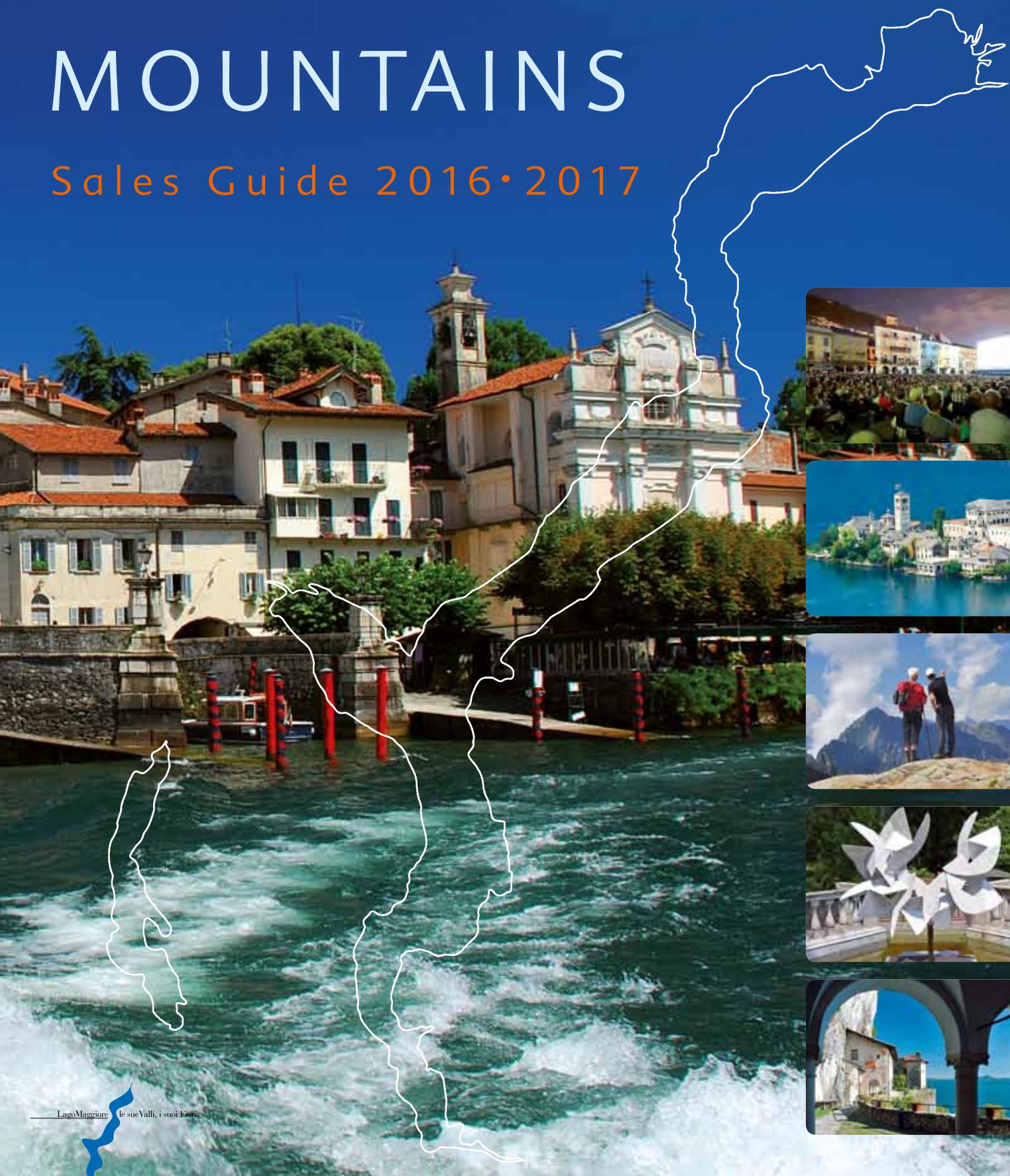


LAKE MAGGIORE AND SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS

Sales Guide 2016•2017





Isola dei Pescatori



The Gardens of Villa Taranto



Isola di San Giulio



Monte Rosa



Castelli di Cannero



Rocca di Angera



San Gaudenzio Dome

BORROMEO ISLANDS Central Lago

Incontrovertibly the heart of Lago Maggiore and a place of art "par excellence": Isola Bella, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori. Situated in the Gulf of Borromeo, all three of them have fascinated people throughout history: with the art and culture of a great ruling dynasty: the Borromeo family. There are so many attractions for the visitor to wonder at: grandiose terraced gardens with palazzo, an authentic fishing village with picturesque houses, one of the most spectacular botanic gardens anywhere in the world with many exotic plants — and so much more.

VILLA TARANTO Verbania-Pallanza

A villa built in the 1830s by a Scot, Captain Neil McEacharn, and in the meantime one of the richest botanical gardens in the world. With thousands of plant species — eucalyptus, azalea, rhododendron, magnolia, maple, camellia and dahlia, it stretches over an area measuring 16 hectares.

PARK NAZIONALE VAL GRANDE Ossola Valleys

This national park situated between the Val d'Ossola, the Val Vigezzo and Lago Maggiore measures 15,000 hectares and is noted as the largest integrated natural wild reserve in Italy; here nature has been preserved in all its primal wildness.

ISOLA DI S. GIULIO Lake Orta

Legend has it that S. Giulio was a dangerous snakes' nest transformed by St Julius in 390 AD into a centre of the Christian mission. Its Basilica di San Giulio is noted as one of the most outstanding Romanesque buildings in the whole of Piedmont.

MONTE ROSA Ossola Valleys

The boundary between Italy and Switzerland runs along the ridge of this high mountain with an altitude of 15,200 feet. It is the second highest mountain in the Alps, separating the Gressoney Valley in the Valle d'Aosta from the Val Sesia. The highest mountain station in Europe is situated here at 14,957 feet, the "Rifugio Margherita".

ALPE VEGLIA E ALPE DEVERO NATURE PARK Ossola Valleys

This nature park at the Swiss border, dominated by the towering skyline of the Alpe Veglia and Alpe Devero, is fascinating for its diversity of vegetation: with waterfalls, rivers, lakes, and above all vast stretches of untouched countryside with the Cascata di Buscagna and the Lago di Codelago; a thrilling experience, and not only for nature lovers.

VILLA PALLAVICINO Stresa

The villa gardens extend over an area of more than 16 hectares and form the "balcony" of Lago Maggiore. Visitors young and old can delight in its glorious world of plants and a zoological garden with more than 40 species of animals from all over the world — white swans, rare ducks, cranes, fallow deer and pheasants.

CASTELLI DI CANNERO Upper Lago

These ancient fortifications rise up out of the water between Cannobio and Cannero Riviera. They were built between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries and are divided up onto two islands. In their time, they served as a place of refuge for the feared robber baron family of the Mazzarditi, before the Borromeo family put a stop to their games and usurped them of their possessions.

SACRI MONTI Ghiffa — Orta — Domodossola — Varese

Four places of pilgrimage in the overall region of Lago Maggiore, the so-called "Sacri Monti", have been declared world heritage sites by the Unesco. Each "Sacro Monte" consists of several chapels along the Way of the Cross; step by step they lead up the mountain into the natural landscape, as if by reaching the top the pilgrim has come as close as possible to God.

SANTA CATERINA DEL SASSO East Shore and Varese

The monastery of Santa Caterina del Sasso is indubitably one of the most beautiful and popular sightseeing attractions on the Lombardian side of the lake. It lies between Arolo and Reno on a rocky promontory above Lago Maggiore and is accessible by ship and by car. The monastery itself can be viewed best from the water, but when you climb down the many steps from the car park above the monastery, you are rewarded with a breathtaking view onto the lake.

ROCCA DI ANGERA East Shore and Varese

The Rocca of Angera was built on the remains of a previous castle and inhabited in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries by the Visconti; it was extended and then acquired by the Borromeo family, who still own it today. Fascinating art treasures can be seen inside the castle, among them the frescoes of the Sala di Giustizia in the Visconti Wing.

SAN GAUDENZIO DOME Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Novara's most important church is the Basilica di San Gaudenzio built in 1659 with architecture by Pellegrino Tibaldi. Its dome is 397 feet high, the city's landmark, heralding from afar the approach to the city. It is also a work of Alessandro Antonelli (completed in 1888) and crowned by a gilded figure of Christ. Inside, one of its most interesting features is the Scurolo, a kind of ground-level crypt, holding the mortal remains of Novara's patron saint, St. Gaudenzio.

General Information

4

- Map
- Travel information
- Taxiboats, Shipyards and Boat Rental Services
- Coach Rental Services
- Golf Courses
- Events

Upper Lago 9

Central Lago 13

Lower Lago 19

East Shore and Varese 22

The Swiss part of the Lake 27

Ossola Valleys 30

Lake Orta 36

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields 40

Nature 46

Hotels 48

Camping 60

B&B and more 62

Local Services 76

Gastronomy**Excursions****Meeting — Conference****Incoming agencies****Tourist guidance**

Imprint 87



Alpe Veglia e Alpe Devero Nature Park

Your contact:

Maggioni Tourist Marketing

Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Straße 3
10407 Berlin

Telephone +49 (0)30 440 44 398

Fax +49 (0)30 420 88 582

e-mail info@maggioni-tm.de

www.maggioni-tm.de

General InformationUpper, Central,
Lower
Lago MaggioreEast Shore
and VareseThe Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

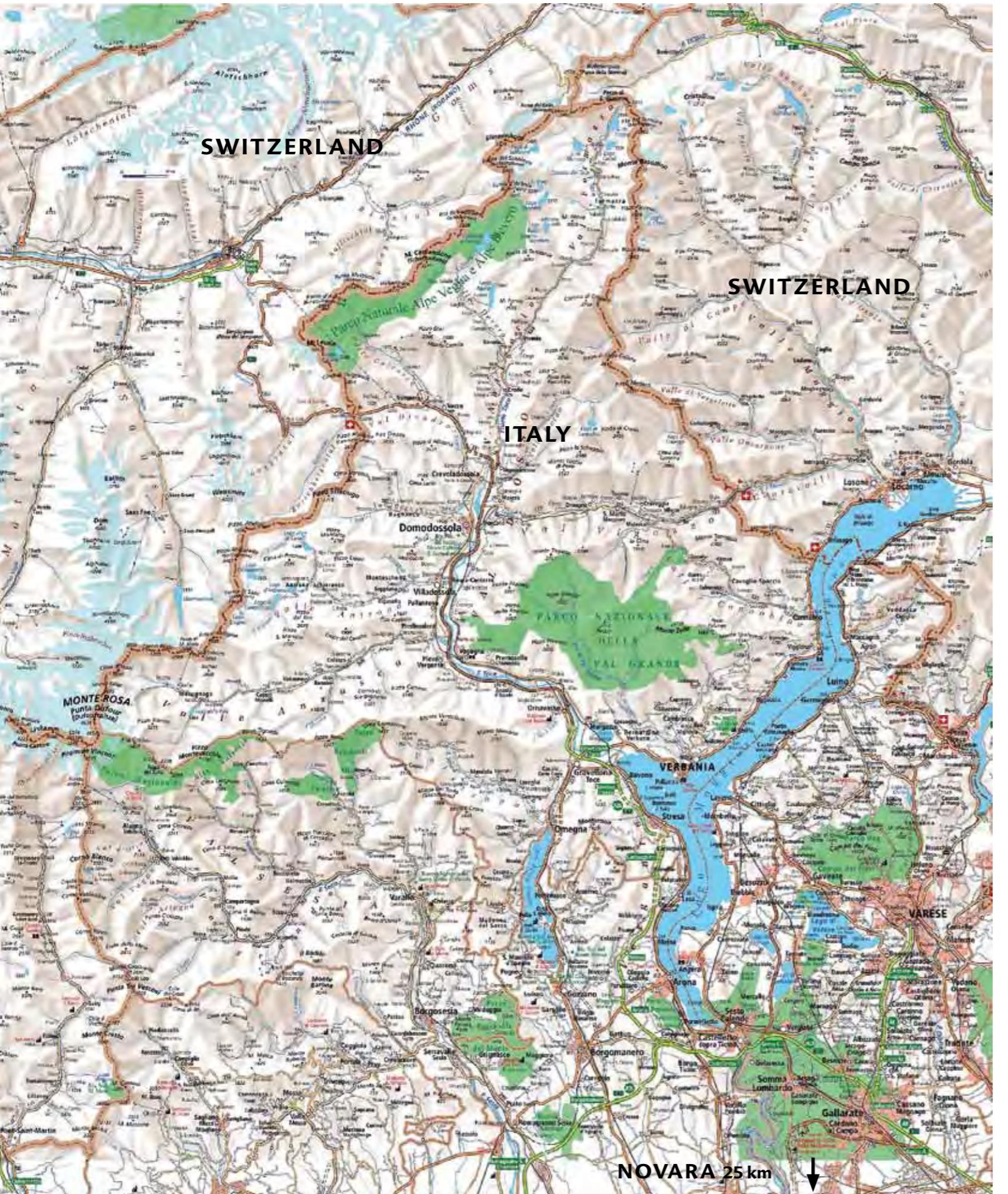
Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Isola Bella, Isola dei Pescatori



GETTING THERE

Because of its favourable geographical position in the north of Italy at the Swiss border, the region of Lago Maggiore is very easy to reach for travellers from the British Isles and Northern Europe.

BY CAR/BUS

From the Mont Blanc tunnel via the A5 – A4 and A26 motorways in Italy, to Lago Maggiore or Lake Orta.

From Basel via the St. Gotthard motorway to Locarno on the Swiss side of Lago Maggiore. Then across the border at Piaggio Valmara and on via federal road 34 along the shore of Lago Maggiore.

From Basel via Bern direction a) Lötschberg Tunnel or b) direction Vevey, Sion, Brig to the Simplon Pass. From there to Domodossola on federal road 33 to the Ossola Valleys, Lago Maggiore or Lago d'Orta.

From Lindau (D) /Bregenz (A) via Chur/St. Bernardino motorway to Locarno (CH). From Locarno as described above.

From Milan via A8 or A26 motorways to Sesto Calende for the East Shore of Lago Maggiore.

BY TRAIN

Via Paris with the TGV high speed train to Milan. From Milan to Lago Maggiore via rail route Milan-Domodossola.

From Basel, rail route Basel-Milan via the Simplon Tunnel to Domodossola or Verbania or Stresa.

BY PLANE

The three Milan airports: Malpensa (MXP), Linate (LIN) and Bergamo (BGY) are flown to from nearly all European airports, including low-cost airlines, also full-service airlines. Malpensa airport is the most conveniently situated at only 20 km from the southern part of the lake.

MXP

Regular bus shuttle services connect the airport with Gallarate train station (railway route Milan-Domodossola) and with Milan Central Station (Stazione Centrale). The train shuttle service, the **Malpensa Express**, connects the airport with the Milan Cadorna and Centrale station. The Swiss regional rail line S30 connects the airport with Bellinzona via Laveno and Luino. The bus shuttle service **Alibus** connects the airport with the West side of Lago Maggiore, it runs several times daily; reservations required - by e-mail or telephone.

LIN/BGY

A bus shuttle service connects the two airports with Milan Central Station (Stazione Centrale). Trains for Lago Maggiore leave here at least every hour (e.g. to Arona, Stresa, Verbania and Domodossola). On request, direct transfers can be arranged to Lago Maggiore. Please contact the incoming agents listed here.

TRN

Turin Airport is situated about 130 km from Lago Maggiore. It has flight connections solely with the largest European airports.

LOCAL TRANSPORT

Various options of public transport are available in the region around Lago Maggiore: by ship on Lago Maggiore and Lago d'Orta; also train and bus. Among the most impressive are journeys on the Vigezzina railway or by ship.

BY TRAIN

Italian State Railways: Trenitalia
Call Centre (+39) 06 68475475
www.trenitalia.com

Regional Railways: Trenord
www.trenord.it

Rail route: Milan-Arona-Stresa-Verbania-Domodossola-Simplon-Brig (CH)

Rail route: Novara-Orta/Miasino-Omegna-Domodossola

Rail route: Milan-Luino-Bellinzona (CH)

Rail route: Milan-Laveno and Milan-Varese

Regionalbahn SSIF Vigezzina-Bahn

Rail route:
Domodossola-Santa Maria Maggiore (Val Vigezzo)-Centovali (CH)-Locarno (CH)

Via Mizzoccola 9
28845 Domodossola - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 242055
e-mail vigeinfo@tin.it
www.vigezzina.com
www.lagomaggioreexpress.com

BY SHIP

Lago Maggiore Shipping Company: Navigazione Lago Maggiore

Direzione di Esercizio V.le Baracca 1
28041 Arona - NO
Telephone (+39) 0322 233200
Fax (+39) 0322 249530
e-mail infoturismo@distrettolaghil.it
www.distrettolaghil.it

Central Tourism Authority of the Region Novara

ATL Novara
Baluardo Quintino Sella 40

28100 Novara
Telephone (+39) 0321 394059

e-mail info@turismonovara.it
www.turismonovara.it

Central Tourism Authority of the Region East shore and Varese

Settore Turismo - Provincia di Varese
21100 Varese
Telephone (+39) 0332 252412

e-mail turismo@provincia.va.it
www.vareselandoftourism.it

Central Tourism Authority of the Region Ascona Locarno, Switzerland

Ascona-Locarno Tourism

Incoming & Hospitality

Postfach - CH - 6600 Locarno

Telephone +41 (0)848 091091

e-mail info@ascona-locarno.com
www.ascona-locarno.com

Motorway (Autobahn) information (Germany)
bis.bmvbs.de

Motorway (Autobahn) information (Switzerland)
www.autobahnen.ch

Motorway (autostrada) information (Italy)
www.autostrade.it

Motorway (autoroute) information (France)
www.autoroutes.fr

Train information (Germany)
www.bahn.de

Train information (Switzerland)
www.sbb.ch

Train information (France)
www.sncf.fr

Train information (Italy)

www.trenitalia.it

Further information and air traffic
www.sea-aeroportimilano.it/en
www.sacbo.it
www.turin-airport.com

Further information
www.malpensexpress.it

Shuttle-Service Alibus
Malpensa-Stresa-Verbania

Telephone (+39) 0323 552172

e-mail alibus@safduemila.com

www.safduemila.com/alibus-2016-malpensa-lagomaggiore.html

Malpensa-Domodossola

Telephone (+39) 03239 0324 240333

e-mail comazzi@comazzibus.com

www.comazzibus.com

General Information

Upper, Central,

Lower

Lago Maggiore

East Shore

and Varese

The Swiss part

of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara,

Vineyards and

Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services

TAXI BOATS

UPPER, CENTRAL, LOWER LAGO

Taxi Boat del Lago

Cannobio – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 70595
Mob. (+39) 331 9597143
e-mail boatservice.dellago@gmail.com
e-mail enotecadellago@libero.it

Battello "Cannero Riviera"

Via delle Magnolie 6, Cannero Riviera – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 788112
Mob. (+39) 339 2153073
Fax (+39) 0323 1970321
e-mail info@lagotaxi.it
www.lagotaxi.it

Partyboat "La Zattera"

Via della Maestra 21, Cannero Riviera – VB
Mob. (+39) 345 4646552
Fax (+39) 0323 1970321
e-mail info@partyboat.it
www.partyboat.it

Lago Maggiore Boats

Verbania-Pallanza – VB
Mob. (+39) 340 2455815
Mob. (+39) 336 236132
e-mail info@lagomaggioreboat.it
www.lagomaggioreboat.it

SHIPIARDS AND BOAT RENTAL SERVICES

UPPER, CENTRAL, LOWER LAGO

Marina Banana

Via delle Magnolie 6 (Harbour Residence Hapimag)
Cannobio Riviera – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 788112
Mob. (+39) 345 4646458
Fax (+39) 0323 1970321
e-mail info@marinabanana.it
www.marinabanana.it

Casa e Vela

Via Martiri Oggebiesi 21, Oggebbio – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 48272
Fax (+39) 0323 48747
e-mail info@casavela.it
www.casavela.it

Cantiere di Ghiffa

Via Belvedere 2, Ghiffa – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 402042
Mob. (+39) 346 3735367
e-mail cantieredighiffa@gmail.com

Circolo Velico Canottieri Intra – Sailing school
Via Ticino 6, Verbania – Intra
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 581201
e-mail info@cvci.it
www.cvcii.it

