

THE **TRAVEL CLUB**

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Santa Margherita Ligure and Lake Como

9 DAYS: Saturday, May 6–Sunday, May 14, 2023



This new vacation begins in the attractive and charming resort of Santa Margherita with a picture-perfect, palm tree-lined seaside promenade, beach, lively harbor and pleasant shopping streets to explore in the old town. During our stay we'll visit Camogli – one of the most fascinating towns on the Italian Riviera with its photogenic terraced streets, brightly colored tower houses, a perfect cove of pebble beach and bakeries selling the best focaccia you'll ever taste. A short cruise (weather permitting) brings us to iconic Portofino – a nearly-perfect coastal village with its tall, colorful houses lining the harbor and surrounding the famous Piazzetta. Italy's astonishing beauty is never more present than in the Cinque Terre – some of the most dramatic coastline on the planet – and we'll visit both Manarola and Monterosso al Mare, where we'll have lunch. As we head north, we'll visit Pavia and have free time for lunch before arriving in Como and dinner at a local restaurant. Lake Como – dotted with resort villages and surrounded by mountains – is a destination with pure beauty. Our centrally-located accommodations overlook the Piazza Volta in the historic center. Our excursions will include a cruise to Bellagio – "...it's impossible not to be smitten by the waterfront of bobbing boats, the maze of steep stone staircases, red-roofed and green-shuttered buildings, and the dark cypress groves and gardens," *Lonely Planet* – and a full-day excursion to Milan including visits to the Duomo, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, La Scala theatre and free time.

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled ITA Airways flights from Boston to Genoa and Milan to Boston, via Rome. (land only pricing available if you prefer to make your own air arrangements)
- Seven nights' three- and four-star accommodations
- Thirteen meals: seven breakfasts, one lunch, five dinners with wine
- Escorted, private, round-trip airport/hotel transfers
- Services of professional local Tour Manager

Rates

\$3,579 person double occupancy
INCLUDES round-trip airfare, fuel surcharge and all air taxes and fees.

Day 1: Departure from Boston

Depart from Boston on overnight ITA Airways flights; non-stop service to Rome.

Day 2: Arrive Rome – connecting flight to Genoa

Continental breakfast will be served on board before landing. Clear immigration and proceed to our connecting flight to Genoa. Upon arrival in Genoa, retrieve luggage and clear customs. We'll be met by our local representative, who will assist with the transfer by motorcoach to the **Hotel Regina Elena in Santa Margherita Ligure**. The rest of the day is at leisure to get acquainted with the hotel and surroundings. Tonight enjoy a welcome dinner, with wine, at the hotel. **(D)**

Accommodations

DAY 1 Overnight flight from Boston

DAYS 2–4 Hotel Regina Elena, Santa Margherita Ligure

DAYS 5–8 Hotel Firenze, Como, Lake Como

DAY 9 Return flight to Boston

Features

Full-day excursion to Camogli and Portofino. Full-day excursion to the Cinque Terre. Visit to Pavia. Full-day excursion around Lake Como including cruise to Bellagio. Full-day excursion to Milan with city tour.

SINGLE FRIENDLY PRICING Single supplement is \$515. We have a limited number of single supplements available at just \$400. Call to reserve. Triple accommodations may be available upon request. Fuel surcharge, air taxes and fees subject to change. Passport required. Per person deposit is \$300.



Best Western Hotel Regina Elena

Via Milite Ignoto 44 | 16038 Santa Margherita Ligure

4-star Best Western Regina Elena features a rooftop pool and hot tub with views of the Ligurian Coast. It is located in Santa Margherita and has lush gardens leading to a private beach. Regina Elena's restaurant specializes in regional dishes and seafood, and breakfast is served on the sea-view terrace. In summer the

beachside restaurant offers light lunches and snacks. Rooms at the Regina Elena Hotel come with free Wi-Fi, satellite TV and a mini-bar. Some have panoramic sea views from the balcony. Portofino is 2.5 mi from the hotel, along a scenic coastal path. Santa Margherita Train Station is 1.1 mi away.





