

Walking holidays in Europe



Walking holiday at Lake Garda



Walking holiday at Lake Garda

7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS

HIGHLIGHTS

- 5 self-guided walking itineraries
- Malcesine
- Monte Baldo
- Ponale Trail
- Busatta-Tempesta Panorama Trail
- Garda
- Limone sul Garda
- Valle del Singó
- Sirmione



Lake Garda

This seven-night self-guided walking holiday invites you to explore the area around Lake Garda from the charming village of Malcesine. Italy's largest lake is blessed with a temperate climate and diverse landscape. The northern end of the lake, where many of your walking itineraries are based, is a narrow blade which pierces the jagged mountains that once formed the border between Italy and Austria. To the south the lake widens, and the character becomes almost Mediterranean with waterfront cafés, picturesque harbours and small pebbled beaches. Around Lake Garda you will find dense forests of firs and pines, lines of twisted olive trees and fragrant lemon groves. This walking holiday takes you on historic lakefront trails, up iron staircases which cling to the rockface above the lake, along dramatic mountain rides and into luscious river valleys. Rest days are spent at leisure, exploring the cultural and historic highlights of Lake Garda, using the ferry to visit the southern reaches of the lake. Return to your charming hotel each day to relax by the pool before enjoying a delicious dinner at the hotel's restaurant. This holiday is suitable for travel from May to October with the summer months being preferable for better weather and regular public transport options around the lake.

HOTEL INCLUDED

Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo, Malcesine 4 star

PRICES

From £1,790 per person including air and hire-car

From £2,130 per person including rail from UK to Verona by sleeper and back and hire-car

Sample prices are per person based on two people sharing a double or twin room for 7 nights.

HOLIDAY CODE

FHIT26

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Scheduled flights with British Airways from London to Verona return, economy
- 7 nights' on half board in a double room with lake view at the Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo, in Malcesine on Lake Garda
- Group B hire car for the duration of your holiday, and parking
- Route notes for self-guided walking itineraries in Lake Garda
- Concierge service and Expressions Holidays regional helpful hints

THE JOURNEY AND HOW YOU GET THERE

There are flights with British Airways from London to Verona. From here it is a 60-minute journey by car to the hotel.

Rail from UK

It is possible to travel by train from London to Lake Garda and back.

DATES

Although this holiday can be arranged throughout the year, we recommend travelling between June and early October for the best trekking conditions.

DAY ONE Arrive at Lake Garda

You start the holiday by flying from London to Verona where a private car and driver will meet you and take you to your hotel. If travelling by rail you will depart London the previous day and take the Eurostar to Paris. Change stations in Paris and the sleeper train departs at 7.15pm and arrives into Verona around 8am. Alternatively, day-time trains take you from Paris to Lausanne on the beautiful Lake Geneva to arrive around 6pm. Stay overnight here and then travel by rail via the Simplon Pass and reach Verona around 1.30pm. Your private car and driver will meet you at the train station and you spend the rest of the day settling into your hotel and exploring the lakeside town of Malcesine.

DAY TWO Busatte-Tempesta Panoramic Trail

Your first self-guided walking route takes you on a beautiful panoramic trail between Busatte and Tempesta in the northern reaches of Lake Garda. The easy route is about 10 kilometres in total, starting from Torbole bus stop, and should take around 4 hours to complete, with lots of opportunities to stop and admire the view. The trail takes you along the foot of Monte Baldo, about 120 metres above the lake and leads across an impressive landscape left behind in the wake of glacial retreat. Along the route are information panels about the local flora and fauna, as well as the views of the western lake shore. Some sections of this trail are bolted directly onto the steep rock face, offering incredible vistas of Riva and Torbole, the surrounding mountains and the sparkling lake dotted with boats. You return to Busatte along a slightly higher trail which leads you through the forest above the rocky cliffs.