Nautica Bego

Via Generale della Chiesa 6, Verbania-Intra
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 404544
e-mail alessandra@nauticabego.com
e-mail info@rentboatlagomaggiore.com
www.nauticabego.com
www.yachting-store.it

Marina di Pallanza

Viale Tonelli 17, Verbania-Pallanza
Telephone (+39) 0323 506082 / 348 9111498
Fax (+39) 0323 506082
e-mail info@marinadipallanza.com
www.marinadipallanza.com

Cantiere del Verbano

S.S. del Sempione 10/15, Feriolo di Baveno – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 28280
Fax (+39) 0323 28179
e-mail info@cantieredelverbano.com
www.cantieredelverbano.com

Cantiere Nautico Taroni

Via Sempione Nord 48/50
Carciano di Stresa – VB
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 30037
e-mail cantieretaroni@tiscali.it
www.cantierenauticotaroni.com

Club Nautico Stresa

Via Sempione Sud 17, Stresa – VB
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 30551
e-mail clubnauticostresa@libero.it
www.clubnauticostresa.com

Consortio Motoscafisti Summer Boat

Piazza IV Novembre, Baveno – VB
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 924742
Mob. (+39) 336 240655
e-mail info@summerboats.it
www.summerboats.it

Consortio Isole Borromeo

Piazzale Funivia, Carciano di Stresa – VB
Telephone (+39) 348 3193627
Mob. (+39) 347 4840697
e-mail info@isoleborromeo.com
www.isoleborromeo.com

Consortio Motoscafisti Stresa Lido 2000

Viale Lido 4/A, Carciano di Stresa – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 934377
Mob. (+39) 347 7816453
Fax (+39) 0323 933056
e-mail lido2000@stresa.net
www.stresa.net/lido2000

Consortio Interlaghi: Navigazione Isole

Borromée, Lago Maggiore A.L.A & Lago d'Orta
Via A. Rosmini 13, Stresa – VB
Mob. (+39) 348 5138441
e-mail info@isolelagomaggiore.com
www.lagomaggioreorta.com

Consortio Motoscafisti Associati - Stresatours

Via Bolongaro 3, Stresa – VB
Mob. (+39) 339 6790707 / 339 2280347
Fax (+39) 0323 33103
e-mail info@stresatours.com
www.stresatours.com

Consortio Motoscafisti Lake Tours

Piazza Marconi, Stresa – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 31480
Mob. (+39) 338 6047849
Fax (+39) 0323 32503
e-mail info@laketours.it
www.laketours.it

Isole Lago Maggiore

Piazza Marconi, Stresa – VB
Mob. (+39) 348 5138441
e-mail info@isolelagomaggiore.com
www.isolelagomaggiore.com

LAKE ORTA

Consortio Navigazione Servizio Pubblico

Orta San Giulio
Piazza Motta 1, 28016 Orta San Giulio – NO
Telephone (+39) 333 6050288
e-mail info@motoscafisti.com
www.motoscafisti.com

WindyWaves

c/o Nautica Lavazza, Brebbia – VA
Telephone (+39) 0331 796475 / 339 5279209
Fax (+39) 02 700551836
e-mail info@windywaves.com
www.windywaves.com

Nautica Ispra

Via G. Carducci 575, Ispra – VA
Telephone (+39) 0332 781663
Fax (+39) 0332 784105
e-mail info@nauticaispra.it
www.nauticaispra.it

Even More Yachting

Via Campeggio 1, Solcio di Lesa – VB
Telephone (+39) 392 6518286
e-mail info@lagomaggiorecharter.com
e-mail info@evenmoreyachting.com
www.evenmoreyachting.com
www.lagomaggiorecharter.com

Agenzia Franchi Yachts

Ranco – VA

Telephone (+39) 347 2354907 / 328 8874282

Fax (+39) 0332 772674

e-mail info@lizardmarine.com

www.lizardmarine.eu

Anna Brovelli Nautica

Viale Repubblica 12, Angera – VA

Telephone (+39) 0331 960192

Mob. (+39) 339 5774729

e-mail info@annabrovellinautica.it

www.annabrovellinautica.it

Cantiere Nautico F.Ili Piccaluga

Via Gerbos 1, Lisanza di Sesto Calende – VA

Telephone (+39) 0331 977275

e-mail daniele.piccaluga@libero.it

Even More

Via Pescatori 1, Base Nautica di Lisanza
Sesto Calende – VA

Telephone (+39) 392 6518286

e-mail info@evenmoreyachting.com

www.evenmoreyachting.com

Centro Nautico S. Anna

Via per Angera 5, Sesto Calende – VA

Telephone + Fax (+39) 0331 923024

e-mail info@centronauticosantanna.it

www.centronauticosantanna.it

Marina di Verbella

Via delle Ferriere 15, Loc. S. Anna

Sesto Calende – VA

Telephone (+39) 0331 921108 / 921232

Fax (+39) 0331 920642

e-mail info@verbella.it

Cantiere Nautico Donato

Piazza Lago 2, Castelveciana – VA

Telephone (+39) 0332 520010

www.cantierenauticodonato.it

LAKE ORTA

Nautica Luino

Lungolago Via Dante 27/29, Luino – VA

Telephone (+39) 0332 531558

Fax (+39) 0332 510519

e-mail info@nauticaluino.it

Nautica Marine Star di Tana Guido & C

Viale Dante 6, Luino – VA

Telephone + Fax (+39) 0332 531169

e-mail marinestar@inwind.it

EAST SHORE AND VARESE

Nautica Lavazza

Via Lago 2, Brebbia – VA

Telephone (+39) 0332 989 113

Fax (+39) 0332 989 086

e-mail info@nauticalavazza.it

www.nauticalavazza.it

GENERAL INFORMATION

General Information

UPPER, CENTRAL, LOWER LAGO

EAST SHORE AND VARESE

LAKE ORTA

GENERAL INFORMATION

General Information

Coach Rental Services Golf Courses

COACH RENTAL SERVICES

UPPER, CENTRAL, LOWER LAGO, OSSOLA VALLEYS

Almatour

Via alla Cartiera 52 – Verbania – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 572600
Fax (+39) 0323 552984
e-mail info@almatour.it
www.almatour.it

Autoservizi S.A.F.

Via alla Cartiera, 39 – Verbania – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 552172
Fax (+39) 0323 552165
e-mail verbania@safduemila.com
www.safduemila.com

Borroni Events

C.so Umberto I, 4 – Stresa – VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 30251
Fax (+39) 0323 33398
e-mail info@borronievents.it
www.borronievents.it

AED Scuola & Vacanze

via Francia G. 28 – Mergozzo – VB
Telephone (+39) 333 7045567
Fax (+39) 0323 880269
e-mail info@aedscuolaevacanze.it
www.aedscuolaevacanze.it

Autoservizi Comazzi

Via Nosere 49 – Domodossola – VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 240333
Fax (+39) 0324 240982
e-mail comazzi@comazzibus.com
www.comazzibus.com

GOLF COURSES

UPPER, CENTRAL, LOWER LAGO

Golf Premeno – 9-holes

Via Pineta 1
28818 Pian di Sole di Premeno – VB
Telephone (+3



6 March 2016
9th Lago Maggiore Half Marathon
Province of Verbano Cusio Ossola
www.lmhm.it

11 – 13 March 2016
25th Rally Internazionale dei Laghi
International rally
Province of Varese
www.varesecorse.it

12 – 13 March 2016
9th Gli Agrumi di Cannero Riviera
Citrus fruits festival
Cannero Riviera
www.cannero.it

12 – 19 March 2016
B.A.F.F. – 14th Busto Arsizio Film Festival
Busto Arsizio (Province of Varese)
www.baff.it

16 – 20 March 2016
17th Locarno Camelie
Camellia Exhibition
Locarno (Switzerland), Parco delle Camelie
www.ascona-locarno.com

19 – 20 March 2016
50th Mostra della Camelia
Camellia exhibition
Cannero Riviera and Verbania
www.cannero.it
www.verbania-turismo.it

10 – 25 April 2016
Settimana del tulipano
Tulip exhibition by the Villa Taranto botanical gardens
Verbania - Pallanza, Villa Taranto
www.villataranto.it

13 – 16 May 2016
Festival Internazionale di Artisti di Strada
International street artists festival
Ascona (Switzerland)
www.ascona-locarno.com

26 May – 12 June 2016
13th Novara Jazz – Summer edition
International jazz festival
Novara
www.novarajazz.org

4 June – 18 September 2016
Un paese a sei corde
International guitar festival
Lake Orta and Lago Maggiore
www.unpaeseaseicorde.it

23 June – 2 July 2016
32nd JazzAscona New Orleans & Classics
International jazz festival
Ascona (Switzerland)
www.jazzasca.ch

23 June – mid July 2016
10th LetterAltura
Mountain literature festival
Verbania and Ossola Valleys
www.letteraltura.it

24 June – 09 July 2016
12th AmenoBlues
Blues festival
Ameno
www.amenoblues.it

Summer 2016
Festival fuochi d'artificio
Summer fireworks
Lago Maggiore, Lake Orta and other locations
www.distrettolaghi.it

7 – 20 July 2016
Moon & Stars
Rock- and pop concerts
Locarno (Switzerland)
www.moonandstarslocarno.ch

Mid July 2016
14th Cactus Folia
Cactus festival and market
Verbania - Pallanza, Villa Giulia
www.verbania-turismo.it

Mid July 2016
Tones on the Stones
Music, theatre and dance festival in quarries
Province of Verbano Cusio Ossola
www.tonesonthestones.com

19 – 24 July 2016
19 – 21 August 2016
23 August – 06 September 2016
55th Settimane Musicali di Stresa e del Lago Maggiore
International classical music festival
Midsummer Jazz Concerts (July)
Meditazioni in Musica (August)
Stresa Festival – main festival concerts (August/September)
Stresa and other locations around Lago Maggiore
www.stresafestival.eu

25 – 30 July 2016
17th Malescoto
International short film festival
Malesco
www.comune.malesco.vb.it

31 July 2016
AronaMen Triathlon
Arona
www.aronamen.it

3 – 13 August 2016
69th Festival del Film Locarno
International film festival
Locarno (Switzerland)
www.pardo.ch

14 August 2016
44th Palio Remiero
Traditional rowing regatta
Verbania - Pallanza
www.verbania-turismo.it

19 – 29 August 2016
San Vito
Traditional folk festival
Omegea
www.sanvito-omegna.it

5 September – 14 October 2016
71st Settimane Musicali di Ascona
Classical music festival of Ascona
Ascona (Switzerland)
www.settimane-musicali.ch

2 – 5 September 2016
33rd Raduno degli Spazzacamini
International chimney sweep gathering
Santa Maria Maggiore, Ossola Valleys
www.museospazzacamino.it

Mid September 2016
7th Corto e Fieno
Rural film festival
Ameno, Lake Orta
www.cortoefieno.it

End September 2016
13th Editoria e Giardini
Garden book exhibition
Verbania
www.editoriaegiardini.it

27 September 2016
3th Valli Varesine
Bicycle race
Province of Varese
www.trevallivaresine.com

7 – 9 October 2016
12th Novara Gospel Festival
Gospel music festival
Borgomanero
www.novaragospel.it

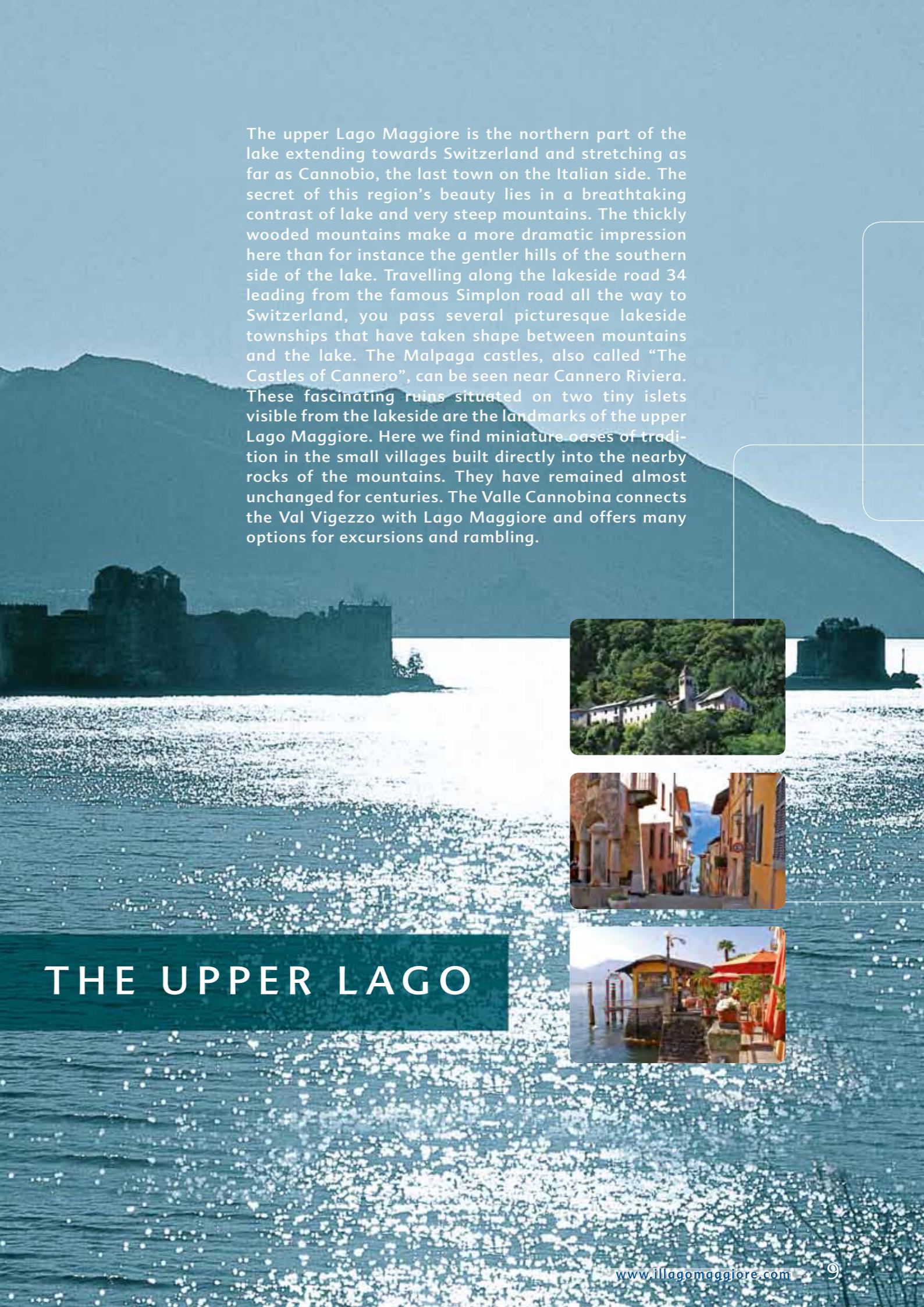
Autumn 2016 – Spring 2017
Novara Jazz – Winter edition
International jazz festival
Novara
www.novarajazz.org

October/November 2016 – March 2017
Stagione Musicale Comunale
Classical music concerts
Varese
www.stagionemusicale.it

6 November 2016
6th Lago Maggiore Marathon
Province Verbano Cusio Ossola
www.lagomaggioremarathon.com

End October – Beginning November 2016
Sagra MeleMiele
Apple honey festival
Baceno, Ossola Valleys
www.melemiele.it

The upper Lago Maggiore is the northern part of the lake extending towards Switzerland and stretching as far as Cannobio, the last town on the Italian side. The secret of this region's beauty lies in a breathtaking contrast of lake and very steep mountains. The thickly wooded mountains make a more dramatic impression here than for instance the gentler hills of the southern side of the lake. Travelling along the lakeside road 34 leading from the famous Simplon road all the way to Switzerland, you pass several picturesque lakeside townships that have taken shape between mountains and the lake. The Malpaga castles, also called "The Castles of Cannero", can be seen near Cannero Riviera. These fascinating ruins situated on two tiny islets visible from the lakeside are the landmarks of the upper Lago Maggiore. Here we find miniature oases of tradition in the small villages built directly into the nearby rocks of the mountains. They have remained almost unchanged for centuries. The Valle Cannobina connects the Val Vigezzo with Lago Maggiore and offers many options for excursions and rambling.



THE UPPER LAGO



Castelli di Cannero



Cannero Riviera



S. Agata di Novaglio — Oggebbio



Cannobio



Cannobio

GENERAL INFORMATION

Navigazione Lago Maggiore
Lago Maggiore Shipping Company
Telephone (+39) 0322 233200
Fax (+39) 0322 249530
e-mail infomaggiore@navigazionelaghi.it
www.navlaghi.it

Overall public transport network of the region
www.vcoinbus.it

Museums
Rete Museale Alto Lago
Upper Lago Museum Network
Telephone (+39) 0323 840809/348 7340347
e-mail museotattile@tiscali.it
www.prolcotraregoviggiona.it

CANNERO RIVIERA, TRAREGO VIGGIONA

Town Information Cannero Riviera
Postcode 28821 - Province VB
Altitude 214 m
Population 1036

Market day Friday

Tourist Information

Via Orsi 1
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 788943
e-mail proloco@cannero.it
www.cannero.it

Tourist Information Trarego-Viggiona
Contrada San Marino
28826 Trarego-Viggiona - VB

Telephone (+39) 377 1699972
e-mail prolocotraregoviggiona@gmail.com

Museo Etnografico
Ethnographic Museum
c/o Villa Laura, Via Dante Alighieri 29
28821 Cannero

Telephone (+39) 0323 670731/ 788091
e-mail museotattile@tiscali.it
e-mail proloco@cannero.it

Parco degli Agrumi
Citrus Fruits Garden
28821 Cannero
Telephone (+39) 0323 840809 / 348 7340347
e-mail museotattile@tiscali.it
www.cannero.it

Museo Tattile di Scienze Naturali
Natural Science Museum
28826 Trarego Viggiona
Telephone (+39) 0323 840809/797943
e-mail museotattile@tiscali.it

Cannero Riviera was built on an alluvial promontory on the small river Rio di Cannero. Because of its extremely mild climate the town was given the additional name of "Riviera"; lemons, oranges, olives, Bougainvillea and even bananas thrive in its gardens. For a long time the town was the object of strife between the rival families of the Sforza and the Visconti. The town has also been given a picturesque and shady lakeside promenade and has an enchanting historic part with narrow alleys, arbours, restaurants and many small shops. The bathing beach of Cannero Riviera is also a beauty spot that attracts a great number of visitors, especially in summer.

Sightseeing

Visible on two offshore islets are the famous **Castelli di Malpaga**, also called **Castelli di Cannero**. The ruins of the castle are spread over the two islets and from the shore look as if they themselves are growing out of the water. The castles, also called **Rocca Vitaliana**, were built by Ludovico Borromeo between 1519 and 1521.

Torchio dei Terrieri — The so-called "**Torchie dei Terrieri**" is an important record of social and cultural history and evidence of the local economic tradition. If you follow the signs in Oggiono, you soon reach the wine press shed with the press, constructed in 1742. It consists of a chestnut-wood beam 10 m long, weighing several tons. As a special attraction you can visit the small mountain villages above Cannero Riviera. Whether in **Trarego-Viggiona** or in **Cheglia**, you cannot help but be entranced by the magic of past ages.

In the vicinity

South of Cannero Riviera is **Oggebbio**, which no visitor should miss. The town of Oggebbio with its around 1000 inhabitants is situated between Cannero Riviera in the north and Ghiffa in the south on the Piedmontese west side of Lago Maggiore. The community of Oggebbio encompasses 15 villages, here scattered throughout the mountains, but also reaching as far down as the lakeside.

CANNOBIO

Town Information
Postcode 28822 - Province VB
Altitude 214 m
Population 5155
Market day Sunday

Tourist Information
Via A. Giovanola 25
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 71212/71393
e-mail info@procannobio.it
www.procannobio.it

Cannobio is the last locality on Lago Maggiore before the Swiss border. Today the small town is a popular destination for tourists and one of the leading holiday resorts in the entire province. Excavations have unearthed what are probably pre-Roman graves, evidence of long-standing human settlement. Because of its geographical position, Cannobio was a major strategic and economic centre already in Roman times.