Day 3: Excursion to Camogli and Portofino

After breakfast we'll meet our guide and walk to the train station – destination: **Camogli**. This fascinating town has a maritime tradition, and we'll visit the old fishing port, the baroque church and see the narrow alleyways known as *Carrugio*. We'll enjoy the waterfront with its shops and bakeries. Once back in Santa Margherita Ligure we'll cruise (weather permitting) to iconic **Portofino** – the colorful seaside village. Dinner with wine at the hotel. **(B,D)**



Camogli



Portofino

Day 4: Excursion to Cinque Terre

Today we'll travel to the Ligurian Seacoast to enjoy some of Italy's natural masterpieces. The Cinque Terre, or Five Villages, is located on eleven miles of rocky coastline with terraced hills and vineyards sloping steeply down to the sea. The villages are built into the rocks between the beach and the hills. Centuries-old footpaths, 500 to 1000 feet above the sea, lead through olive groves, vineyards, orchards and chestnut woods. Each village has its own distinct character. Nearly inaccessible by road, the villages are linked by railway. We'll transfer to La Spezia where we meet our local guide and have an orientation tour. We'll continue by coach and enjoy the breathtaking views of the coast with the terraced vineyards. We'll stop above **Riomaggiore** to take photos and continue to **Manarola**. After a visit we'll board the train and continue to **Vernazza** for a short visit. From here we'll head to **Monterosso al Mare** where we'll enjoy light lunch and wine tasting. In the afternoon we return by train to Levanto and coach return to Montecatini for overnight at the hotel. **(B,L)**



Riomaggiore



Manarola



Vernazza



Monterosso al Mare

Day 5: Transfer from Santa Margherita Ligure to Lake Como

After breakfast we'll depart the coast and head north to Lake Como. We'll stop in **Pavia** – now a modern town – with ancient Roman origins. We'll see the old cobbled street and house facades in warm terracotta in the historical center. After free time for lunch on our own, we'll depart for Como. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**



Pavia

Hotel Firenze Piazza Volta 16, 22100 Como, Italy

Albergo Firenze overlooks Piazza Volta in the historic centre of Como. It offers en suite rooms with free Wi-Fi. The shores of the lake are 300 metres away, and you can walk to the Como Nord Lago Train Station in about 8 minutes. A small hotel with friendly service and a tranquil atmosphere, the Firenze is surrounded by boutiques, exclusive shops, restaurants and cafés. The traffic around Piazza Volta is restricted. The simple, yet elegant guest rooms offer air conditioning, a TV with digital Italian channels, and a minibar. Some rooms offer views of the square, and some of the internal courtyard. Breakfast is a varied buffet.





Day 6: Explore Lake Como

This morning after breakfast we'll walk to the pier and to experience one of the highlights of our vacation—a full-day boat excursion on Lake Como including the charming resort town of **Bellagio**—a town that many regard as the most beautiful in Italy with its beautiful villas overlooking the water. Most of Bellagio's attractions are located in easy walking distance and you'll discover wonderful shops and have free time for lunch on your own. Later we'll enjoy a minicruise to Tremezzo where we'll have a guided tour of **Villa Carlotta** and a return to Como by coach following the road on the west coast of the lake. **(B,D)**



Bellagio



Villa Carlotta



Lake Como

Day 7: Excursion to Milan

After breakfast we'll depart on a full-day excursion to Milan where we'll have a privately-guided city tour of the highlights: Castello Sforzesco, the Duomo, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele and La Scala theatre opera house. We'll have free time for lunch and exploring on our own. Return to the hotel for overnight. **(B)**



Castello Sforzesco



Milan Duomo

Galleria



Day 8: Day at leisure in Lake Como

Enjoy a full free day today and tonight we'll see you at the farewell dinner! **(B,D)**

Day 9: Return flight to Boston

This morning transfer by motorcoach to the Milan airport for our return flight to Boston via Rome. **(B)**



Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured. We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.