DAY THREE Ponale Trail

Your second walking route starts in the lakeside town of Molina de Ledro and takes you along the famed Strada del Ponale to Riva del Garda. The route was originally built in the second half of the 19th century and has since been replaced by a modern tunnel, leaving the historic road open for use solely by cyclists and hikers. The trail is about 10 kilometres in total and we recommend starting in Molina so that the route is mostly downhill although it is possible to start in Riva. The Strada del Ponale starts from Lake Ledro and weaves its way down quiet roads and paths along the valley heading back to Lake Garda. The second half of the route is particularly stunning as you pick up the old road which weaves right along the edge of the lake, often passing through tunnels carved directly into the cliffs, to arrive in Riva del Garda. Enjoy a late lunch here and



Malcesine, Lake Garda

spend some time looking around the town before heading back to Malcesine.

DAY FOUR At leisure

We include two rest days within this walking holiday, although of course you can choose to swap the days around as you please. We suggest taking the ferry to the southern shores of Lake Garda today and visiting the pretty town of Sirmione. The old town is based on a tiny peninsula which juts out into the lake, giving fantastic views across the water. Whilst in Sirmione you might like to visit the Archaeological Site of Grotte di Catullo with its Roman villa, museum and olive trees before relaxing on the rocky shores of Jamaica Beach below. Other points of interest include the thermal baths, Church of Santa Maria Maggiore and the fortress of Castello Scagliero.

DAY FIVE Limone sul Garda and the Valle del Singó

Your third walking day takes you further almost directly across the lake from Malcesine to the town of Limone sul Garda. Limone is a charming town with ancient houses, narrow cobblestone streets and a picturesque harbour. It sits between the lake and the mountains and offers a range of walks that vary from easy waterfront strolls to more challenging ascents up the steep slopes behind the town. Your walk today takes you from the ferry and up the beautiful Valle del Singó, following the San Giovanni stream for the first 2.5 kilometres between the mountains of Dosso dei Róveri and Monte Preals. From here, you turn left and pick your way up the

steep southern side of the valley following a track which disappears into the woods and brings you to a beautiful clearing on the plateau which is a great place to stop for a picnic lunch. Continue in a loop from here to drop steeply down into the Valle Pura and follow this back to the lake and Limone. Spend the rest of the afternoon in Limone, visiting the old lemon grove of Limonaia del Castél and trying the local limoncello, before heading back to Malcesine.

DAY SIX At leisure

There are plenty of options for how to spend your second rest day of this walking holiday and you may like to start the day simply unwinding by the pool at your hotel. We recommend heading to Gardone Riviera after a relaxed morning to look around here. The main attraction in Gardone Riviera is Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, the hillside residence where the eccentric writer Gabriele d'Annunzio lived from 1922 until his death in 1938. This beautiful estate includes buildings crammed full of interesting items from his life including more than 30,000 books and objects ranging from Murano glass fruit baskets to Ancient Roman columns and from statues of Buddhas to icons of Christian saints. Surrounding the cluttered rooms of his life are stunning gardens which house the huge Parlaggio amphitheatre, D'Annunzio's tomb and even the remains of a battleship cruiser. This is an opportunity to glimpse the life of a strange mind and is a unique experience. Head back into the town centre after your visit and relax in one of the many bars and restaurants which line the waterfront or maybe visit the Heller Botanical

Gardens before taking the boat to Malcesine.

DAY SEVEN Monte Baldo

Your last day of walking in Lake Garda takes you to Monte Baldo – the highlight of many visitors' trips to the region. Monte Baldo is the name of the mountain range directly above Malcesine and the day starts by taking the cable car up to a lofty height of 1,760m in rotating cabins. From the top you can see the full scope of the surrounding landscape with the lake and sky separated by soft lowlands, dramatic mountains and snowy Alpine peaks on the horizon. From the cable car station, we offer two options depending on your energy levels. The first option is a more strenuous walk which takes you uphill from the station and picks up the high mountain ridgeline passing the summits of Cima delle Pozzette, Cima del Longino, Cima Val Finestra and Cima Valdritta before dropping down into the woods below and continuing easily to the mid-level cable car station at San Michele. This route is about 15 kilometres in total and is the most difficult walk of the trip. For those who do not wish to take such a long route or are not comfortable on the rockier terrain, we recommend taking a short loop north from the cable car station to a panoramic position at the end of the ridge above the Bocca di Navene pass. You then return to the station and walk easily down through the beautiful woodland via the chapel at Piombi to reach San Michele. This route is about 10 kilometres in total with significantly less altitude gain. Have a look around San Michele and perhaps have a drink or some food at the Locanda Monte Baldo before taking the cable car back down to Malcesine for your final evening.