The late thirteenth-century **Palazzo della Ragione**, today called **Parasio** for short, dominates the town centre, and the church of **San Vittore**. The lakeside promenade of Cannobio is renowned as one of the most beautiful on the entire Lago Maggiore. Just visible beyond it are the fishermen's houses. **Piazza Vittorio Emanuele III** is situated directly in front of the old harbour and is the main meeting point of the town. Finally you come to the lido, a wide-ranging and well tended beach near the Cannobino river estuary. Naturally this is always a popular goal in summer for a great number of bathers and sun-worshippers.

In the vicinity**Carmine Superiore**

The landmark of this small, medieval town Carmine Superiore is the fourteenth-century church of **San Gottardo**. This intact, medieval village is located on the rambling route from Cannero Riviera to Cannobio.

Trarego Viggiona

This community consists of three mountain villages — Trarego, Viggiona and Cheglia — situated in green countryside on the slopes of Monte Carza (3661 feet), with a breathtaking view onto Lago Maggiore.

Gorge of Sant'Anna

Not far from Cannobio, visitors can experience a breathtaking natural spectacle: the **Sant'Anna Gorge**, the start of a track which was originally the only connection between Val Cannobina and Lago Maggiore. Today it is a popular rambling route through the Val Cannobina. It has a church dedicated to **Our Lady of Loreto** and a bridge from Roman times.

GHIFFA, OGGEBBIO

Town Information Ghiffa
Postcode 28823 - Province VB
Altitude 201 m
Population 2398

Comune di Ghiffa
Corso Belvedere 92
Telephone (+39) 0323 59110
e-mail ghiffa@reteunitaria.piemonte.it
e-mail info@proghiffa.it
www.comune.ghiffa.vb.it

Sacro Monte di Ghiffa
Via SS. Trinità 48
Telephone (+39) 0323 59870
e-mail sacramonte_ghiffa@libero.it
www.sacramonti.net

Museo dell'arte del Cappello
Millinery Museum
Corso Belvedere 279
28823 Ghiffa - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 59209 / 670731
e-mail museocappelloghiffa@libero.it
e-mail museotattile@tiscali.it
www.museodellartedelcappello.it

Opening times
April to October
Saturday and Sunday
3.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Tourist Information Oggebbio
Strada Manzi 1
28824 Oggebbio - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 1970252
e-mail proloco.oggebbio@libero.it
www.comune.oggebbio.vb.it

Ghiffa also has elegant villas surviving from the nineteenth century, among them the Villa of the Russian Prince Pietro Troubetzkoy. The township has become known since the nineteenth century for its production of felt hats, and the milliners of Ghiffa have made a name for themselves all over the world. A millinery museum has been set up in a section of the former Panizza hat factory.

Sightseeing

The **Sacro Monte della SS. Trinità di Ghiffa** and its pilgrimage church, three church-sized chapels and a Way of the Cross from the seventeenth century are situated in the middle of an extensive nature reserve of 200 hectares, the **Riserva Naturale Speciale di SS. Trinità di Ghiffa**. This woodland nature sanctuary around the Sacro Monte is today a centre for leisure activities: there is a keep-fit course and also a restaurant. The monumental complex consists of shrine, chapels, and portico of the Way of the Cross. It lies in a breathtaking spot above Lago Maggiore, in the middle of a nature reserve. Tradition has it that it is the location of many miracles. Sources from the sixth century already testify to an oratory; the church was probably first built in the twelfth or thirteenth centuries and enlarged in the seventeenth. The square in front of the shrine is enclosed by the portico of the Way of the Cross; it consists of 14 arches with cross vaulting resting on stone columns and leading into a Lady Chapel.

The **nature reserve** covers 194 hectares of woodland and also a rich range of flora, above all chestnut trees, and fauna of many species — from the wren to mighty birds of prey. Numerous teaching paths run through this protected region; you can even find traces of ancient settlements and learn something of the region's religious traditions. The nature reserve has become a popular area for ramblers, who can follow its paths even as far as the **Val Grande National Park**.



Carmine Superiore



Cannero Riviera



Carmine Superiore



General Information

Upper, Central, Lower Lago Maggiore

East Shore and Varese

The Swiss part of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services

**PREMENO**

Town Information
Postcode 28818 - Province VB
Altitude 840 m
Population 780
Market day Thursday

Tourist Information
Associazione turistica Premeno
c/o Villa Bernocchi
Viale Marsaglia 1
Telephone (+39) 0323 587130
e-mail info@prolocopremeno.it
www.prolocopremeno.it

There was already a human settlement here in primeval times and remains of the Bronze Age and of the Roman Imperial age have been found. Today Premeno is the chief tourist centre of the Verbania interior. Hospitality has a great tradition and is combined with a unique spirit of enterprise. The first tennis court in the whole of Italy was opened here in 1903 and was subsequently host to many national tournaments. In 1965 a nine-hole golf course was opened, the first of its kind in Europe.

Premeno lies in the centre of a basin covered in deciduous and coniferous forests surrounded by the hills of **Sasso Corb  ** and **Pizzo d'Om  **. Both heights protect the location from the cold north winds and ensure a mild climate and bracing air, making it a popular recuperative resort for tourists and holiday-makers.

The wealthy Lombardian middle-class already discovered Premeno in the nineteenth century by, who built elegant villas here, such as the Villa Calvi, Villa Bonomi, Villa Murari, Villa Mangiagalli and **Villa Bernocchi**. Villa Bernocchi is today owned by the municipality and presents major exhibitions, concerts and other events.

The green meadows and slopes were used until recently for pastoral agriculture, testified by the many surviving mountain huts on the alpine pastures and by many well tended walking routes lined by enchanting votive chapels.

In the vicinity

Several types of traditional handicraft have survived in the little village of Esio near Premeno: copper work, wrought iron and, first and foremost, woodwork, especially for agricultural implements.

VAL CANNOBINA

Museo Etnografico
Ethnographic Museum
Piazza della Chiesa
28825 Gurro - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 76100
e-mail info@museogurro.it
www.museogurro.it
Opening times
15 April to 15 November

Valle Cannobina is a wild, spacious, very green and in large areas still unpopulated valley connecting the **Vigezzo Valley** with Lago Maggiore. Geographically the valley belongs to the Alpi Lepontine. The Cannobino rivulet flows through the valley, its banks lined by steep walls of rock that occasionally form spectacular narrow passes, as in the famous Orrido di S. Anna – a well-known and very popular excursion destination for tourists and visitors to this region. The mountains attain a height here of 2189 m.

Monte Limidario at 2189 m is the highest mountain in the Valle Cannobina and the **Rocce del Gridone** separate the Val Vigezza from the region of the **Centovalli**. The townships oriented towards the lake include S. Agata, Campeglio, Socragno, Cinzago, Ronco, Marchile, Rondonico, Formine, S. Bartolomeo, Piaggio.

Among the various centres of the Valle Cannobina are Cavaglio, Gurrone, Spoccia, Orasso, Cursolo and Finero on the left side of the valley. On the right side are Socraggio, Crealla, Falmenta and Gurro, all localities that have shaped the region with their own particular traditions. Notable places situated on the valley plain are Ponte Socraggio, Nivetta, Lunecco, Ponte Falmenta, Ponte Spoccia, Arietta and Creves. One of the valley's characteristic features is that it is very narrow and dark down below and opens up increasingly as it ascends.

Museum**Museo Etnografico di Gurro e della Valle Cannobina**

Ethnographic Museum of the Valle Cannobina

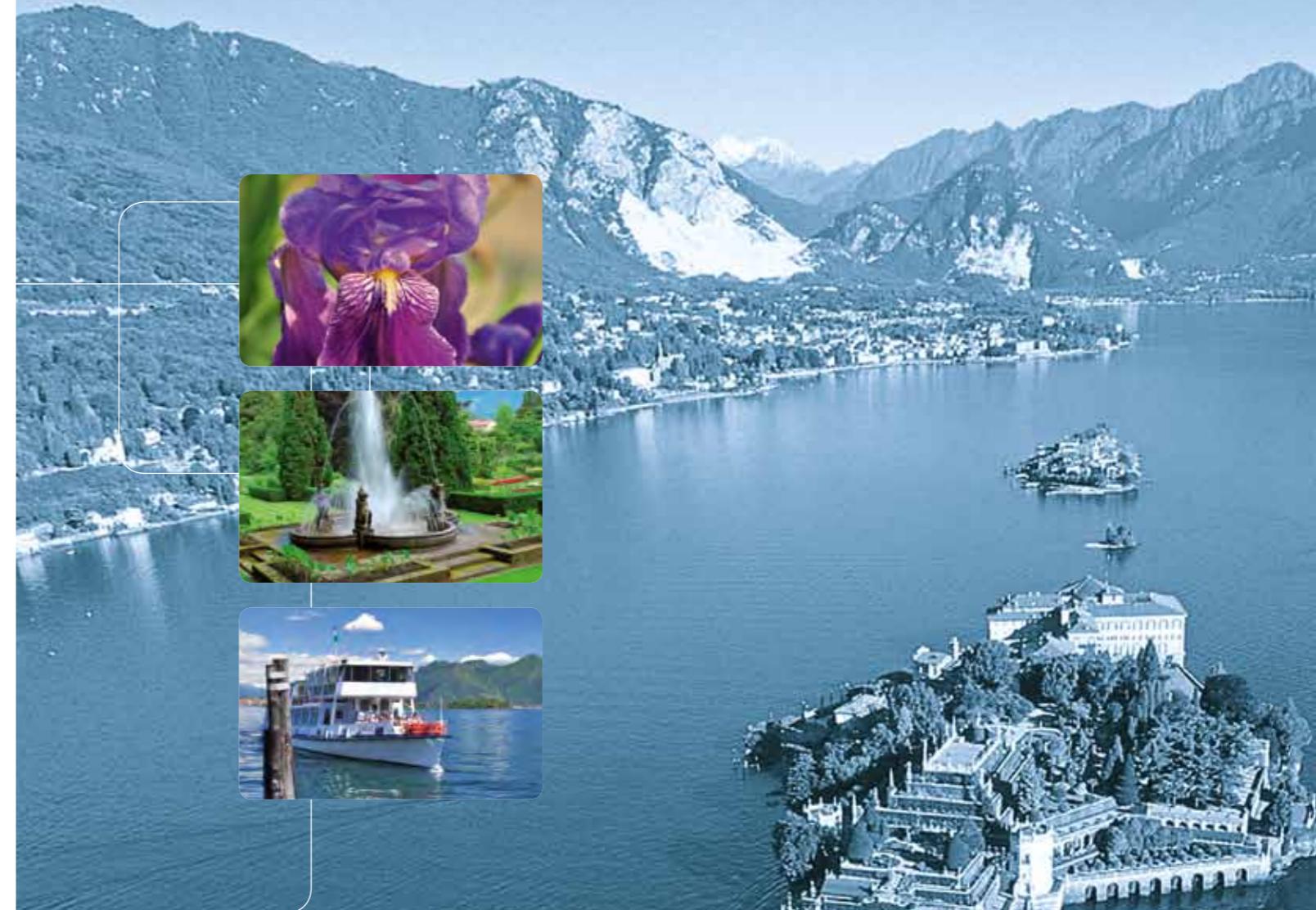
The museum is in an historic eighteenth-century building on the town's central square. It collects various traditional objects and original costumes from the Valle Cannobina.



River basin in Cannobina-Valley



S. Anna Gorge

VAL CANNOBINA**Museum****Museo Etnografico di Gurro e della Valle Cannobina**

Lago Maggiore opens up at its widest point towards the Borromeo Bay with the famous Borromeo Islands: Isola Bella, Isola Madre and Isola dei Pescatori. While Isola Bella has been transformed by the building activities of the Borromeo family into a miracle of the baroque creative spirit, and Isola Madre is an ideal garden landscape, Isola dei Pescatori has remained simple and authentic in character.

At the margin of the bay we find the towns of Stresa and Baveno, also the Verbania districts of Pallanza and Suna.

Stresa has become renowned as the "Pearl of Verbano", and all together these places have the highest share of tourists throughout the whole of Lago Maggiore. Their splendid hotels form a scenery that has caused tourism to thrive ever since the late nineteenth century. Today major events take place in these towns, to which many prominent people and VIPs are invited.

THE CENTRAL LAGO



Baveno



Feriolo



Isola Bella



Isola Bella Gardens of Borromeo



Isola Bella

GENERAL INFORMATION

Navigazione Lago Maggiore
Lago Maggiore Shipping Company
Telephone (+39) 0322 233200
Fax (+39) 0322 249530
e-mail infomaggiore@navigazionelaghi.it
www.navlaghi.it

Ferrovie dello Stato
Italian State Railways
www.trenitalia.it
Overall public transport network of the region
www.vcoinbus.it – www.safduemila.com

BAVENO

Town Information

Postcode 28831 - Province VB
Altitude 205 m
Population 4741

Market day Monday

Tourist Information
Piazza della Chiesa 8
Telephone (+39) 0323 924632
e-mail info@bavenoturismo.it
www.bavenoturismo.it

Museo Granum

Granite Museum
c/o Palazzo Pretorio
Piazza della Chiesa 8
Telephone (+39) 0323 924632
e-mail info@bavenoturismo.it

Adventure Park - Aqualake

Strada Cavalli 18
Telephone (+39) 0323 919799
e-mail info@aquadventurepark.com
e-mail info@aqua-lake.com
www.aquadventurepark.com

If Stresa is the green paradise of love, Baveno is the serene and enchanted isle of dreams; thus Nino Bazzetta De Vemenia's description of it in his Guida del Lago Maggiore in 1931. The town is Roman in origin; seen from Milan it lies beyond Stresa and is today a famous tourist destination and holiday centre. Baveno is also renowned for its water with low mineral content and its granite quarries. Its villas are a great sightseeing attraction: **Villa Henfrey-Branca**, the **Villa Barberis** and the **Villa Fedora** and **Villa Durazzo** (Lido Palace Hotel), each one of them well worth a visit. The town of Baveno is one of the starting points for visiting the Borromeo Islands.

Culture

The Romanesque church of SS. Gervasio and Protasio was consecrated on 13 May 1343. It was recorded as a parish church as early as the 10th and 11th centuries.

In the vicinity

Feriolo

You reach the small district suburb of Feriolo from Baveno via the shore road. Here you see cheery, colourful houses along the bank of the lake, and one boat after another on the lake. The village lies in a quiet bay on the Borromeo Gulf, enchanting all comers with its magical charm. Feriolo, with its lakeside promenade, the beaches, the rustic houses and characteristic balconies, is indeed a most rewarding destination for the tourist, whether wishing to stay a while, or just see the sights.

THE BORROMEO ISLANDS

Admission

for palaces and gardens	Adults	Minors 1	Adult Group 2	Group of Minors 3
Isola Bella	€ 15,00	€ 8,50	€ 12,-	€ 7,-
Isola Madre	€ 12,00	€ 6,50	€ 10,-	€ 5,50
Isola Bella + Isola Madre	€ 20,50	€ 10,-	€ 16,50	€ 9,50
Isola Bella + Isola Madre + Rocca di Angera	€ 24,-	€ 13,50	€ 19,-	€ 11,50

1 Minors (from aged 6 to 15 years), free admission for children under 6 years of age

2 Adult group: more than 18 in number, free admission for the 19th

3 School classes: free admission for one teacher with 13 schoolchildren

Isola Bella, Isola Madre and Rocca di Angera

Opening season 18 March to 23 October Opening times Every day from 9 am to 5.30 pm

The Borromeo Islands are without doubt Lago Maggiore's trademark. They lie in the bay of the same name, which is lined with the townships of Stresa, Baveno and Verbania. Here Lago Maggiore is at its widest. The imagination and hard work invested by its population throughout the course of history have made the islands into a region that is outstanding for its rich culture and art.

ISOLA BELLA

Isola Bella may be described as the most famous of the Borromeo Islands and the one most popular with the tourists. Its name — formerly Insula Inferior — stems from Isabella, the wife of Carlo III Borromeo. He started the work of transforming this formerly infertile, rocky island in the first half of the seventeenth century, a task finished in 1671 by Vitaliano VI. The great baroque palace is a fully fledged museum with unique exhibits of incalculable

value, including original furniture, paintings and frescoes from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, Flemish tapestries of silk and gold, sculpture and ancient weaponry. There are resplendent halls in the interior of the building: a ballroom, a throne room, an armoury, an alcoved hall and the **Salon Napoléon**, where Napoleon is supposed to have lingered on several occasions. In addition, the building has six subterranean halls with natural grottos, their walls rendered with tufa and adorned with mosaics. The Italian gardens consist of ten terraces designed like a blunt pyramid. The terraces form a semi-circle, so grandiose in effect that it is called the **Theatre**; standing at the centre is a sculpture of a unicorn, heraldic beast of the Borromeos, next to it allegorical statues of nature and art, also other mythological stone figures.

ISOLA DEI PESCATORI (OR SUPERIORE)

The unique outline of an ancient village makes this the most picturesque of the islands: its pointed campanile towers up over the red roofs; the houses, prettily adorned with low arbours, look out onto the lake where many boats are moored at the shore. The island is named after the fishermen, the **pescatori**, who have lived here for centuries. The fishing island enchants young and old with its simple houses, its narrow alleys and stone portals and passages. The **church of San Vittore** is a national monument and has an original apse with single-arch windows from the eleventh century. There are several typical shops and well-known restaurants on the islands, where you can try dishes made of freshly caught fish.

ISOLA MADRE

Isola Madre is the largest of the Borromeo Islands. It lies in the middle of the gulf and is home to a resplendent **Renaissance palace** with one of the most renowned and oldest gardens in Italy. Starting in the sixteenth century, the Borromeo family gradually transformed the original fortress into a luxurious summer residence. Thanks to the mild climate this included a stupendous **botanical garden**: more than 150 different sorts of camellia, a special cypress from Kashmir, subtropical plants and flowers of unique and exotic types. The fascination of bounteous nature is enhanced even more by the exotic fauna living and running free around the gardens: among them white peacocks, pheasants of various species and colourful parrots. The palace was built in the sixteenth century and refurbished by the Princess Borromeo in 1978, who fitted it out with furniture taken from the various residences of her family. The palace was converted into a **museum**. It contains interesting reconstructions of ancient rooms, numerous collections — liveries, tapestries and porcelain, a puppet theatre, a splendid picture gallery with sixteenth century Lombardian paintings, and a doll collection with French and German collector's pieces from the nineteenth century.

LAGO DI MERGOZZO

Town Information Mergozzo

Postcode 28802 - Province VB
Altitude 196 m
Population 2213
Tourist Information
Via Roma 20 — Mergozzo
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 800935
e-mail info@promergozzo.it
e-mail promergozzo1909@yahoo.it
www.comunedimergozzo.it

Civico Museo Archeologico di Mergozzo

Archaeological Museum
+
Ecomuseo del granito di Montorfano
Granite Museum of Montorfano
Information
Antico Palazzo Comunale, Via Roma 8
Telephone (+39) 0323 80101
Telephone (+39) 0323 80291 (Direzione Museo)
e-mail museomergozzo@tiscali.it
www.gruppoarcheologicomergozzo.it

There is another lake in the immediate vicinity of the Borromeo Bay — a miniature, so to speak, of its big brother Lago Maggiore.

The lake was originally connected to Lago Maggiore and first separated in the ninth century by the alluvial land of the Toce. This division caused Lago di Mergozzo to develop a markedly warmer average temperature. At the west end of Lago di Mergozzo we find the town of the same name. Motor boats have been prohibited for some years now. It is moreover noted as one of the cleanest lakes in Upper Italy, thus its camping grounds and beaches are extremely popular with people who know and love the region. The banks and mountain slopes around the lake are far less populated than the other banks of Lago Maggiore.

Culture

Mergozzo is still excellently preserved in its medieval structure. The location was once known as the old trade route from Italy via the Simplon Pass (Sempione) to Valais (Wallis) in Switzerland. Today Mergozzo seems as if time has stood still, with its alleys for pedestrians, pretty churches and modest houses. The lakeside promenade of the little town is outstanding for its beauty and cultivation, inviting all comers to take a revitalising walk.



