

Walking Lake Como

Trip Code: SGLC

Version:



WALK & TREK



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the beautiful villas and Italian gardens of Carlotta and Balbaniello
- Centre-based at a boutique guesthouse in a beautiful location on the shores of Lake Como
- Enjoy a boat cruise to Bellagio and walk to Perlo for breathtaking views
- Walk through olive groves and visit traditional medieval villages

AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- Centre-based
- Short break
- 3 days walking & sightseeing
- Daily departures
- Join at Lenno, Lake Como

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Glistening waters, colourful villages, and manicured vineyards - all wrapped up in a dramatic mountain backdrop. Lake Como is a gem that you are sure to fall in love with. Lake Como has been the holiday destination of choice for the rich and famous since Roman times, when aristocrats were seduced by its lavish villas and magnificent gardens. Today it remains a holiday favourite of George Clooney and Richard Branson, who are drawn to its beautiful scenery and exquisite location.

Nestled in the Italian Lakes just a couple of hours from Milan, the region offers a fantastic network of trails and ancient mule tracks leading you from pretty villages to spectacular villas and gardens. We have specially designed this trip with flexibility in mind, providing you with a selection of walks and visits to villas or gardens, such as those at Carlotta and Balbaniello, which can be undertaken in any order to allow you to make the most of your time in the area. Your walks will take you cruising across the lake to panoramic views, and meandering through orchards and olive groves all at your own pace. Each night, you'll stay in a beautiful lakeshore village on the southwest shore of the lake with views you will never want to leave. Life on Lake Como really is 'la dolce vita'.

Is this holiday for you?

We have specially designed this short break for those who want to make the most of their holiday time and sample all that this spectacular region has to offer. You will explore the small villages along Lake Como's shores and take the ferry across this famous lake to really feel immersed in the culture of the area. The walks have been designed to give you the opportunity to visit some of the many historic villas and gardens that are dotted along the lakeshore too, such as Villa Carlotta (tickets included to villa and gardens) and Villa Melzi (tickets not included), if you wish. Your walks are approximately 3 to 4 hours long with an average ascent of around 250m on well-marked paths, and allow for an easy pace and give you the flexibility to pick and choose when and where to explore on each day. This is your holiday, your way!

Itinerary

Version:

Holiday Information

What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Boat tickets on Como to your walks as described
- Entrance ticket to Villa Carlotta gardens and villa
- Entrance ticket to Villa Balbianello gardens

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Lenno
- Local transfers and lifts

Please note that boat tickets are included as described in your itinerary for specific dates and times.

- Should you wish to change the boat tickets, you will need to buy new tickets (budget around 4 to 7 Euros per person)
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- All meals, as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Entrance tickets for the gardens of Villa Melzi, Villa Monastero, and Villa Cipressi (budget around €10 per person for each)
- Any other additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking or cycling holiday for your family, a centre-based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a day's walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool, or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our Sales Team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts and ends at your hotel in Lenno. All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis, allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method that best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip that is best-served by UK regional airports is Milan Malpensa Airport.

If you are flying into Milan Malpensa Airport you can travel to Lenno using public transport, which takes approximately 3 hours. First take the shuttle bus or train to Milano Centrale Railway Station where you then take either a train direct to Como, or a train via Milan Garibaldi Station to Como. From Como you can travel by either bus or ferry to Lenno.

It is also possible to fly into Milan Bergamo Airport, with low cost airlines offering regular flights from UK airports. If you are flying into Milan Bergamo Airport you can also travel to Lenno using public transport. This also takes approximately 3 hours. First take the shuttle bus to Milano Centrale Railway Station where you take the train to Como and then the bus or ferry onwards to Lenno, as described for Milan Malpensa above.

You can find the latest rail information at www.trenitalia.com. Websites such as www.rome2rio.com are excellent resources when planning journeys abroad by public transport.

If you have booked a private transfer with us you will make your way to the arrivals hall where you will find your driver holding a sign showing your name.