DAY EIGHT Travel back to the UK

You enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel before starting your journey home. It is about an hour's drive from your hotel to the airport. If travelling home on the sleeper train you don't need to leave your hotel until the early evening before being driven back to Verona and retracing your steps home via Milan and Paris, arriving into London at lunchtime the following day. If travelling home on day-time trains you leave Malcesine around 9am and take the train from Verona to Milan before changing north onto the Gotthard route to Zurich. Stay overnight here and continue on a direct train to Paris, returning to London around 5.30pm.



Lake Garda

HOTELS

In this walking holiday we include a seven night stay on Lake Garda.
Other options on Lake Garda are available on request, and additional nights can be added here or in other destinations.

Expressions

HOTEL BELLEVUE SAN LORENZO 4 star

The picturesque little town of Malcesine lies on the eastern shores of Lake Garda at the foot of Monte Baldo, the highest mountain in the area. A cable car can take you to the top, where the views over the lake and surroundings are breathtaking. The Bellevue San Lorenzo, a villa which dates from the end of the 19th Century, is set above the lakeside road against a backdrop of green rolling hills. Original features such as the cloistered windows, the original hearth and a fresco of the saint after whom the Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo was named, maintain an atmosphere of period elegance in the public rooms of the main villa. The restaurant and piano bar are also to be found here, adjoined by terraces which are ideal for relaxing with a pre-dinner cocktail. The restaurant has a vegetarian menu available. The simply furnished bedrooms of the Bellevue San Lorenzo are situated in several buildings in the hotel's pretty gardens. The rooms we offer have lake view and you can upgrade to a terrace or balcony too. Similarly marvellous views can be enjoyed in the grounds and from the terraces surrounding the attractive swimming pool. Malcesine, with its colourful harbour and magnificent 13th Century castle, is about half a mile away and can be reached via some steps from the Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo's gardens.



Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo

Facts in brief

Official star rating 4

Location 5 minute drive to Scaliger Castle

Closest airport Verona

Distance from airport The hotel is about 60 minutes' drive from Verona airport

Hotel facilities and services

Swimming Pool, Bar Service at the Pool, Gardens, Terraces, Restaurant, Bar, Parking on Hotel Grounds, Garage, Wellness Centre, Bike Rentals, Wi-fi Internet Access, Shuttle Bus to/from Verona.



Hotel Bellevue San Lorenzo



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OUR PRICES

The sample prices mentioned in this leaflet are generally a 'from' price based on the cheapest season of travel. However, transport fares and hotel rates can change (up and down depending on offers), so we give you an accurate price for your holiday when we provide you with a quotation. Our sample prices should be used as an indication of how much a particular combination will cost and to show the differences on average between the hotel categories on offer.

BOOKING CONDITIONS

Our booking conditions apply to all holidays. A copy can be found on our website and a copy is also sent to you with a written quotation and when you make a booking.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Expressions Holidays offers full financial protection for all holidays you book with us. If your holiday includes a flight, the ATOL (3076) covers the costs of the holiday. If the holiday does not include a flight, it is the ABTOT bond that protects the cost of the holiday. We are also members of AITO (the Association of Independent Tour Operators) and ABTA.



Expressions Holidays
Lynx House, Pynes Hill, Exeter EX2 5JL

HOW TO BOOK

To make a booking, just phone us on

01392 441250

and we can take you through the details we need and start the booking process. A deposit is required to confirm the arrangements and this can be paid by debit or credit card over the phone. The level of the deposit will be confirmed at the point of booking.