Isola dei Pescatori



Isola dei Pescatori



Isola Madre



Isola Madre

General Information
Upper, Central,
Lower Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

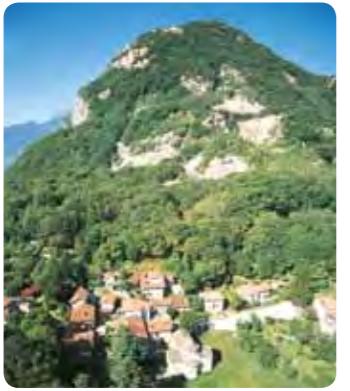
Lake Orta
Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Vercio



In the vicinity Montorfano

Lago di Mergozzo is separated from the Toce Valley by the mountain Montorfano, 2604 feet high. The township of the same name was built on the foothills of a granite massif; it contains the eleventh-century Romanesque church of **S. Giovanni Battista**, which has been preserved almost completely intact. A climb up to the summit of Montorfano provides a unique view onto both lakes and the mouth of the Toce. A large quarry is evidence today of centuries of quarry work. Many archaeological finds from this and other excavation sites in the region are kept in the Museum of **Antiquities**.

STRESA

Town Information
Postcode 28838 - Province VB
Altitude 200 m
Population 4945

Market day Friday

Tourist Information
Piazza Marconi 16
Telephone (+39) 0323 31308 / 30150
e-mail info@stresaturismo.it
www.stresaturismo.it

Alpyland
Summer Toboggan Run
Monte Mottarone
Telephone (+39) 0323 1991007
e-mail mottarone@alpyland.com
www.alpyland.com



Stresa seen from Isola Bella

By the late nineteenth century, **Stresa** had developed into the "Pearl of Verbano" and is one of the most famous destinations on Lago Maggiore. The town lies directly opposite the Borromeo Islands, and its location has made it a central launching point for boat excursions across the entire Borromeo Bay.

This "little strip of land" was originally a farming settlement. Later it developed into a popular holiday resort for the nobility. A few remains can still be seen of the former castle; they can be viewed in the **Villa Pallavicino** gardens. The real heart of the town – more than the **Piazza Cadorna**, a lovely square with shops, cafés and restaurants – is the fabulous lakeside promenade, an elegant avenue with opulent gardens and colourful floral borders and with a breathtaking view onto the Gulf of Borromeo; on the other side you see the villas and luxury hotels from the belle époque.

Culture

Stresa was ruled – and thus shaped – by the **Visconti** and **Borromeo** families until 1748. After several decades of Austrian rule, Stresa and the whole western bank of the Verbano region was allotted to the Savoy dynasty. The Napoleonic road, the well-known Sempione Tunnel and the railway line of the same name greatly increased the onrush of tourism in the early nineteenth century. Stendhal, Chateaubriand, Dumas, Dickens and Lord Byron all added to the town's renown through their literary works. Today several congresses and international events are held in Stresa in the modern **Palazzo dei Congressi**.

Villa Pallavicino

The Villa Pallavicino is situated on the outskirts of the town, enticing visitors with its wonderful gardens and zoo, also many exotic plants. The villa is renowned as an ideal, neo-classical example of a summer villa, serving as an architectural model for many other villas on the lake.



Borromeo Islands seen from Stresa

Villa Pallavicino
Via Sempione Sud 8
Telephone (+39) 0323 31533 / 32407
e-mail direzione@parcozopallavicino.it
www.parcozopallavicino.it

Opening times
Middle of March to October
Daily 9 am to 7 pm

Admission
Adult € 9,50
Children (aged 4 – 14) € 6,50
Groups of 20 persons and over € 7,-
School rate (min. 20 students) € 5,-
(free teacher ticket with every ten students)



In the vicinity

The opulent slopes of the **Mottarone**, also called the "noble" mountain of Stresa, offers many excursion options for lovers of nature. There is a funicular railway between Stresa Lido and Mottarone leading directly to the summit of the mountain, altitude 4891 feet. Halfway you can make a pleasant stop and visit the **Alpine Gardens**, famous for their alpine mountain flora. Many small, idyllic villages have accumulated on the slopes of the Mottarone, such as Gignese, famous for its remarkable **Umbrella and Parasol Museum**.

Stresa Villa Pallavicino

Giardino Botanico Alpinia
Botanical Garden
Viale Mottino 26 – Alpino di Stresa
28836 Gignese - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 20163
e-mail gardinalpinia@tresa@gmail.com

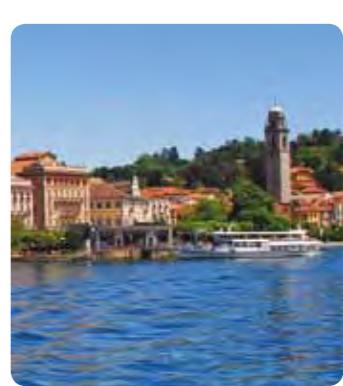
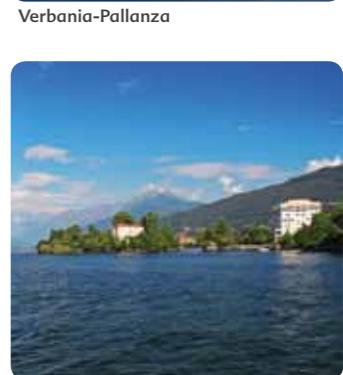
Opening times
April to October 9.30 am to 6 pm

Admission
Adults € 4,-
Reduced (children aged 4 to 12) € 3,50
Groups (min. 15 persons) € 3,-
The garden is situated about 300 yards away
from the intermediate station of the local
funicular in Alpino.

Museo dell'Ombrello
Umbrella and Parasol Museum
Via Golf Panorama 2
28836 Gignese - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 89622
e-mail museo@gignese.it
www.gignese.it/museo

Opening times
April to September
Tuesday to Sunday
10 am to 12 pm and 3 pm to 6 pm
In October viewing on request

Admission
Adults € 2,50
Children and Groups (per person) € 1,50



VERBANIA

Town Information
Postcode 28922 - Province VB
Altitude 197 m
Population 31157

Market day Verbania-Intra Saturday
Verbania-Pallanza Friday

Tourist Information
Corso Zaninello 6
Verbania - Pallanza
Telephone (+39) 0323 503249 / 556669
e-mail turismo@comune.verbania.it
www.verbania-turismo.it

Museums

La Casa del Lago
Ethnographic Museum
Via Cavallotti 16
28921 Verbania - Intra
Telephone (+39) 0323 53814
e-mail info@lacasadellago.it
www.lacasadellago.it

Acquamondo
Museum of Water (Natural History Museum)
Via Umberto I
28801 Cossogno - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 468506
e-mail valgrandeeducazione@societar3.191.it
www.parcovagl grande.it

Verbania

Amalgamating the four localities of Pallanza, Intra, Suna and Fondotoce in 1939 formed what is today the largest township on Lago Maggiore, also known as the **Garden on the Lake**. It has a population of around 32,000 inhabitants

District of Pallanza

This ancient village is of Roman origin. The spit of land lies opposite the Gulf of Borromeo and stretches out into the sea. **Pallanza** is today a popular tourist destination with many hotels, villas and parks.

The historic centre is characterised by its ancient quarter, squares and stately buildings. The medieval origins of both town centres of **La Villa** and **La Piazza** are still clearly visible.

The **Palazzo della Città**, today's Town Hall since the nineteenth century, impresses for its arcade of 32 pink granite pillars. There is an impressive view onto the Borromeo Islands from the modernised lakeside promenade. This is the town's main meeting place, a venue for events such as the **Corso Fiorito**, firework displays and the **Palio Remiero**.

Museo del Paesaggio

Because the local landscape is rightfully regarded as one of the most grandiose cultural monuments, a museum devoted to this was set up in 1914 in Pallanza, a district of Verbania. Professor Antonio Massara has compiled a collection of pictorial material for this museum.



General Information

Upper, Central, Lower Lago Maggiore

East Shore and Varese

The Swiss part of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara, Vineyards and Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Verbania-Intra

District of Intra

The picturesque alleyways of Intra's medieval town centre are today alive with the bustle of people working and shopping.

The richly ornamented **Palazzo Peretti** in the Via De Bonis is one of the most resplendent buildings in the town. Shaping the town's character, too, are the alleyways of **Via San Vittore**, **Vicolo del Freschetto** and **Vicolo del Moretto**, also the **Piazza Ranzoni**. Centre of business and animated hub of the town is the **Palazzo delle Beccarie**. From the lakeside promenade you can see the ancient harbour with its imposing granite columns from Montorfano and the old landing pier. All Italian and Swiss harbours on Lago Maggiore can be reached from the new harbour. And every Saturday on **Piazza del Mercato** you can enjoy one of the largest weekly markets on Lago Maggiore.

Villa Taranto

The grandiose park of the **Villa Taranto** connects the two sections of the town. The villa gardens have been laid out in English style, although Italian elements are not missing: statues, fountains, ponds, terraces, waterfalls. Here the visitor can encounter all the elements of the earth, which lends a magical aura to these sacred grounds. The Villa Taranto gardens has one of the most important botanical gardens in the world. Thousands of plant species and flowers of all kinds cover an area of 16 hectares, interlaced by four miles of avenues.



Gardens of the Villa Taranto

Villa Taranto
Botanical Gardens

Via V. Veneto 111
Verbania - Pallanza
Telephone (+39) 0323 556667 / 404555
Fax (+39) 0323 556667

e-mail entevillataranto@tin.it
www.villataranto.it

Opening times

March 9 am to 5 pm
April to September 8.30 am to 6.30 pm
October to November 9 am to 4 pm

Admission

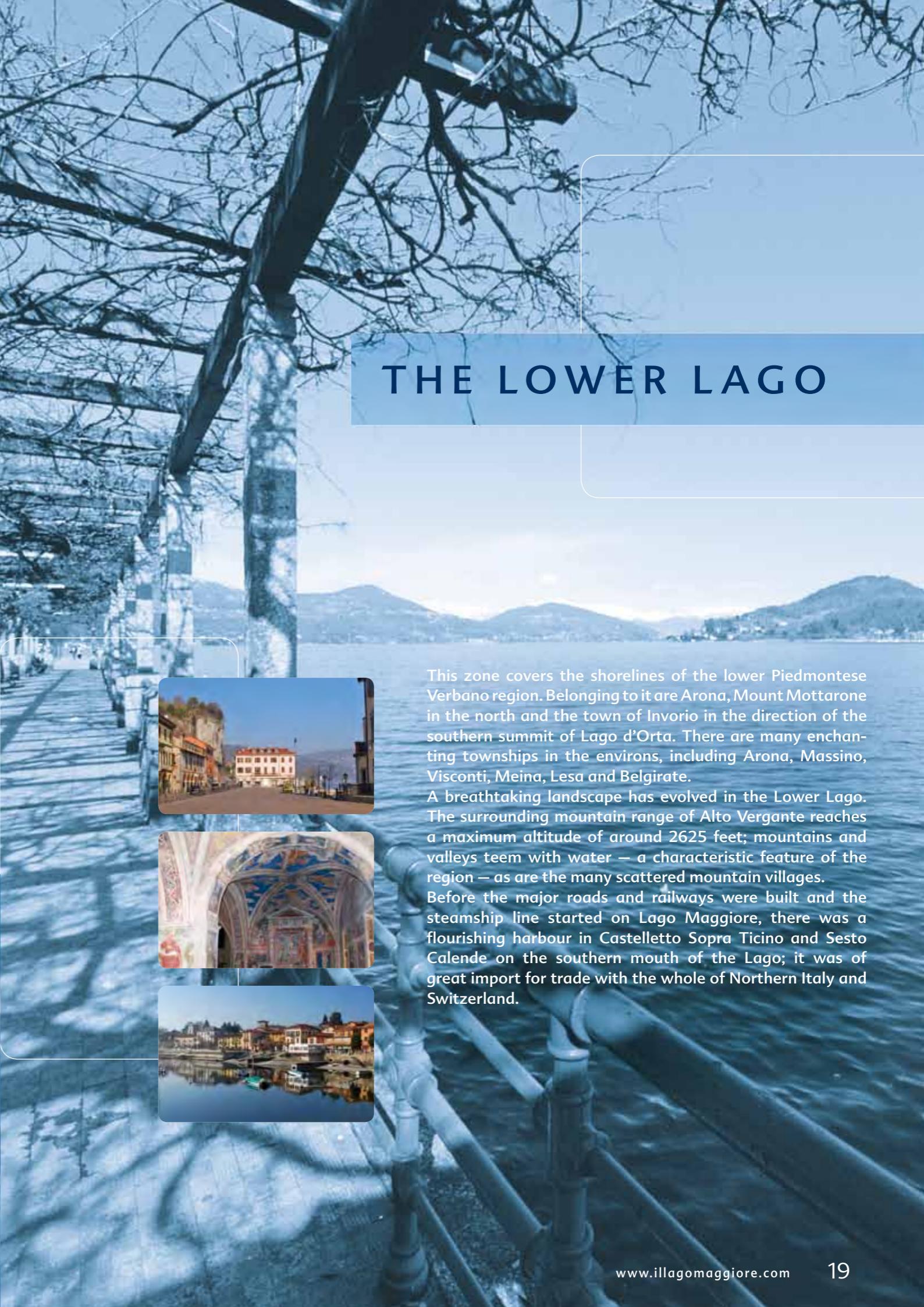
Adults	€ 10,-
Children (aged 6 to 14)	€ 5,50
Groups from 21 to 100 persons (per person)	€ 7,50
School groups (per person)	€ 4,50
Tourist couriers	free
One teacher per 20 school goers	free
People of disability with care person	free

In the vicinity**Monterosso**

The round, characteristic profile of this 2,276 feet-high mountain looms up in front of Lago Maggiore. You can see it directly beyond the localities of Fondotoce and Suna. Interesting archaeological finds have been made in this region, testifying to human settlement of at least 3000 years. A trip to the summit of the wooded **Mount Monterosso** rewards you with a 360° panoramic view across the entire Bay of Borromeo.



Verbania-Intra

**THE LOWER LAGO**

This zone covers the shorelines of the lower Piedmontese Verbano region. Belonging to it are Arona, Mount Mottarone in the north and the town of Inverno in the direction of the southern summit of Lago d'Orta. There are many enchanting townships in the environs, including Arona, Massino, Visconti, Meina, Lesa and Belgirate.

A breathtaking landscape has evolved in the Lower Lago. The surrounding mountain range of Alto Vergante reaches a maximum altitude of around 2625 feet; mountains and valleys teem with water — a characteristic feature of the region — as are the many scattered mountain villages. Before the major roads and railways were built and the steamship line started on Lago Maggiore, there was a flourishing harbour in Castelletto Sopra Ticino and Sesto Calende on the southern mouth of the Lago; it was of great import for trade with the whole of Northern Italy and Switzerland.





Alto Vergante Massino Visconti



Alto Vergante S. Salvatore



Arona



Arona Piazza del Popolo

Arona
Villa Ponti**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Navigazione Lago Maggiore
Lago Maggiore Shipping Company
Telephone (+39) 0322 233200
Fax (+39) 0322 249530
e-mail infomaggiore@navigazionelaghi.it
www.navlaghi.it

Ferrovie dello Stato
Italian State Railways
www.trenitalia.it
Overall public transport network of the region
www.comazzibus.com
www.stnet.it
www.safduemila.com

ALTO VERGANTE

Town Information Massino Visconti
Postcode 28040 - Province NO
Altitude 465 m
Population 1126

Tourist Information
Via Ing. Viotti 2
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0322 219713
e-mail info@massinovproloco.it
www.massinovproloco.it

Alto Vergante is actually a mountain range with a maximum altitude of 800m.; it stretches from the southern part of Lago Maggiore to the town of Stresa. It separates Lag Maggiore from the neighbouring Lago d'Orta. Thick, untouched forests grow on the heights of Alto Vergante, ideal for mountain bikers and hikers. From here you see one beautiful vista opening up after another of one or the other lakes.

Numerous pretty villages dot its hills, among them Pisano, Nebbiuno and Massino Visconti. It is constructed on an incline between Monte Cornaggia and Monte San Salvatore at 794 m. The village centre is located on the east side of this mountain. Massino Visconti has much to offer the tourist, with its historic and artistic heritage, the riches of its landscape and its mild climate; it also offers plenty of accommodation, and restaurants serving dishes of the region.

San Salvatore is a place of pilgrimage with a numinous and mystical aura. Following one of the many paths descending the sides of the mountain you find yourself immediately in untainted, natural countryside. Shady chestnut forests alternate with beeches; heather, broom and fern grow along the way, also groups of silver birch. This beautiful vantage point was no doubt one of the reasons the Benedictines built an abbey here around 1000 AD. Augustinian canons arrived in 1400 and introduced devotions to the Madonna della Cintura. They lived here for more than two hundred years until they were superseded by hermits. There are two chapels in the square, San Quirico and Santa Maria Maddalena, both of which contain beautiful old frescoes.

ARONA

Town Information
Postcode 28041 - Province NO
Altitude 212 m
Population 14558

Market day Tuesday

Tourist Information

Ple Duca d'Aosta
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0322 243601
e-mail turismo.arona@comune.arona.no.it
www.comune.arona.no.it

Museo Archeologico di Arona
Archaeological Museum
Piazza San Graziano 34
Telephone (+39) 0322 48294
e-mail archeomuseo@comune.arona.no.it
www.archeomuseo.it

Gottard Park
Transport Museum
S.S. Sempione 172 – 28053 Castelletto Ticino NO
Telephone (+39) 0331 923080 / 349 1262272
e-mail info@museogottardpark.it
www.museogottardpark.it

Arona lies in the province of Novara and was originally built between the precipitous rock massifs of the Vergante mountain range foothills. The town has every right to be named the **Gate to Lago Maggiore**. Arona drops down gently from the surrounding slopes towards the water. Its lakeside promenade is lined with ancient trees, and its character is shaped by medieval and baroque architecture. Early urban development originated in antiquity. A Benedictine abbey dominated the town from above until it became part of the domain of the Torriani in the twelfth century – and of the Visconti from 1277. The fief of Arona went to the ruling family of the Borromeos in 1439, who held it until the eighteenth century. In 1744 Arona was endowed the status of a city by Carlo Emanuele III of Savoy. Primarily owing to its favourable geographical location the city of Arona soon became an important trade centre between the regional capital of Milan and the Swiss canton of Tessin (Ticino).

Sightseeing

Among the jewels of the town centre is the collegiate church of Santa Maria, a Renaissance building housing a polyptych by the renowned artist Gaudenzio Ferrari. Also well worth a visit are the churches of the Santi Martiri and Santa Maria di Loreto. And there's always something going on Corso Cavour, the pedestrian precinct and main shopping street in the historic centre. You can also find villas with beautiful gardens, such as the Villa Ponti, noted for its art exhibitions, and the Villa Cantoni – one of the most elegant and resplendent villas of Verbania; then there is the Villa Zuccoli with a terraced park, always a great attraction for a multitude of visitors. The medieval trading centre of the Piazza del Popolo is particularly impressive, it is situated directly on the lakeside promenade and opens up to the lake. Here, in the heart of the town, you also find the so-called Casa del Podestà, with an entrancing pointed-arch arcade and the Museo Archeologico, with fascinating archaeological finds. Arona is in addition one of the headquarters of the shipping company (Navigazione Lago Maggiore) and thus an ideal embarkation point for boat excursions across the entire Lago Maggiore.

In the vicinity

St Charles Borromeo was born in 1538 in the castle above Arona, the **Castello della Rocca**, where a monument is dedicated to him. Beyond the town the monumental statue of **St Charles Borromeo** rises up as its landmark; it is called **San Carbone** by the local people. At 20,68 m. it is one of the largest statues in the world and thus an outstanding religious monument in the region around Lago Maggiore. It was commissioned by Cardinal Federico Borromeo and executed between 1614 and 1698. And there's an extra trick to it: you can actually go into the statue, which has small windows on various sides providing a fantastic view onto the surrounding landscape and the lake. On the opposite, east shore of the lake in the province of Varese is the **Rocca d'Angera**, a fascinating medieval castle.