We can also arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, or you may even wish to make this trip part of a bigger trip of your own, or pair it with one of our other holidays - just ask our Sales Team for details.

Meal Plan

This trip is on a self-catering basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday. You will find two small supermarkets close to your accommodation where you can easily pick up your essentials.

Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

In Italy, food is a way of life. It brings families together, gives friends a reason to sit down and laugh, and showcases local produce. Lake Como is no different, with many local dishes to sample such as Cotoletta alla Milanese - tender cutlets of veal coated in egg and breadcrumbs, and fried in olive oil until deliciously golden, or Fritto misto di lago - a fried fish selection from the lake that visitors simply love. This trip has been designed on a self-catering basis to allow you to dine out and sample these delicacies and many more.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

Your base for this trip will be the small family-run Apartment Balbianino in a recently renovated mansion house offering fantastic lakeside views. This stunning property is filled with rustic charm, and makes the perfect base for exploring this magical stretch of Lake Como. The gardens of Villa Balbianello are just 100 metres away, and the pier to board the ferry is only 500 metres from your door, adjacent to the Lido in Lenno - the perfect place to unwind after each day's walk.

Please note that upon arrival you will be asked to pay a deposit in cash of 100 Euros per apartment - this will be given back to you upon check-out.

Each apartment is studio-style with a well-equipped kitchenette and en-suite bathroom. There are two supermarkets nearby, plus a café where you could go out for an Italian breakfast if you'd like.

It is possible to arrange additional nights' accommodation if you would like to enjoy this magnificent region a little longer - please contact our Sales Team for further details.

During high season you may be booked into an alternative accommodation of a similar standard in the area.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. Luggage with wheels is useful for this holiday.

General Information

Passport & Visas

Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates (*see Health & Vaccinations below*), **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the [FCDO](#) for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided walking holiday is that you decide the pace however getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable your walks will be. You should be comfortable with walking 3 to 4 hours for consecutive days. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of daily walks in hilly countryside before your trip and it's always a good idea to spend some time walking in the footwear you are going to use on this holiday.

Climate

Lake Como and the surrounding area have a semi-continental climate with cold winters and hot summers. However the lake helps to create a milder climate, with temperatures in spring and autumn averaging 9 - 20 degrees centigrade, and in the summer up to 35 degrees. This combination of climates can bring rain and thunderstorms in the hot afternoons, so be sure to pack your waterproofs as well as your suntan lotion just in case.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](https://www.gov.uk/travelaware)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/travelaware) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Going Solo on Lake Como - Ciara O'Toole
- An Italian Village: A Perspective On Life Beside Lake Como - Paul Wright
- Rambles in Germany and Italy - Mary Shelley

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Self Guided Equipment List

- Hiking boots with good-grip soles
- Hiking socks
- Long / short hiking trousers
- Functional base layer top and leggings
- T-shirts
- Fleece / extra warm layer
- Windproof jacket
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Hat, gloves, and neck gaiter
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses

- Sunhat
- Small first aid kit inside your rucksack
- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Camera (and batteries / memory card)
- Reusable sealable picnic boxes for picnics
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Walking poles
- Headtorch with spare batteries
- Personal wash kit
- Your self-guided route notes
- Rucksack (approx. 20L)

Land Only Information

Please note that our 'from' price listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers including solo travellers - contact our Sales Team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights' accommodation before or after your self-guided trip - please ask our Sales Team to find out more about this.

Our Sales Team will be happy to provide you with a quote for scheduled flights, or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your accommodation from the nearest airports - please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' section for further details for this trip.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

With KE you'll be perfectly placed to enjoy the delights of Lake Como from our family-run lakeside accommodation. Just a short stroll from the front door is the stunning Villa del Balbianello with its romantic gardens that tumble down to the lake, as well as the ferry that you'll use to access your walks.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 26/08/2025 and the trip is subject to change