | 7 breakfasts, 4 dinners and 1 reception.
- Complimentary coffee, tea and water are served with all meals plus wine, beer and soft drinks at lunch and dinner.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program.
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Specially arranged private boat transfer from Stresa to Isola Bella.
- Learn about the local culture and traditions during a village forum with local residents.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary audio headset during guided excursions.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

GOHAGAN & COMPANY AIR | Your Air, Your Way

Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
- Free group transfers and luggage handling for arrivals and departures during the designated transfer window.
- 24-hour emergency support throughout the program to handle any schedule changes and unexpected delays.
- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

TERMS *The Special Savings Price is valid if booked by 12/31/25 and paid in full at booking.

The Special Savings consists of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.

- All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes.
- Single occupancy has limited availability.
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due on June 12, 2026.
- Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



The Palace Hotel

The classic Belle Époque *Palace Hotel* is ideally located on the lungolago, the lakefront promenade overlooking Lake Como, just steps away from Como's beautiful marble Duomo and the medieval, pedestrian-only town center. Italian marble and antique furniture provide subtle touches of 19th-century elegance throughout the hotel.

The Garden Bar Ceccato, with its terrace overlooking the lake, is an excellent spot to enjoy the hotel's renowned homemade ice cream or a cappuccino.

Each of the hotel's 94 renovated guest rooms is tastefully appointed with a private bathroom, air conditioning, satellite television, minibar and hair dryer.

Meals feature fresh seasonal Italian ingredients, local specialties and international cuisine. Regional wine selections accompany dinner. The hotel staff provides exceptional service.

2026 DEPARTURE DATE | October 10 to 18 | **Tour Begins:** October 11

Occupancy	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
Double	\$4,995	\$3,995
Single	\$6,245	\$5,245

The Gohagan Difference – An Inclusive Luxury Experience

For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

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- Wi-Fi / Internet
- Gratuities & Portage
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- Travel Director(s)

**A VALUE of
up to
\$1,825**

**To secure your spot, Contact the Flying Longhorns office: 1-800-594-3900
or travel@texasexes.org**

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