BELGIRATE

Town Information
Postcode 28832 - Province VB
Altitude 199 m
Population 531

Tourist Information
Via Mazzini 57
Telephone (+39) 0322 7244 / 370 3142901
e-mail turismo@comune.belgirate.vb.it
e-mail giovanni.susanna@libero.it
www.turismo-belgirate.it

South of Stresa is the elegant village of **Belgirate**. Belgirate is ten kilometres from Verbania and 80 km. from Milan. It is a favourite Lago Maggiore address for prominent people and VIPs. Whether the name of the town is Celtic or Lombard in origin is still a matter of controversy. The locality was inhabited as early as Roman times, as is proven by coins found in the region. But the area was a place of settlement even before this – demonstrated by finds from the Stone Age. Belgirate was the meeting place in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries of several intellectuals, among them the author Stendhal. Some scenes from his work "The Carthusians of Parma" are located here. But other famous personalities were attracted by the locality, including Gozzano, Rosmini and de Amicis – and first and foremost the great Italian writer Alessandro Manzoni; they returned time and again to sojourn in the area.

Sightseeing

The fascination of grand, stylish villas with spacious gardens such as the **Villa Carlotta** or the equally famous **Villa Cairoli** is a great attraction for visitors. Many old houses with their typical loggias and beautiful churches, **S. Maria del Suffragio** among others, some of them from the fifteenth century, lend the town its special aura.

LESA

Town Information
Postcode 28040 - Province NO
Altitude 199 m
Population 2373

Market day Thursday
Tourist Information
Via Vittorio Veneto 2
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0322 772078
e-mail info@prolocolesa.com
www.prolocolesa.com

Museo Faraggiana
Museum of Contemporary Art
c/o Chalet Villa Faraggiana
S. S. Sempione 1 - 28046 Meina
Telephone (+39) 0321 231655
e-mail info@museomeina.it
www.museomeina.it

Located between Meina and Belgirate is the charming resort of **Lesa**, noted among other things for its typical arcades lining the shores. It is situated in one of the sheltered coves of Lago Maggiore and can be described as a typical, elegant holiday resort with luxuriant gardens and beautiful summer palaces.

Sightseeing

One of the most famous inhabitants of Lesa was the Italian author Alessandro Manzoni. The writer achieved world fame in the nineteenth century with his novel "I promessi sposi" (The Betrothed). He lived here in the so-called **Villa Stampa**. Since 1839 for over twenty years, he spent the summer months in this beautiful, mid-eighteenth-century villa, which had formerly belonged to his second wife Teresa Borri, widow of Count Decio Stampa. The **Museo Manzoniano** was founded in his memory and contains a great number of individual documents illustrating the writer's life and work. Then there is the **Castello Florio** – a small castle built in the early nineteenth century by the engineer Viotti in imitation of the medieval castles of Lesa. Visitors can also go to the **Villa Savio-Sozzani-Tavella**, a fortress-like building by the architect Pietro Bottini, now accommodating an exclusive restaurant.

In the vicinity

In the ancient district of Solcio there are several villas visible between the lake and a hill opposite a small cove, one of them the **Villa Cavallini**. Also worth mention are the neo-classical **Villa Stampa** and the **Villa Correnti**, commissioned to be built in neo-classical style in the late nineteenth century by the statesman Cesare Correnti.

When you leave the small town on the road to Massino Visconti, you pass the **Pieve di San Giorgio**, a parish church with a tower from Roman times. Somewhat further along the same route you come to the little church of **San Sebastiano**, likewise a Romanesque building from the eleventh century.



Arona San Carlo

San Carbone
Statue of St. Carlo Borromeo
Piazzale San Carlo
e-mail statuasancarlo@ambrosiana.it
www.statuasancarlo.it



Belgirate

General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Solcio

THE EAST SHORE OF LAGO MAGGIORE AND VARESE



The Lombardian east shore of Lago Maggiore stretches from Sesto Calende on the southernmost point of the lake to Zenna on the Swiss border, a distance of around 40 miles. Compared to the Piedmontese west shore opposite, it makes a wilder and more elemental impression.

The Lombardian shore is surrounded by gentle hills all the way up to Laveno. The thick reed belt is also a characteristic feature of this section — which is extremely interesting as well for its wealth of prehistoric and Roman archaeological finds. Moreover, the many medieval buildings here provide an in-depth view of their epoch. Further north the lake shore becomes much steeper. Like the hinterland it bears almost alpine features. Between the wooded mountains, often over 3281 feet high, are Valcuvia, Valtravaglia and Val Veddasca, extending all the way to Lago Maggiore. In this section the fascination exerted by the landscape is simply spell-binding.

About 15 miles east of Laveno is Varese, the capital of the province with the same name. The massif of Campo dei Fiori (4022 feet) looms up to the north of the city; here the foothills of the Alps come to an end and, looking westwards, Lago di Varese stretches out towards them.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Navigazione Lago Maggiore
Lago Maggiore Shipping Company
Telephone (+39) 0322 233200
Fax (+39) 0322 249530
e-mail infomaggiore@navigazionelaghi.it
www.navlaghi.it

Swiss State Railways
Telephone (+39) 0332 530135
www.sbb.ch

Ferrovie dello Stato
Italian State Railways
www.trenitalia.it

Trenord
Regional Railways
www.trenord.it
Overall public transport network of the region
www.muoversi.regione.lombardia.it



Angera

ANGERA, RANCO, SESTO CALENDE

Town Information Angera
Postcode 21021 - Province VA
Altitude 204 m
Population 5667

Market day Thursday

Tourist Information – IAT Angera
Via Marconi 2
Telephone (+39) 0331 931915
e-mail iatangera@provincia.va.it

Tourist Information – IAT Sesto Calende
Viale Italia 6
21018 Sesto Calende - VA
Telephone (+39) 0331 919874
e-mail iat@prosestocalende.it
www.prosestocalende.it

Museum / Angera
Rocca Borromeo / Museo della Bambola
Fort Borromeo / Doll Museum
Fortificazione - Via alla Rocca
Telephone (+39) 0331 931300
Fax (+39) 0331 932883
e-mail roccaborromeo@isoleborromeo.it
www.borrometurismo.it (online booking)

Opening times 18 March to 23 October
daily 9 am to 5.30 pm

Admission			
Adults	€ 9,50	Reduced	€ 6,-
Groups	€ 8,-	Reduced	€ 5,50
Isola Bella/ Isola Madre/ Rocca di Angera-Combi ticket			
Adults	€ 24,-	Reduced	€ 13,50
Groups	€ 19,-	Reduced	€ 11,50

The pretty little town of Angera lies on the Lombardian shore opposite Arona in Piedmont. Lago Maggiore is barely a mile wide at this extremely narrow point. Already inhabited in prehistoric times, the town developed under the Romans into an important pivot of activity. During the Middle Ages, Angera was the ruling seat of a powerful duchy. It gets its identifying landmark from this period, the main sightseeing attraction of the little harbour town: the castle of **Rocca d'Angera**, throning on a rock.

Sightseeing

The **Rocca** was built on the remains of a previous castle and inhabited in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries by the Visconti; it was extended and then acquired by the Borromeo family, who still own it today. Fascinating art treasures can be seen inside the castle, among them the frescoes of the **Sala di Giustizia** in the Visconti Wing. They date from the early fourteenth century and among the subjects they depict is the victory of the Visconti over the Torriani. Also remarkable are the frescoes in the **Borromeo Wing**, which were part of the Borromeo Palazzo in Milan until 1943 but were brought to Angera after the palace was destroyed. And there's more, for the **Dolls Museum** is well worth a visit. It has more than 200 exhibits and is one of the foremost museums of its kind in the whole of Europe. The **Castellana Tower** offers a view of a very special kind: the panorama from up here encompasses the castle complex and the crowning crenellations of the circumvallation, and extends all the way to the **Sacro Monte** near Varese. In contrast to medieval Rocca, the **Archaeological Museum** in the imposing **Palazzo Pretorio** illuminates the most ancient, prehistoric and above all Roman past of Angera. Close by the harbour is the pilgrimage church of **Madonna della Riva**; among its treasures inside is a very beautiful altar fresco of the Virgin Mary and Child (**Madonna col Bambino**) dated 1443. Other pleasures awaiting the visitor include a walk along Angera's lakeside promenade, lined by a double row of great chestnut trees and looking out towards the little island of **Partegora**.

In the vicinity

Not far from the southernmost point of Lago Maggiore where the Ticino leaves the lake is the little town of **Sesto Calende** on the left bank of the river. A double-level iron bridge leads across into the Piedmontese province of Novara. A must-see in Sesto Calende is the **Museo Civico Archeologico Naturalistico**. It houses impressive archaeological finds of the **Golasecca Culture**, an Iron Age culture (9th – 5th centuries BC), which was so called after the spot where the finds were excavated, the nearby Golasecca. Outside the town the Romanesque **Church of San Donato** is especially worth a visit. North of Angera we come to the little township of **Ranco**, noted for its traditional architecture. The **Transport Museum** here has an interesting collection of diverse transport vehicles.



Rocca d'Angera

General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Rocca d'Angera Gardens



Laveno Mombello

LAVENO

Town Information
Postcode 21014 - Province VA
Altitude 204 m
Population 8884
Market day Tuesday
Tourist Information
Piazza Vittorio Veneto 10
Telephone (+39) 0332 626111

Funivie del Lago Maggiore / Laveno
Cable car Laveno
Telephone (+39) 0332 668012
e-mail biglietteria@funiviedellagomaggiore.it
www.funiviedellagomaggiore.it

Museo Internazionale Design Ceramic
International Ceramics Museum
Lungolago Perabò 5 - Fraz. Cerro
Telephone (+39) 0332 625551
e-mail segreteria@midec.org
www.midec.org

Of all the towns on the east shore, Laveno, situated at the margin of a deep cove, is the only one to possess a natural harbour. Because of the ferry connection to Verbania and the railway line via Varese all the way to Milan, in the 1880s the town grew into an important hub of trade and trans-shipment. This fostered the establishment of various kinds of industry, ceramics one of the most notable.

Sightseeing

Nor should you miss a stroll along the entrancing **Lakeside promenade** in Laveno; it attracts innumerable visitors on public holidays and market days. Likewise stretching along the shore is the town centre, developed in the nineteenth century; its buildings form a colourful, multifaceted backdrop setting the scene. Some way further upwards on a hill we find the older centre of the little town, built in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Next to the church of **Santi Giacomo e Filippo** is the **Villa De Angeli Frua**, accommodating the town hall. The villa gardens are now used as a **Parco pubblico**, a public park. Another extremely popular destination – and not only for hang gliders and paragliders – is the summit of **Sasso del Ferro**, 3484 feet high. An **aerial cableway** takes you up to the nearby mountain peak, which has a fantastic view onto the lake and the Monte Rosa massif beyond it.

In the vicinity

Reminders of the former ceramics industry can be found in the **Museo della Ceramica** in a little township by the name of **Cerro**, which, like **Mombello**, now belongs to Laveno. The museum is not only full of interest, but is housed in the very splendid, Late-Renaissance **Palazzo Perabò**. Also worth a visit is the artists' community village of **Arcumeggia** on the slopes of **Monte Nudo**. In the mid-twentieth century, several famous artists adorned the outside walls of the houses of this old village with impressive frescoes. If you travel in a northerly direction from Laveno you soon reach the picturesque locality of **Caldè**. Like several other places straggling between Lago Maggiore and the surrounding hills, the little village with its fishers' houses lining the shore is part of the communal district of **Castelvecchia**. Even further northwards, towards Luino, you arrive at the lively town of **Porto Valtravaglia**. Its small lakeside promenade is lined with plane trees; in addition, the historic centre contains excellently preserved buildings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Also worth a visit are the parish church **Parrocchiale dell'Assunta** and the nearby **Oratorio di San Rocco**.

LUINO, MACCAGNO

Town Information Luino
Postcode 21016 - Province VA
Altitude 200 m
Population 15390

Market day Wednesday

Tourist Information – IAT Luino
Viale della Vittoria
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0332 530019
e-mail iatluino@provincia.va.it

Tourist Information – IAT Maccagno
Via Garibaldi 1
21010 Maccagno - VA
Telephone (+39) 0332 562009
e-mail iatmaccagno@provincia.va.it

Funivie Ponte di Piero/Monteviasco
Cable car Ponte di Piero/Monteviasco
Telephone (+39) 0332 990021
e-mail info@valcuviarservizi.com

Museum / Luino
Museo Civico Archeologico Paleontologico
Archeological and Paleontological Museum
Viale Dante 6 (Palazzo Verbania)
Telephone (+39) 0332 532057

Museum / Maccagno
Museum Parisi Valle
Museum of Contemporary Art
Via Leopoldo Gianpaolo 1
Telephone (+39) 0332 561202
e-mail info@museoparisivalle.it
www.museoparisivalle.it

The town of Luino lies on a wide-stretching bay at the mouth of the Tresa. It has been the economic centre of eastern Lago Maggiore at the latest since industrialisation and the railway network connection in the second half of the nineteenth century. Luino is renowned and extremely popular far beyond its limits thanks to its **market**, which was sanctioned by Emperor Charles V at the early date of 1541. Since then, myriads of stalls around the **Piazza Garibaldi** have sold a wide assortment of wares, ranging from food and household articles to clothing and leather ware. The township is especially proud not only of the two writers born here, Piero Chiara and Vittorio Sereni, but also of Dario Fo, a freeman of their town, and holder of the Nobel prize for literature.



Luino The port

Sightseeing

Sightseeing attractions include the two churches **Madonna del Carmine** and **San Giuseppe** on Luino's beautiful plane-tree lined lakeside promenade, and above all the church of **San Pietro**. It is situated at the end of the Viale delle Rimembranze next to the cemetery. Inside there is a fresco portraying the Adoration of the Three Kings (**Adorazione dei Magi**); it is attributed to the Renaissance painter Bernardino Luini. The oldest part of the church is its Romanesque bell tower from the eleventh century. Also worth a visit is the older centre of Luino, situated somewhat higher up, with narrow alleys with the houses jostling for space – many of them restored and refurbished. The parish church of **San Pietro e Paolo** is also located in this part. Not far away on the **Piazza Libertà** you come across several elegant palazzi from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; among them the **Palazzo Crivelli Serbelloni**, now accommodating the town hall. Other interesting sights can be found in the town library and the **Museo Civico** housed in the **Palazzo Verbania** near the shore, including a small painting collection and archaeological finds from the vicinity.

In the vicinity

Luino itself is situated at the mouth of the far-reaching, densely populated **Travaglia Valley**, whereas **Maccagno** lies further north at the exit of the narrow, wooded **Veddasca Valley**. The little town is divided into two by the river Giona, Maccagno-Inferiore and -Superiore. Adjoining the small tourist harbour is the open space of the **Piazza Roma**, dominated by a medieval tower, the so-called **Torre imperiale**. Visiting the church of **Madonna della Punta** (sixteenth century) also rewards you with a breathtaking view onto Lago Maggiore and the **Castelli di Cannero**, which are located on two tiny islands in front of the Piedmontese town of Cannero Riviera. And more: Maccagno has a most charming **lakeside promenade**. A futuristic bridge leading across the Giona is the supporting structure for the **Museo Civico**. Various twentieth century works of art have been shown here since 1979, among them by De Chirico, Fiume, Levi, Parisi and Picasso. East of Maccagno in the Veddasca Valley is the little village of **Monteviasco**, at an altitude of 3031 ft. You reach it either by a cableway from Mulini di Piero or on foot via steps. Many of the old village buildings have been restored in their original styles and are now holiday homes.

SANTA CATERINA DEL SASSO

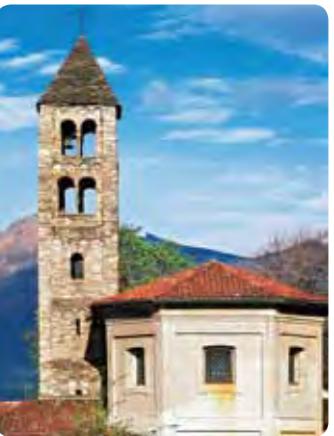
Altitude 199 m
Monastery Santa Caterina del Sasso
Via S. Caterina 13
21038 Leggiuno - VA
Telephone (+39) 0332 647172 / 252412
e-mail turismo@provincia.va.it
www.santacaterinadelsasso.com

Opening times
March: every day 9 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm
April to October:
every day 8.30 am to 12 pm and 2.30 pm to 6 pm
November to February: Saturday, Sunday and Holidays
9 am to 12 pm and 2 pm to 5 pm
Viewing for groups on request
Tourist Information – IAT Leggiuno
Telephone (+39) 0332 647207

The monastery of Santa Caterina del Sasso is indubitably one of the most beautiful and popular sightseeing attractions on the Lombardian side of the lake. It lies between Arolo and Reno on a rocky promontory above Lago Maggiore and is accessible by ship and by car. The monastery itself can be viewed best from the water, but when you climb down the many steps from the car park above the monastery, you are rewarded with a breathtaking view onto the lake. According to legend, in the twelfth century a hermitage was situated on the spot where the monastery is now, inhabited by an erstwhile rich merchant, Alberto Besozzi, who had made a vow to become a hermit. On the other hand, there is historic verification that Dominicans settled here in the early thirteenth century and built a small priory and oratory. In time, other religious orders followed; reconstructions, extensions and artistic enhancements were carried out. Ownership of the monastery passed to the surrounding parish churches in the nineteenth century and since 1920, the complex of buildings only rarely opened its gates. After years of neglect, ownership of the monastery was granted to the Province of Varese. The province had it restored and has thus bequeathed a genuine treasure to the east shore of Lake Maggiore.

Special features of architecture and art history

The tour of the site, which consists of three building complexes, begins with the **Convento meridionale**. Of the former monastery rooms, the chapter house with its outstandingly beautiful fourteenth- and fifteenth-century frescoes is especially rewarding to visit. After crossing a small courtyard, you next enter the **Conventino**, the small monastery, its Gothic colonnade housing a danse macabre fresco dating from the seventeenth century. Finally we come to the actual church adjoining the monastery, the **Chiesa di Santa Caterina**, with its Romanesque church tower and an eighteenth-century Neapolitan organ. The church is dated 1587 and consists of several chapels, with an early date between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Notable among them are the chapels of **Santa Caterina** and **Santa Maria Nova**, and above all the chapel of **San Nicola** with a fresco portraying **Christus Pantocrator**. Meanwhile, the chapel of **St. Alberto** holds the mortal remains of the hermit. The oldest part of the church is probably the **Memorial Chapel** located behind it.



Luino Church of San Pietro e Paolo



Luino Panorama



General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago MaggioreEast Shore
and VareseThe Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys



Lake Orta

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels



Local Services

VARESE

Town Information
Postcode 21100 - Province VA
Altitude 384 m
Population 83798

Market day Monday, Thursday and Saturday

Tourist Information - IAT Varese
Via Romagnosi 9
Telephone (+39) 0332 281913
e-mail iatvaresecitta@provincia.va.it
www.varesecittagiardino.it

Funicolare Sacro Monte di Varese
Cable-railway
Telephone (+39) 0332 225549 / 821210
e-mail info@avtvarese.it
www.avtvarese.it

Sacro Monte di Varese
www.sacramonti.net

Museums
Musums of the Province of Varese
www.simarch.org
www.varesocultura.it

Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza

Modern Art Museum
Piazza Litta 1
Telephone (+39) 0332 283960
e-mail faiibumo@fondoambiente.it
www.visitfai.it/villapanza

Opening times
Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 6 pm

Museo Civico Archeologico di Villa Mirabello
Archaeological Museum
Piazza della Motta 4
Telephone (+39) 0332 255485
e-mail museoarcheologico.mirabello@comune.varese.it

Opening times
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm
closed on Mondays
Admission € 4,-

Castello di Masnago
Pinacoteca e Museo d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea

Modern Art Museum
Via Cola di Rienzo 42 – Loc. Masnago
Telephone (+39) 0332 820409
e-mail musei.masnago@comune.varese.it

Opening times
Tuesday to Sunday
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 2 pm to 6.30 pm

Museo Baroffio e del Santuario del Sacro Monte di Varese
Art Museum

Piazzetta Monastero
Telephone (+39) 0332 212042
e-mail info@museobaroffio.it
www.museobaroffio.it

Opening times
May to September
9.30 am to 12.30 pm and 3 pm to 6.30 pm
closed on Mondays
Admission € 4,-

Varese Battistero

Varese Palazzo Estense and Garden

Varese Corso Matteotti

Sacro Monte di Varese

Varese in the north-west of Lombardy at the foot of the massif of Campo dei Fiori has been the capital of the province with the same name since 1927. The town's past goes back to prehistoric times; it has been an important market town since the eleventh century, in later centuries encouraging the growth of various other industries and trades. Varese is famous most of all for its many gardens and parks, which is why the town was also called 'città-giardino' – garden city – in the nineteenth century. Varese has "shared" the University of Insubria with Como since 1998.

Sightseeing

Varese's historic centre is for the most part situated within its former limits fortified in the Middle Ages. The Basilica of **San Vittore** is on the central piazza and dominates the square with its neo-classical façade and imposing baroque tower. The interior is memorable for the high altar and the apse, and above all for the paintings by Lombardian masters. The **baptistery**, directly next to the basilica, was built between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries on a previous building (8th /9th century); it contains very beautiful Gothic frescoes. Other churches well worth a visit in the centre are **San Antonio alla Motta**, **San Giuseppe** and the **Santuario della Madonnina** in Prato. Moreover, the visitor should not miss the **Palazzo Estense**. Francesco III d'Este, the former governor of Lombardy – then ruled by Austria – commissioned Giuseppe Bianchi to build it between 1766 and 1771. A feature of great note is the park behind the palazzo, in Italian style and known as the **Giardini Estensi**. From the park you arrive at the adjoining gardens of the **Villa Mirabello**. The villa itself stands on a hill, a vantage point for a wonderful view. Today it is the home of the **Musei Civici**, which contain a prehistoric department, a historical section, a natural history collection and a painting gallery. The **Corso Matteotti** is Varese's popular promenade, a busy pedestrian precinct with well-preserved palazzi and arcades, all in all a place where no one can resist the desire to stroll and linger. From here you soon reach the former Benedictine convent of **S. Antonio**, a rewarding destination above all for its cloisters and the former refectory, today the **Sala Veratti**. Orbiting around the old centre of Varese is a group of seven **Castellane**, once autonomous localities, in the meantime now mostly part of the municipality. The **Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza** in the **Castellanza Biumo Superiore** is not only an architectural jewel, but also contains an impressive collection of contemporary art. Not far from the Villa Panza is the **Villa Ponti**, today a congress centre with gardens. There are other splendid villas and much green to be found in the remaining six castellanze.

In the vicinity

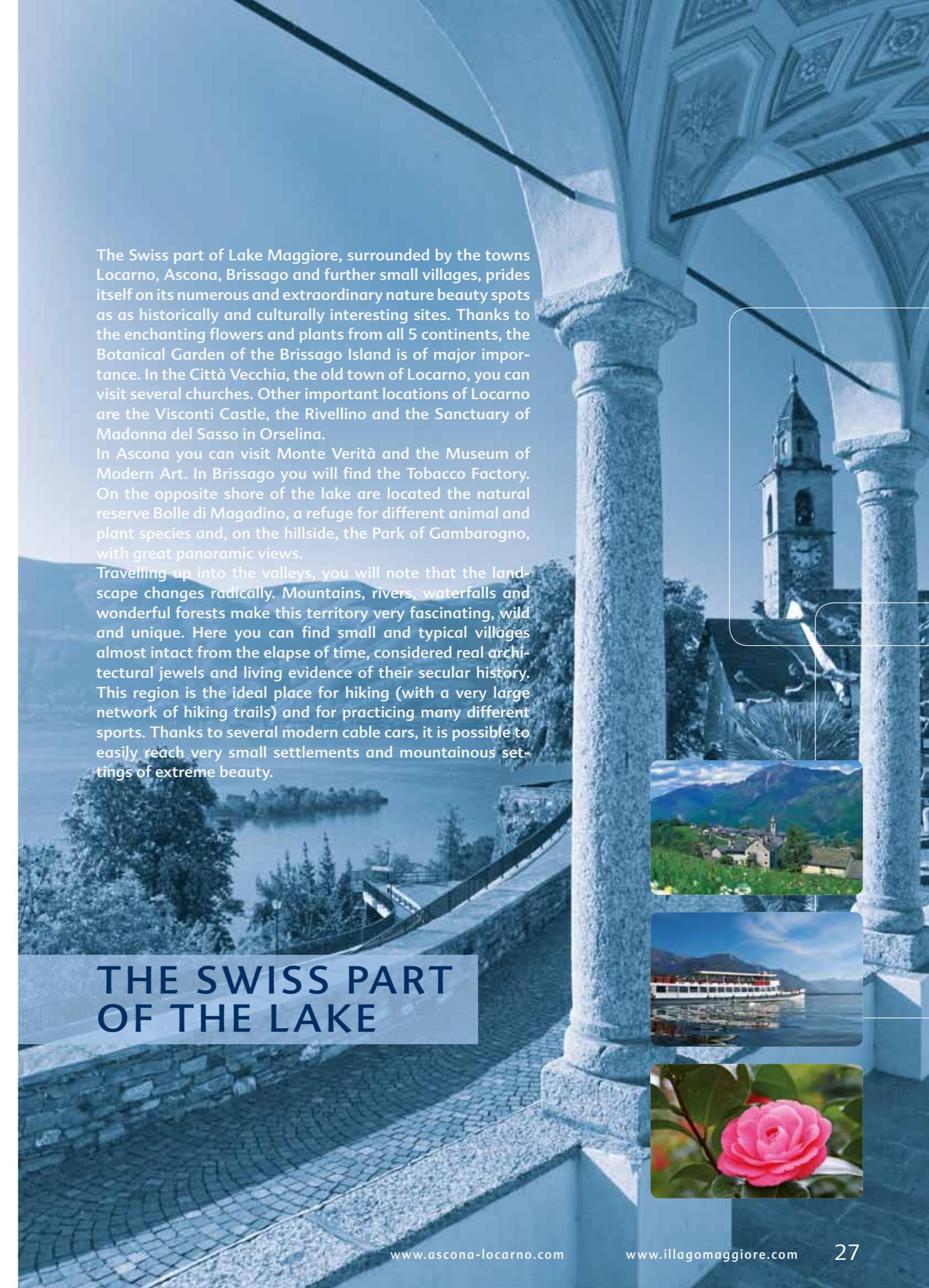
Above the town near the wooded slopes of the **Campo dei Fiori** is the **Sacro Monte**, one of the largest and most impressive Ways of the Cross in Italy and declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2003. The procession route was laid out between 1605 and 1680. It is over a mile long and leads from the **Prima Cappella** (1919 ft) to the church of **Santa Maria del Monte** (2887 ft). All together 14 votive chapels line the way of contemplation; they are dedicated to the Mysteries of the Rosary. Santa Maria del Monte, the centre of the place of pilgrimage, shows stylistic elements ranging from the Romanesque to the baroque era. The climb up to it is a rewarding experience, not least owing to the harmonious interplay of landscape and architecture.

The Swiss part of Lake Maggiore, surrounded by the towns Locarno, Ascona, Brissago and further small villages, prides itself on its numerous and extraordinary nature beauty spots as as historically and culturally interesting sites. Thanks to the enchanting flowers and plants from all 5 continents, the Botanical Garden of the Brissago Island is of major importance. In the Città Vecchia, the old town of Locarno, you can visit several churches. Other important locations of Locarno are the Visconti Castle, the Rivellino and the Sanctuary of Madonna del Sasso in Orselina.

In Ascona you can visit Monte Verità and the Museum of Modern Art. In Brissago you will find the Tobacco Factory. On the opposite shore of the lake are located the natural reserve Bolle di Magadino, a refuge for different animal and plant species and, on the hillside, the Park of Gambarogno, with great panoramic views.

Travelling up into the valleys, you will note that the landscape changes radically. Mountains, rivers, waterfalls and wonderful forests make this territory very fascinating, wild and unique. Here you can find small and typical villages almost intact from the elapse of time, considered real architectural jewels and living evidence of their secular history. This region is the ideal place for hiking (with a very large network of hiking trails) and for practicing many different sports. Thanks to several modern cable cars, it is possible to easily reach very small settlements and mountainous settings of extreme beauty.

THE SWISS PART OF THE LAKE





Madonna del Sasso



Film festival Piazza Grande



Ascona Lakeside Promenade



Isola di Brissago



Vira Gambarogno

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ascona-Locarno Central Tourism Authority
PO Box
CH-6600 Locarno

Telephone +41 (0)848 091 091
Fax +41 (0)91 759 76 94
www.ascona-locarno.com
e-mail info@ascona-locarno.com

LOCARNO

Town Information
Altitude 195.50 m
Population 15575

Tourist Information
Largo Zorzi 1

Madonna del Sasso
www.ascona-locarno.com/madonna-del-sasso

Camelia Park
www.ascona-locarno.com

Castello Visconteo
Archeological and City Museum of Locarno
www.locarno.ch

Recognised worldwide for its Film Festival Locarno has also a strong relationship with flowers, the beautiful Camellias in particular attract many visitors. The Piazza Grande, with typical arcades, is one of the most famous squares in Switzerland. This is the meeting place as well as the heart of the town and the main commercial and cultural activities take place here; the weekly market on Thursdays, the Moon & Stars concerts and the open air film projections during the Film Festival. Going back to the Roman times, this square has been a strategically and commercially important place. There are various witnesses of the past, as for example the sanctuary of Madonna del Sasso, the Visconteo Castle with the "Rivellino", a bulwark, attested as a Leonardo da Vinci work and the picturesque old town.

ASCONA

Town Information
Altitude 191 m
Population 4780

Tourist Information
Viale Papio 5

Monte Verità
www.monteverita.org

Museo comunale d'Arte Moderna
Municipal Museum of Modern Art
www.museoascona.ch

Nestled in a suggestive sunny bay, the village of Ascona is considered one of the most exclusive and elegant resorts of Switzerland. Five-star hotels, classy restaurants and its 18-hole golf course, embedded in magnificent surroundings, stand for exclusive holidays. You will be fascinated by the old part of town with an intertwined network of alleys, squares and cobblestone streets which lead to the Piazza, the promenade along Lake Maggiore which hosts a series of events, markets and festivals, the most world-famous being the New Orleans Jazz Festival.

BRISSAGO

Town Information
Altitude 197 m
Population 1974

Tourist Information
Via Leoncavallo 25

Parco botanico delle Isole di Brissago
Botanic Garden of the Brissago Islands
www.isolebrissago.ch

Centro Dannemann – Fabbrica Tabacchi
Dannemann Centre – The Tobacco Factory
www.centrodannemann.com

Brissago is a small village close to the Italian border perched between the shores of Lake Maggiore and the steep mountains rising behind the village centre. There are several characteristic hamlets, scattered along the mountainsides, from where you enjoy a breathtaking 180° view. The name Brissago is also often connected with two structures of major importance: first, the islands, of which one hosts the cantonal botanical gardens, a true nature treasure created in 1885 by the Baroness Antonietta di Saint-Léger and secondly the Tobacco Factory, renowned for the production of high quality cigars.

GAMBAROGNO

Tourist Information
Via Cantonale 29 - Vira Gambarogno
www.ascona-locarno.com

The Gambarogno lakeside, on the left hand of the Lago Maggiore, offers a rich and varied natural scenery: just look at the glistening lake, the soft hills and enjoy the sight of the most fascinating mountains. Near Vairano, at the botanic Garden of Gambarogno, located between the lake and the mountains, there is a world of traditions and mysterious scents, and the panoramic view is overwhelming. Two hundred kilometres of hiking trails wind along the mountains and valley of the Gambarogno, cutting through chestnut woods, crossing meadows that are like giant flower beds, and here and there you will find an Alpine farm house. To be visited: the natural reserve "Bolle di Magadino" and the botanic garden of the Gambarogno in Vairano (www.parcobotanico.ch).

ONSERNONE

Tourist Information
www.ascona-locarno.com

The Valle Onsernone is one of the most impressive and mysterious valleys in Ticino. Characteristic are the thick forests, spectacular gorges and white water; this rather isolated place can be reached by a winding road. Along this road, which leads up to the village Spruga, there are some fantastic villages, built on sunny terraces with an interesting traditional architectural style. Numerous internationally renowned writers and artists of the past and present found and still find the Valle Onsernone the ideal place for inspiration, thanks to the extraordinary and up to this day intact natural and human surroundings. To be visited: the Onsernone Museum and the mill of in Loco, where the traditional flower of the valley, "Farina Bóna" is grinded.

CENTOVALLI

Tourist Information
www.ascona-locarno.com

The Centovalli is named a hundred valleys because of the countless side valleys leaving the main valley to the left and right. It is an important transit route between Switzerland and Italy. Its natural scenery, of outstanding beauty, offers nature- and hiking friends a wide range of recreational activities. The many villages, which you pass by, while travelling through the Centovalli, allow you to discover many characteristic corners, where traditions of the past are still lived. Verdasio, Rasa and Palagnedra are only a few of the small villages, enchanting in their simple and authentically beautiful way. To be visited: the regional Museum and the bell tower in Intragna as well as the Dimitri Theatre in Verscio (www.teatrodimitri.ch).

VALLEMAGGIA

Tourist Information
c/o Shopping Centre - Maggia
www.ascona-locarno.com

The Valle Maggia is not just the longest and mostly spread out valley of the Italian part of Switzerland: it's a fantastic alpine valley which has been modeled throughout the years by the clear waters of the river Maggia. The same generous river that during the summer time is specially appreciated for its refreshing powers. The side valleys Val Bavona, Val Lavizzara and Val Rovana increase the territory value with their spectacular mountains – an appealing attraction for excursionists and discovery. A magical atmosphere, surrounded by wild nature, water, stone, history and culture is the special ingredient added to the simple but just fantastic food offer at one of the many "grotti". A destination which should be discovered and rediscovered the whole year round.

To be visited: the Vallemaggia Museum in Cevio, the church in Mogno and the village of Bosco Gurin.

VALLE VERZASCA

Tourist Information
Via al Giardino 3 – Tenero
www.ascona-locarno.com

"The heart of the river carries the magic of the Verzasca; never has an artist painted this fascinating "green"..." The Verzasca Valley is without a doubt one of the Ticino valleys, which strongly reflects the past of the alpine region to the south of the Gotthard. An idyllic place surrounded by green landscapes but still only a few minutes drive to the town centre. At the foot of the valley on the shores of the lake, there is the village Tenero with its renowned camping resorts of international standard, the National Junior Sports Academy and the surrounding landscape rich with vineyards. To be visited: the beautiful village of Corippo, the Romanic small bridge of Lavertezzo and the "Casa della lana" in Sonogno.

FURTHER LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Cardada
www.cardada.ch

Flowers and Gardens
www.ascona-locarno.com/gardens

Lago Maggiore Shipping Company
www.navigazionelaghi.it

Lago Maggiore Express
www.lagomaggioreexpress.com

Lido Locarno
www.lidolocarno.ch

Termali Salini & SPA
www.lidospa-locarno.ch

MTB Trail
www.ascona-locarno.com/bike

Adventure Park Gordola
www.parcoavventura.ch



Valle Onsernone



Centovalli



Valle Bavona



General

Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Valle Verzasca



Mountainbike Valle Verzasca

THE OSSOLA VALLEYS

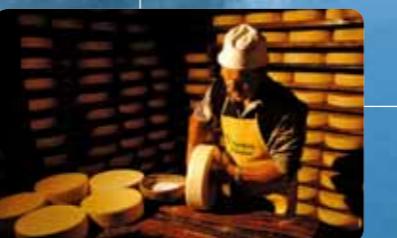
The Ossola Valleys and their towns and villages in the north of the Lago Maggiore region are again a cosmos in themselves: here you can enjoy both the beauty of the valleys — around Domodossola, for instance — as well as the fascination of high mountains.

The entire region is characterised by very diverse landscapes. It evolved between the Lepontine Alps, the lakes in the south and in the north towards Switzerland. As a whole, the Ossola Valleys are more tranquil in impression, more natural, yet sometimes they manifest an aura that is nothing less than dramatic.

From the northernmost township in Piedmont, Valle Formazza, you travel through one valley after another — Valle Antigorio, Valle Divedro, Valle Bognanco, Valle Antrona and the famous Vigezzo Valley, and into the Valle Anzasca to the peak of Monte Rosa: In Macugnaga you find yourself at the foot of the awesome, snowcovered massif of Monte Rosa, at 4637 metres the second highest mountain in Europe.

The Ossola Valleys are particularly fascinating for individual tourists: they are ideal for hiking — alone around 1553 miles of walking paths await the visitor. Furthermore, you can go on unforgettable trips on the Vigezzina railway through the Centovalli region in Switzerland, which takes you through a wild, rugged landscape seemingly untouched by human hand. The Val Grande National Park is after all the greatest wild life reserve in the whole of Italy — an attraction in itself. The Parco Naturale Alpe Veglia e Devero — a protected nature reserve at the Swiss border in the canton of Vallais (Wallis) is also well worth a visit.

Alone 70 different types of cheeses can be tasted here, among them of course the king of cheeses, the Bettelmatt. This region produces various kinds of salami, too, not to forget the famous gnocchi made of chestnut flour.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Ferrovie dello Stato
Italian State Railways
www.trenitalia.it

SSIF Vigezzina Railway
Via Mizzoccola 9
28845 Domodossola - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 242055
e-mail vigeinfo@tin.it
www.vigezzina.com

Overall public transport network of the region
www.vcoinbus.it
www.comazzibus.com

Nature Parks Parco Alpe Veglia, Devero and Alta Valle Antrona
V.le Pieri 27, 28868 Varzo - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 72572
e-mail info@areeprotetteossola.it
www.areeprotetteossola.it

Val Grande National Park
Piazza Pretorio 6 - 28805 Vogogna - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 87540
e-mail info@parcvalgrande.it
www.parcvalgrande.it

Associazione Musei d'Ossola
Ossola Valleys Museum Network
Via Canuto 12, 28845 Domodossola — VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 481756 / 335 5223122
e-mail amossola@libero.it
www.amossola.it

VALLE ANTRONA

Town Information Antrona Schieranco
Postcode 28841 - Province VB
Altitude 908 m
Population 529

Tourist Information
www.valleantrona.com

This is the wildest valley of the Ossola Valleys. Though not the most famous, it is undoubtedly the most secluded, a special circumstance to which the Valle Antrona owes its natural, unaltered character until this very day. The **Antrona Valley** is the least known part of the entire Ossola region, thus its extraordinary tranquillity and originality amidst pastures and woodland, small villages and old-world alpine huts. Absolute stillness reigns in the valley; time itself seems to have stood still. Numerous alpine lakes form the main feature of this landscape, evolved through glacier erosion.

The “main road” through the Val Antrona starts in **Villadossola**. It leads past small townships like **Viganella** and, even smaller, the villages belonging to the municipality of **Antrona Schieranco**, until it divides in **Antronapiana**. While the northern fork leads to a man-made lake, the **Lago Alpe dei Cavalli**, the southern route takes the traveller to **Lago di Antrona**. The latter came into being in 1642 when a huge fall of rocks from Monte Pozzuoli tumbled onto what was once the village of Grognsasca. The mass of rocks interrupted the course of the Troncone river, damming the water and eventually forming the present Lake Antrona. There many other lakes to be discovered in this valley apart from this, all in idyllic settings, including the **Lago di Campliccioli** and the **Camposecco Reservoir** at a height of 2325 m.

You can not only feel the past in this alpine region, but actually experience it as reality. The pastures and clusters of villages are centuries old and testify to an archaic world — a living history book, so to speak. A really unique feature is the typical architecture of the villages scattered throughout the valley, where customs and traditions are preserved which have otherwise long fallen into oblivion in other alpine regions. Anyone who travels along the roads from **Montescheno**, **Viganella**, **Seppiana** and **Antronapiana** will encounter ovens where people still bake their own bread, and houses built in a style typical of the alpine region. Another common feature of the townships in the valley are the old **wine presses** — one of them for example goes back to the year 1745 and after restoration is still in use. It is set up in **Antronapiana**.

VALLE ANZASCA

Town Information Macugnaga
Postcode 28876 - Province VB
Altitude 1327 m
Population 647

Tourist Information
Piazza Municipio 6
Telephone (+39) 0324 65119
Fax (+39) 0324 65775
e-mail iat@comune.macugnaga.vb.it
www.macugnaga-monterosa.it

Macugnaga Cable Car
Piazzale Funivia 9
Telephone (+39) 0324 65050 / 65060
Fax (+39) 0324 203945
e-mail funivie@macugnaga-monterosa.it
www.macugnaga-monterosa.it

Museums
Museo della Montagna di Staffa
Museum of Mountain Culture
Via Prati - Staffa
Telephone (+39) 0324 65112
e-mail prolocomacugnaga@tiscali.it
www.amossola.it

Casa Museo della Civiltà Walser
Ethnographic Museum of Walser Culture
Via Centro Abitato 273
Fraz. Borca
Telephone (+39) 347 9842329
e-mail info@museowalser.it
www.museowalser.it
www.amossola.it

The Valle Anzasca is famed as one of the most frequented and also most beautiful valleys in the entire Ossola region — inhabited as well by chamois and ibex. The valley is named after the river **Anza**. It is very dark and narrow in its lower region, and opens up more and more as it rises up to the summit of Monte Rosa. Eleven pyramid-shaped peaks covered in snow with Himalaya-like cliffs and rocks the form the famous Monte Rosa, a mountain range 4634 m. high. Its name is derived from the word “roise”, which means glacier.



General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Macugnaga church and graveyard



Macugnaga



Val Bognanco Lago di Piona



Val Bognanco

The best way to get to know the Anzasca Valley is to take a trip to one of its famous alpine refuges: for instance the alpine hut of **Zamboni-Zappa**. You can get directly to Macugnaga by chairlift and from there along a marked, circular route to the alpine hut. Here, on the Pedriola alpine pasture at a height of 2070 m., you have a breathtaking view over the troughs of the **Del Belvedere** glacier.

Macugnaga rises up at the foot of Monte Rosa and is a well-developed, modern tourist centre both in summer and winter; yet at the same time has preserved its historic and valuable heritage as a witness to the **Walser culture**. For winter sports fans there are two cross-country routes winding their way amongst the ancient houses of Pecetto and Isella, then leading on into the forests. From here you can start out on foot or skis along the most beautiful routes around Monte Rosa. **Hinderbalmo** is the name of a collection of huts and alpine farms at an altitude of 1950 m. above **Macugnaga**.

To the right of the path leading up here and about 500 m. before the hut you arrive at a large, irregularly shaped rock with incised signs on it in various places. Notwithstanding that the typical cruciform signs are missing, they are possibly the traces of pilgrims wandering through from Vallais (Wallis).

The historic town of **Macugnaga** has been shaped first and foremost by the mountain people of the Walser. This Alemannic people settled in Upper Vallais (Wallis) in the thirteenth century, later expanding their own colonies from the Bern uplands as far as the Grimsel Pass and the heights of the Gom. The Walser settlement also extends to include the Val Formazza, the Simplon Valley, the Aosta Valley and the valley hollows of Monte Rosa — and thus also to the town of **Macugnaga**. It is significant that Italian was first made the teaching language in schools as late as 1880.

The influence of Walser culture is still evident in the structure of the houses built of wood and masonry. A church of Our Lady was built in the second half of the 13. Century, reconstructed several times in the course of the centuries; it is also another witness to Walser culture. Not far from the church, now surrounded by a cemetery, is a lime tree from the 13. Century, where in earlier times laws were decreed and councils held.

Not far from the Walser House Museum is the village of Fornarelli, the location of the goldmine of Guia. The mine was in operation for more than two hundred years (1710 to 1946) and was the first in Italy to be re-opened as a cultural facility.

Two cross-country ski-runs close to Macugnaga are bound to make the hearts of winter sports fans beat faster. They wind their way between the old buildings of Pecetto and Isella and then lead into the woods. Numerous options for excursions on foot or on skis start here, leading you to the most breathtakingly beautiful routes around Monte Rosa. Very popular among hiking experts is the village of **Vanzone con San Carlo** further to the east. A widely ramified network of well-marked routes offers a great variety of hiking and rambling excursions to Alpine pastures and mountains; these include **Pizzo San Martino** (2733 m.). Since 1903, a great iron cross has crowned the peak and its stunning panorama.

VALLE BOGNANCO

Town Information Bognanco
Postcode 28845 - Province VB
Altitude 980 m
Population 319

Tourist Information
Via Cavallini
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0324 234127
e-mail iatbognanco@libero.it
www.valbognanco.com
www.altavallebognanco.it

Thermal Baths SPA
Centro Termale di Bognanco
Piazza Ramponi 10
28842 Bognanco - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 234109
e-mail info@bognanco.it
www.bognanco.it

The **Valle di Bognanco** stretches out from Domodossola in a westerly direction. It is only eight or nine miles long, very green and is also called the “**Valley of the Hundred Waterfalls**”. The holidaymaker can look forward to a delightful variety of landscape and a haven of unspoiled nature. The Bognanco Valley is known first and foremost for its mild climate and prolific thermal springs.

However, the Bognanco Valley has other entrancing qualities besides its thermal springs: it lies in the natural amphitheatre formed by the breathtaking, seemingly infinite stretch of the Alps. It offers innumerable options for excursions and trips, for example up the **Alpe Moncera** or to the summit of the **Pioltone** and the **Pizzo Stracuigo**, rewarded by an incomparable view of the Alps and the surrounding valleys. And the valley is a must for trekking fans: starting out from San Bernardo di Bognanco there are many excellently marked cycle and hiking routes leading to the surrounding peaks. The villages of **Ansuno** and **Possetto** are worth a visit as well for their numerous mills.

VALLI DIVEDRO, ANTIGORIO AND FORMAZZA

Town Information Varzo
Postcode 28868 - Province VB
Altitude 568 m
Population 968

Tourist Information
Proloco Valle Divedro
Piazza Agnesetta 2 - Varzo
Telephone (+39) 0324 780809 / 333 5481843
e-mail proloco@valdivedro.it
e-mail info@valdivedro.it
www.valdivedro.it

Town Information Formazza
Postcode 28863 - Province VB
Altitude 1280 m
Population 446

Tourist Information
Fraz. Ponte
28863 Formazza - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 63059
e-mail prolocoformazza@libero.it
www.valformazza.it

Museum Varzo
Archeomuseo Multimediale
Multimedia Archaeological Museum
c/o Villa Gentinetta, Viale Peri 27
Telephone (+39) 0324 72572
e-mail info@parcovegliadevero.it
www.amossola.it

Town Information Crodo
Postcode 28862 - Province VB
Altitude 508 m
Population 1490

Tourist Information
Ufficio Turistico Valle Antigorio
Fraz. Bagni 20 - Crodo
Telephone (+39) 0324 600005
e-mail iatcrodo@libero.it
e-mail info@procrodo.it

Museum Premia
Museo Mineralogico
Mineralogical Museum
Via Casa Francesco
28866 Premia - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 62021
e-mail amossola@libero.it
www.amossola.it

Museums Crodo

Casa Museo della Montagna

Ethnographic Mountain Museum

Fraz. Viceno

Telephone (+39) 0324 618431 (Proloco)

e-mail protocollo@comune.crodo.vb.it

Centro Studi Piero Ginocchi
Museo di Scienze della Terra Ubaldo Baroli
Natural History Museum
Via Pellanda 15
22862 Crodo - VB

Thermal Baths SPA
Centro Termale di Premia
Fraz. Cadarese 46
28866 Premia - VB
Piazza Municipio 9
Telephone (+39) 0324 617210 / 617157
e-mail info@premiaterme.it
www.premiaterme.com

The **Divedro, Antigorio and Formazza** valleys begin near **Crevaldossola** in the vicinity of Domodossola. The Antigorio and Formazza valleys together form a geographic unit, extending as the vale of the river **Toce** to the township of **Riale** close to the Swiss border. This is also the northernmost point in Piedmont. A formative feature of the Divedro Valley in the direction of the Simplon Pass is the torrent of **Diveria**. There is also railway line passing through the Divedro Valley, and the old Napoleonic road leading to Switzerland.

When you leave the **Orridi di Uriezzo** — imposing gorges — in the Antigorio-Formazza Valley, you arrive at the **Conca di Formazza** at around 4002 feet. You can go skiing on the **Sabbione** glacier at 9842 feet even in summer — all in all a truly gigantic natural spectacle, especially the waterfall of **Cascata del Toce**. The road continues steeply uphill as a footpath and ends at 7588 feet at the **Passo di San Giacomo** at the Swiss border. The Riale Formazza is a famous cross-country circuit and was used in recent years by several national teams in preparation for competitions. The **Devero Valley** opens up at **Baceno**, leading to the well-known **Alpe Veglia e Devero Nature Park**.

The inhabitants of the Antigorio and Formazza Valley stem from the mountain people of the **Walser**, who have influenced this region with their original way of life and traditions. This is noticeable in the language, in the architecture, and in the traditional dishes, which have all acquired their own quite individual character. Although the Antigorio and Formazza valley is one single valley, it has two different cultural origins: that of the Rhaeto-Romanic culture and that of the Walser. The Antigorio Valley always formed an important connection between Vallais (Wallis) and Tessin (Ticino). One of its townships is **Crodo**, well known for its excellent water and source of the famous Italian aperitif Crodino. The Antigorio Valley is very diverse in its geology. The parish church of San Gaudenzio in Baceno is well worth a visit in itself.



General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys



Lake Orta
Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



Val Grande National Park



Mountain Hut in Divedro Valley



Castle of Vogogna



Domodossola Piazza del Mercato



Domodossola Piazza Resistenza

VALLE D' OSSOLA

Town Information Domodossola
Postcode 28845 - Province VB
Altitude 270 m
Population 18394

Market day Saturday
every last Saturday also
Handicraft

Tourist Information
Piazza Matteotti c/o Terminal Bus
Telephone (+39) 0324 248265
e-mail info@prododomossola.it
www.prododomossola.it

Sacro Monte Calvario
Borgata Sacro Monte Calvario 5
Telephone (+39) 0324 241976
e-mail riserva@sacromontedomodossola.it
www.sacromontedomodossola.it
www.sacromonti.net

Museums

Museo di Scienze Naturali - Fond. Galletti
Natural History Museum
28845 Domodossola - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 492311/316
www.amossola.it

Civico Museo Palazzo Silva
Ethnographic Museum
Piazza Chiassi 1
28845 Domodossola - VB
Telephone (+39) 338 5029591/ 0324 492311
e-mail cultura@comune.domodossola.vb.it
www.amossola.it

Museo Ossolano d'Architettura Sacra
Museum of Sacral Art of Ossola Valleys
Via alla Chiesa, 28865 Crevaldossola - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 239100
www.amossola.it

Castello di Vogogna
Visconti Castle of Vogogna
28805 Vogogna - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 87200
e-mail anagrafe@comune.vogogna.vb.it

The actual Ossola Valley extends between Lago Maggiore and the municipality of Crevaldossola and is the most centrally situated of the valleys throughout the Ossola region: these radiate away from it in the form of a maple leaf. The **Toce** flows through the Val d'Ossola, as it does the Val Formazza and the Val Antigorio. Its source is in the Riale di Formazza at a height of 5643 feet; after 50 miles it merges into Lago Maggiore at Borromeo Bay. The Ossola Valley is especially famous for its diversity of minerals and rich resources of stone: granite, marble, beole (a type of gneiss) and Serizzo (a type of granite) are its most precious treasures, immortalised in the local architecture.

The town of **Domodossola** has existed in the centre of the Ossola valleys from time immemorial; it was already known in the second century AD, but under the name of "Oscele Leptonitorum". Later it was called Domus Oxulae and served the entire region as the centre of Christianity. The construction of the Simplon Pass road in 1805 and the Simplon Tunnel in 1906 brought the town out of its historical isolation. For a good 1000 years the heart of Domodossola itself has been the **Piazza Mercato**, lined with elegant manor houses with arbours and the wooden balconies typical of the region. There are abundant sightseeing destinations in the close vicinity, for instance the **Palazzo di Città**, the **Palazzo Silva**, the church of **S. Gervasio and Protasio** and the **Internationale Station** with its underground platforms, from which the **Vigezzina Railway** trains leave for Locarno. An absolute must for visitors is a detour to the Holy Mountain of the town, the so-called **Sacro Monte Calvario**. The erection of the Way of the Cross in the seventeenth century heralded the advent of Baroque art into the Ossola valleys.

Another name for the municipalities of Montecreste, Crevaldossola, Masera and Trontano is the "Riviera Ossolana": they form a kind of crown over Domodossola. Thanks to their amenable climate, their location in the Toce valley and their infrastructural function in connecting to the high-altitude Alpine pastures, they have always been well populated. In **Roldo**, a hamlet belonging to the village of **Montecreste**, visitors can see an impressive **pagan temple** from the fifth or fourth century BC, while in Crevaldossola the parish church of **Santissimi Pietro e Paolo** (16th century) is of particular interest for the sightseer. Another essential sightseeing destination is encountered on entering the village of **Masera**, the little church of **S. Abbondio** (11th century). It lines the road leading through the Val Vigezzo, and its purity of style makes it one of the most outstanding Romanesque buildings in the entire Ossola region. Subsequently a breathtaking approach to the Val Grande National Park leads via the mountains of Trontano, a village renowned for its resources of stone and wine. Incidentally, another convenient route to the National Park starts out from the municipality of **Beura Cardezza**. **Villadossola**, on the other hand, is located at the entrance to the Valle Antrona. The township is primarily well known for its lively cultural centre **La Fabblica**. Another rewarding experience awaits the visitor at the Romanesque church of **San Bartolomeo** a short distance outside the town. **Piedimulera** lies between the Toce and the mountain stream Anza at the entrance to the Valle Anzasca. It was a key traffic junction in the seventeenth century for trade in grain, wine and other products. The most important military fortification here is the **Torre Ferrerio**, dated 1594. The **castle of Vogogna** was built in 1348 on commission of Giovanni Visconti to safeguard the little township of Vogogna and the valley. Today there is almost nothing left of the wall encircling the town as an added fortification, while the castle with its towers and crenellations still looms up as majestically as it did in the Middle Ages, dominating the entire village from its mountain slope.

VALLE VIGEZZO

Information
www.vallevigezzo.eu

Town Information Santa Maria Maggiore
Postcode 28857 - Province VB
Altitude 816 m
Population 1236

Tourist Information
Piazza Risorgimento 28
Telephone (+39) 0324 95091
e-mail info@santamariamaggiore.info
www.santamariamaggiore.info

Museums
Museo dello Spazzacamino
Chimney Sweep Museum
c/o Villa Antonia, Piazza Risorgimento 28
Telephone (+39) 0324 905675
e-mail info@museospazzacamino.it
www.museospazzacamino.it

Pinacoteca Scuola di Belle Arti Rossetti Valentini
Painting Gallery
Via Rossetti Valentini 1
Telephone (+39) 0324 95091/ 94213
e-mail info@santamariamaggiore.vb.it

Town Information Druogno
Postcode 28853 - Province VB
Altitude 836 m
Population 995

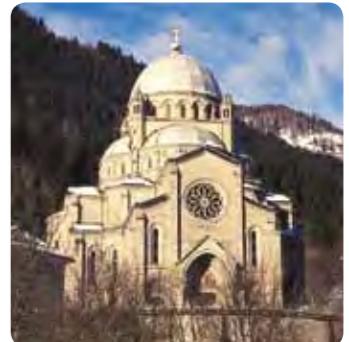
Tourist Information
www.vallevigezzo.eu

The valley starts in **Masera** and **Trontano**, a municipality of the Val Grande Nature Park. The villages of **Santa Maria Maggiore** and **Malesco** are among the most well-known localities in the valley. **Santa Maria Maggiore** is renowned throughout Italy as a good-luck village, for this where the **spazzacamini**, the "black men", come from, in whose honour a **Chimney Sweep Museum** has been founded – the only one of its kind in Italy.

The so-called blue **Vigezzina Railway** passes through this landscape. The panoramic route of this railway line is 32 miles long, travels over 83 bridges and through 31 tunnels, passes over awesome gorges, past houses of local stone and wild and elemental rocks, and in one and a half hours connects **Domodossola** with Locarno on Lago Maggiore in Switzerland. It also stops at several stations in Vigezzo. The valley is named Centovalli between the Swiss border and the lake. This is where lovers of untouched and peaceful nature and advanced hikers will find a genuine paradise, because the mountain peaks in Val Vigezzo seldom surpass an altitude of 7874 feet.

The village of **Druogno** goes back to Celtic times; its name means "Village of the Oaks". Some finds suggest the presence of prehistoric human settlement, like the crucible-shaped signs marking rocks of the Campra alpine pasture. Today this is primarily a region of pastoral agriculture.

The Vigezzo Valley during its time was known among connoisseurs as the **valley of the painters**. Artists like Rosetti Valentini, Gian Maria Rastellini, Lorenzo Peretti, Enrico Cavalli et al. worked here and became renowned beyond the borders of Italy particularly for their landscapes. Almost at the end of the valley in **Re** is a Gothic or Byzantine pilgrimage church. It is dedicated to the **Madonna of the Blood**, which is supposed to have appeared there miraculously in 1494. Devout pilgrims have come in droves to Re throughout the ages to wonder at the miracle of Re and pray at the shrine of the "Blood Madonna". On 29 April 1494, Giovanni Zuccone is supposed to have thrown a stone at the picture, hitting the Madonna on her forehead. It was reported that blood flowed from the face of the Madonna for 20 days. A few years ago a hostel for pilgrims and a retreat house was built next to the shrine.



The pilgrimage centre of Re



Val Vigezzo



Malesco



General Information

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago MaggioreEast Shore
and VareseThe Swiss part
of the Lake

Craveggia

Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services

LAKE ORTA



Situated between the Valsesia and Lago Maggiore we find Lago d'Orta, also known under its Latin name of "Cusio". It is surrounded by a landscape more charming than overwhelming, scattered with old stone houses. The region is generally noted as being one of peaceful and picturesque holiday resorts, with San Giulio the most popular. There is noticeably less residential settlement and tourist bustle here than in the neighbouring townships of Lago Maggiore – except twice a year, when the famous flower show transforms the Ortafiori streets and squares into a sea of flowers.

The west shore of Lago d'Orta is steep and rugged; its mountains already part of the foothills of the Monte Rosa massif, the second highest mountain massif in the Alps, whereas the east shore rises more gently towards Mottarone, which attains an altitude of 1491 m. and separates the Lago d'Orta from Lago Maggiore.

The climate is extremely mild – especially on the east shore – until well into autumn, meadows and forests cover wide areas: here we mainly find sweet chestnut trees and beeches, in higher regions also pine and spruce forests.

The town of Omegna lies at the north mouth of the lake. It is renowned world-wide for its design label companies, for example Alessi. The Valle Strona begins westwards from Omegna. Throughout its history the valley has always been completely secluded and for this reason has continued to keep its independence and autonomy – something its inhabitants are still very proud of and value greatly. Other outstandingly attractive places around the lake are Pettenasco, Armeno, Agrano, Miasino, Pella and Ronco.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Ferrovie dello Stato
Italian State Railways
www.trenitalia.it

Navigazione Lago d'Orta srl
Lago d'Orta Shipping Company
Via Curtoti 36
28887 Omegna - NO
Telephone (+39) 345 5170005
e-mail info@navigazionelagodorta.it
www.navigazionelagodorta.it

Overall public transport network of the region
www.vcoinbus.it

Museums
Ecomuseo Cusio
Lake Orta Museum Network
Telephone (+39) 0323 89622
e-mail ecomuseo@lagodorta.net
www.lagodorta.net



Mountains of Armeno

ARmeno, MIASINO, AMENO

Town Information Armeno
Postcode 28011 - Province NO
Altitude 523 m
Population 2195

Market day Saturday

Tourist Information
Pro Loco di Armeno
Via dei Prati, ex Area Tonella
Telephone (+39) 0322 900175
e-mail prolocoarmeno@hotmail.com
www.prolocoarmeno.beepworld.it

Museo Tornielli
Museum of Contemporary Art
Piazza Marconi 1
28010 Armeno –NO
Associazione Culturale Asilo Bianco
Cultural Association Asilo Bianco
Telephone (+39) 320 9525617
e-mail info@asilobianco.it
www.museotornielli.it
www.asilobianco.it

Situated above Orta half way up the mountain of Mottarone we find the small townships of Armeno; Miasino and Ameno.

Armeno

Armeno can look back to a centuries-old tradition in gastronomy and the hotel and catering business and is renowned above all for its world-famous chefs de cuisine. The **Museo degli Alberghieri** houses many exhibits illustrating the history of this service industry. Emblem of Armeno is the church of **Santa Maria Assunta** (Our Lady of the Assumption, 12th century). It is the paramount example in the Cusio region of a Romanesque building, fascinating in its simple, mystical beauty. Visitors can marvel at the precious sixteenth-century frescoes, including the famous **Trinità tricefala**, a rare, anthropomorphic portrayal of the Trinity.

Miasino

In Miasino we can find traces of a settlement dating back to the Iron Age. In the Middle Ages the civic and religious life of the townfolk was closely connected to the other coastal municipalities of Lago d'Orta, which were all under the sovereignty of the bishops and dukes of Novara. The township has attained cultural significance among other things through a private school specialising in the humanities. Major sightseeing destinations are the parish church of San Rocco and the resplendent **Villa Nigra**, both from the Baroque era.

Ameno

The parish church of **Santa Maria Assunta** (Our Lady of the Assumption) with its Late Romanesque campanile stands on the outskirts of Ameno, a municipality which can glory in the Villa Tornielli and its exquisite **Baroque garden** in its centre. Also of particular interest is the **Fondazione Calderara** museum in the district of Vacciago. The region is known as **Cascine di Ameno** and lies at the edge of the Agogna Valley. Small, picturesque rustic villages have grown up along the wooded river course, among them Pezzasco, Tacchino and Sculeria. Myriad well-maintained paths and tracks for rambling and mountain-bike tours lead through the woods. South of Ameno we find the **Monte Mesma** nature reserve stretching out before us, named after the mountain rising up above it (1,890 feet). Scaling its peak rewards with glorious views onto the surrounding countryside. Nor should the visitor miss the monastery of **Santuario del Monte Mesma**, still occupied by the Capuchin friars. The solitary **Torre di Buccione** dates from the thirteenth century, a unique relic of early medieval castle architecture and situated southwest of Monte Mesma. It likewise gives its name to a nature reserve. Further south, the village of **Bolzano Novarese** is worth a mention, its main feature of interest the Romanesque church of **S. Martino di Engevo**.

OMEgNA

Town Information
Postcode 28887 - Province VB
Altitude 295 m
Population 16074

Market day Thursday

Tourist Information
Piazza XXIV Aprile 17
Telephone + Fax (+39) 0323 61930
e-mail info@proloco.omegna.vb.it
www.proloco.omegna.vb.it

Forum Museo Arti e Industria
Design Museum
Parco Pasquale Maulini 1 - Omegna
Telephone (+39) 0323 866141
e-mail fondmaio@forumomegna.org
e-mail informazioniforum@libero.it
www.forumomegna.org



Omegna

General Information
Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore



East Shore
and Varese
The Swiss part
of the Lake



Ossola Valleys
Lake Orta
Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields



Hotels
Local Services



Orta S. Giulio



Isola di S. Giulio



Orta S. Giulio

Riserva Speciale del Sacro Monte di Orta
Nature Reserve Sacro Monte di Orta
Via Sacro Monte
28016 Orta San Giulio - NO
Telephone (+39) 0322 911960
e-mail parco.monterota@rparpiemonte.it
www.sacri-monti.com



Sacro Monte d'Orta



Isola di S. Giulio

Sightseeing

As you walk along the pedestrian promenade along the lake you see the short arcades belonging to the historic centre of the town, founded by the Romans as **Voemenia**. The **Parco Rodari**, a town park close by, was named after the well-known writer Gianni Rodari, who among other writings became famous for his children's books.

The **Piazza XXV Aprile** opens up to the lake and can be reached via an attractive lakeside promenade. The historic town centre is enclosed by buildings from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the baroque era and radiates a peaceful, meditative aura. In the oldest part of the town, the quarter between the parish church and the **Piazza Orsoline**, there are clear traces of adornments from many centuries, including portals, stone and stucco ornaments, and wrought iron grating. The Romanesque church of **Collegiata di Sant' Ambrogio** is the foremost building in Omegna. It has in its interior a resplendent baroque altar and a sixteenth-century winged altarpiece, attributed to the artist Fermo Stella. The church of **San Gaudenzio** in the district of Crusinallo is one of the best preserved Romanesque buildings in the entire Cusio region.

In the vicinity

Monte Zuoli is a range of foothills about 400 m. high and around 3 km. from Omegna; from the top you have an impressive view onto the whole of Lago d'Orta. **Quarna Sopra** and the twin community of **Quarna Sotto** are situated on a gentle hill before the descent into the Valle Strona, very popular as a favourable starting point for ramblers and mountain hikers. Quarna Sotto boasts of a long handicraft tradition in the **construction of wind instruments**, while Quarna Sopra has made a name for itself in **turning and shaping wood**. The workshops of the instrument makers have for ever and a day been a Mecca for great jazz musicians from all over the world. Further South, by **Monte Pizzo**, the old village of **Cesara**, renown for the S. Clemente church, is a beloved starting point for many hikes in the surrounding hills.

ORTA S. GIULIO, PETTENASCO

Town Information Orta S. Giulio
Postcode 28016 - Province NO
Altitude 294 m
Population 1177

Market day Wednesday

Tourist Information
Via Bossi 11
Telephone (+39) 0322 90155
e-mail accoglienza2003@libero.it
www.orta.net

Unione Turistica Lago d'Orta
Tourism Consortium Lake Orta
Piazza Unità d'Italia 2, Petteneasco NO
Telephone (+39) 349 0984657
e-mail info@lagodorta.piemonte.it
www.lagodorta.piemonte.it t

Town Information Petteneasco
Postcode 28028 - Province NO
Altitude 294 m
Population 1317

Market day Tuesday

Tourist Information
Piazza Unità d'Italia 3
Telephone (+39) 0323 89593
e-mail proloco.petteneasco@tiscali.it

Museum
Museo dell'Arte della Tornitura del Legno
Museum of Wood Turning and Shaping
Via Vittorio Veneto 10
Telephone (+39) 0323 89622
e-mail ecomuseo@lagodorta.net
e-mail info@museolegno.it
www.lagodorta.net

The most obvious charm of Orta San Giulio is doubtlessly its breathtaking location. **Orta San Giulio**, the actual heart of Lago d'Orta, lies between imposing villas on a peninsula. The historic centre of the town has churches, romantic alleyways and squares; it is now a traffic-calmed zone. The **Palazzo della Comunità** is an adornment for the town centre and was erected in 1582. The building was used for a long time as the **Consiglio Generale della Comunità della piccola Repubblica della Riviera d'Orta**, the seat of government of the tiny Orta republic. The **Piazza Motta**, the hub of the town, is a popular meeting place. Departing from here and heading up the Via Albertoletti, you soon reach the Baroque parish church of **Santa Maria Assunta** (Our Lady of the Assumption). Another short walk brings you directly to the **Sacro Monte di San Francesco** (Sacro Monte d'Orta). 20 chapels illustrate various stations from the life of St Francis of Assisi; a Franciscan friary and the church of San Nicolao also form part of the Way of the Cross. Apart from this, there is the pleasure of simply walking among the many ancient trees and enjoying the wonderful view of the landscape. The holy mountain – incidentally an emblem of Lago d'Orta – has in the meantime been made a **nature reserve**.

Island of San Giulio

Opposite the town of Orta San Giulio we see the actual landmark of Lago d'Orta, the **island of San Giulio**. It is named after St Julius and lies more or less in the middle of the lake. The **Basilica di San Giulio** is itself one of the foremost Romanesque buildings in the whole of Piedmont. Certainly one of the attractions for visitors is a mysterious, medieval **pulpit made of black marble**. It shows the four symbols of the Evangelists and fabulous beasts and is said to be the work of an anonymous master of the Middle Ages. One of the most prominent visitors to Orta San Giulio was the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, who honoured the location with his presence in May 1882, accompanied by the young Lou Salomé.

In the vicinity

The lakeside village of **Pettenasco**, few kilometres North of Orta, is well known for its lakeside promenade, one of the vantage points to admire the lake in all its beauty.

VAL STRONA

Town Information Valstrona
Postcode 28892 - Province VB
Altitude 475 m
Population 1263

Ecomuseo Campello Monti
"Kampel Walser Association"
Via della Gassa 1
Fraz. Campello Monti - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 62400
e-mail info@walsercampellomonti.it

Raccolta di Arte Sacra a Forno-Valstrona
Collection of Religious Art
Chiesa Parrocchiale dei S.S. Pietro e Paolo, Fraz. Forno - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 885101

Museo Etnografico e dell'Artigianato
Ethnographic and Handcraft-Museum
Viale Principale 22 - Fraz. Forno - VB
Telephone (+39) 0323 89622
e-mail ecomuseo@lagodorta.net
www.lagodorta.net

Val Strona, though less known, has a most charming landscape, stretching from **Omegna** on Lago d'Orta in a north-westerly direction and is bordered there by the end of a grandiose alpine valley. The valley ascends to 4265 feet in Campello Monti. The Strona Valley is part of a breathtaking landscape and a paradise for ramblers and hikers of all grades of proficiency. Almost lost in the stillness of the Valle Strona, **Campello Monti** is a tiny, very ancient village, once subject to the jurisdiction of the Walser. It has lost none of its original charm. **Campello Monti** consists of a cluster of houses in delicate colours, with characteristic slate roofs. Framed by the utter greenness of the valley slopes and high mountain peaks, the village is an ideal starting point for excursions, for instance trips to the alpine lakes of **Capezzone** and **Ravinella**. Apart from the landscape, the beautiful eighteenth-century parish church of San Giovanni Battista is well worth a visit.

The **Witches' Grotto** is perhaps the most interesting of all grottos in the Valle Strona, but by no means the only one: another system, the **Complesso dell'Intaglio** consisting of twisting passageways is located a little further upwards. The **Balma dal Diaù** above **Luzzogno** has a cave opening up at its end with a waterfall. Other such sightseeing attractions are the **Balma di Fajj** on **Monti di Chesio** near the **Castuaga** alpine pasture, which has two caves full of stalagmites and stalactites, and, finally, the **Grotte di Ravinella** under the alpine pasture just mentioned, which even has a small lake in it.

In 1256, Walser migrants from Vispertal and Simplon established a settlement here. A brook formed the border between the communities of Campello and Forno and simultaneously the provinces of Novara and Vercelli. This border was not only geographic, but also cultural: the rustic culture of the Strona Valley developed on the valley side and on the mountain side the Walser culture of Rimella and Campello.

PELLA

Town Information Pella
Postcode 28010 - Province NO
Altitude 306 m
Population 1172

Museo dello Scalpellino
Stonemason Museum
Piazza Europa - Fraz. Boledo
28010 Madonna del Sasso - NO
Telephone (+39) 0322 98177

Viewing on request

Museo del Rubinetto e della sua Tecnologia
Water Tap Museum
Piazza Martiri 1
28017 San Maurizio d'Opaglio - NO
Telephone (+39) 0323 89622
e-mail info@museodelrubinetto.it
www.museodelrubinetto.it

Opening times
Friday to Sunday 3 pm to 6 pm

On a sparsely populated shore of Lago d'Orta are the little towns of **Pella** and the neighbouring village of **Ronco**. This is where the Lago d'Orta is most peaceful and thus most romantic, far away from tourist bustle. The picturesque alleyways in both localities beckon visitors to take a stroll. From the beautiful lakeside promenade you look directly onto the island of San Giulio lying opposite. In contrast, the two townships of **San Maurizio d'Opaglio** and **Pogno** are well known as centres for the production of water taps and fittings of all kinds. You can gain an inside view of its history at the **Museum of Taps and their Technology** in San Maurizio d'Opaglio.

In the vicinity

Shortly before Pella there is a fork in the road leading up the side of a mountain. At an altitude of 638 m. it reaches a place that has great relevance for the history of art: the **pilgrimage church of Madonna del Sasso** built on a very steep and precipitous granite rock, one of the most spectacular sacred sites in the entire region. It was built between 1730 and 1748 and rises above the remains of a Late Medieval chapel, its origins wound about in convolutions of legend. It contains a sixteenth-century Pietà by Fermo Stella da Caravaggio and a wooden crucifix from the seventeenth century. You have a marvellous panoramic view up here across the surrounding landscape, onto the lake, and onto Mount **Mottarone**.

Valle Strona - Campello Monti



Valle Strona



Valle Strona - Campello Monti



General Information
Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore



East Shore
and Varese



The Swiss part
of the Lake



Ossola Valleys



Lake Orta



Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields



Hotels



Local Services



Pella

www.illagomaggiore.com



Romagnano Sesia



Ethnographic Museum



Ghemme



Castle of Briona

Romagnano Sesia and Prato Sesia

Already settled by the Romans, the village of Romagnano Sesia grew to economic prosperity under the Visconti and is today notable among other things for the direct sale of valuable cashmere textiles. The Benedictine monastery of San Silvano was founded c. 1008; all that remains of it is the so-called **Cantina dei Santi**. The two rooms are very remarkable: the first has wonderful fresco cycle of biblical scenes datable to the fifteenth century. The second room houses an interesting collection of very ancient archaeological finds. Like the Cantina dei Santi, many other buildings in the historic centre were built of gravel and pebbles taken from the riverbed of the Sesia and rendered in herringbone pattern. In the parish church of **Santissima Annunziata** and **San Silvano** the visitor can see two very old and fascinating liturgical objects: an early Christian sarcophagus from the fifth century used as an altar and the stump of a votive column from the second to the third centuries. We must also mention the church of **Madonna del Popolo**; its dome is adorned with valuable baroque frescoes. The **rampart tower of the Praetorium** in the heart of the village probably dates from 1466. Its lowest part appears to have belonged to an even older building, possible to a previously existing fortress. The tower is the only remaining part of the fortress's square construction; its interior grew into the historic village centre of Romagnano Sesia. Rising up not far from the centre is the imposing **Villa Caccia** on Monte Cucco. It was built by Alessandro Antonelli between 1842 and 1848 as the summer residence of the Counts Caccia di Romentino. Today it houses the **Museum of History and Ethnography**. The visitor should also visit the remains of a **medieval bridge** from the village, which was destroyed in 1223. Only three of a probable total of 60 arches are left from the ancient building, which once spanned the river Sesia and connected the villages of Romagnano and Gattinara. They now stand in a park quite a distance away from the river, which was re-routed in 1655 to safeguard the townships from floods. **Prato Sesia** is situated on the hill of Sopramonte, north of Romagnano Sesia. Here you can see the remains of a **castle** built in the fourteenth century by Bartolomeo Tornielli. The small church of the **Madonna**, in the castle ruins, has a fresco by Giovanni de Campo (15th century). About 3 km south of Romagnano Sesia we encounter the small **oratory of San Martino di Brelema**, one of the oldest of its kind in the entire province. It dates from the eleventh century and belonged to an ancient fortified village which was completely destroyed in the fourteenth century.

Ghemme, Sizzano, Fara Novarese and Briona

About 24 km north of Novara is the town of **Ghemme** which is nowadays primarily known for its high-quality wine of the same name. Already settled in the fourth century BC, in Roman times it quickly grew into an influential centre and this significance did not abate during the Middle Ages. The monumental fortress of **Castello-Ricetto** in the town centre derives from the latter epoch. With circumvallation and moat, it was designed to protect the populace and their property from the permanent plundering and destruction. The whole complex covers an area of over 12,000 m². A tour through the narrow alleyways of the fortress, refurbished in the meantime with shops and cafés, is still a riveting experience. A rewarding experience can also be had in a visit to Ghemme's **parish church**, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and built over the grave of Blessed Panacea (completed in 1700). Rising up on a hillside vineyard in the direct vicinity of Ghemme is another castle, the **fortress of Cavenago**. It was converted into a farm in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but has still retained its rectangular structure with three corner towers.

Like Ghemme, the three neighbouring townships of Sizzano, Fara Novarese and Briona have based their economy on viticulture. Sizzano's parish church **S. Vittore** rises up over the Piazza Prone, encircled by buildings of the medieval **Castello**. Its present appearance dates from 1650, but it stands on the foundations of a very much older, preceding church (11th century). Recently, major excavations have revealed more evidence of Early Christianity. Should you need a little refreshment after such historical and cultural expeditions, you can take a break at least in the summer months in the "aquafun" swimming baths **Piscina 3 Re** in nearby **Fara Novarese**, and then make a detour to **Briona**. One of its most impressive sights is in the district of **Proh**, the so-called **Rocchetta**. The hunting lodge was built in the late fifteenth century by the Sforza and afterwards owned by the Caccia di Mandello; it still in private ownership.

**Momo and vicinity**

It's worth travelling just over a mile north of **Momo** to the little rural church of **Santissima Trinità** (11th century) with its exquisite sixteenth-century fresco cycle. It lines the old Francigena pilgrimage way, which led to this region from the Simplon Pass via Lago d'Orta and Borgomanero, then proceeded to Novara and the Po Valley. Our itinerary takes us via **Barengo** and **Cavaglio d'Agogna** to **Fontaneto d'Agogna**. The name of this village of ancient origin stems from the countless ground water sources to be found in the close vicinity. The shrine of St Alexander in the parish church of **Beata Vergine Assunta** (Blessed Virgin Mary of the Assumption) is the work of Alessandro Antonelli. Another destination not to be missed is in **Curèggio**, the **Baptisterium di San Giovanni**. The octagonal baptistery stands next to the parish church of S. Maria Assunta and dates from the twelfth century. Archaeological excavations have revealed a previous building from the 5th century; the frescoes date from the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Oleggio and Pombia

About two and a half miles outside the village of Bellinzago Novarese we come to the Abbey of **Badia di Dulzago**, a most interesting building complex. This religious and agricultural centre was erected in the twelfth century on the remnants of a Roman settlement and is still occupied by several families. A "must-see" is the church of **San Giulio** with its exquisite frescoes from the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. The heart of Olèggio situated a little further to the north is the triangular, arcaded **Piazza Martiri della Libertà**. A mighty **clock tower** rises up in its centre; a market has been held here every Monday for over 500 years. Two places well worth a visit are the **museum of religious art** and, top of the list, the "**Fanchini**" **ethnographic museum**. More than 100,000 exhibits give a dynamic view of local life and work traditions. It is one of the most important collections in the entire province. A visit to Olèggio would not be complete without viewing the Early Romanesque church of **San Michele**. It lies northwest of the historic centre next to the cemetery and is built of bricks and river pebbles. Via the tiny township of **Mezzomerico** – yet again famous for its excellent wine – we then move on in a northerly direction to **Pombia**. The small municipality has a **Safari Park** and is situated at the edge of a river terrace. In pre-historic times the Golasecca Culture was domiciled in this region. Finally, we come to the township of **Divignano** enthroned on one of the last morainal hills before the start of the plain. It is crowned by a Gothic **Visconti Castle**.

NOVARA

Town Information Novara
Postcode 28100 - Province NO
Altitude 162 m
Population 102862

Market day Monday to Sunday
Viale Beltrami and Viale Dante

ATL - Novara
Baluardo Quintino Sella 40
Telephone (+39) 0321 394059
Fax (+39) 0321 631063
e-mail info@turismonovara.it

Museums
Musei della Canonica del Duomo
Cathedral Museum
Vicolo della Canonica 9–17
Telephone (+39) 331 1659568
e-mail musei@novariae.it
www.novaria.org

Complesso Monumentale del Broletto
Broletto Complex –
History, Art and Archeology Museum
Via F.lli Rosselli 20
Telephone (+39) 0321 3702770
e-mail musei@comune.novara.it
www.brolettodinovara.it

The Piedmontese city of Novara lies in the midst of a plain dominated by rice fields. The city was settled long before the Romans came and in the first century BC elevated into a municipium, which during the Roman Empire developed into a flourishing centre. The remains of the ring wall on **Piazza Cavour** still testify to this era today. Besides the sights and sites relating to (art) history, Novara's historic city has other features to recommend it – with its stately palazzi and beautiful colonnades it also offers a refreshing change from the stress of the big city.



Wine barrels

Pombia Park

Safari Park
Via Larino 3
28050 Pombia – NO
Telephone (+39) 0321 956431
Fax (+39) 0321 956401
e-mail info@safaripark.it
www.safaripark.it



Oleggio San Michele

**General Information**

Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys



Novara Cloister

**Novara,
Vineyards and
Paddy Fields**

Hotels

Local Services



Novara Basilica di San Gaudenzio

Sightseeing

A good starting point for discovering Novara is the neo-classical **Piazza Martiri della Libertà**. The **Castello Sforzesco** looms up to the south of the square, still very impressive despite its tumble-down condition. Lining the east side of the piazza is the **Teatro Coccia**, opened in 1888, and finally, on its north side, is the **Palazzo Orelli**, also called Palazzo Mercato — it used to house the agricultural exchange. The Via Fratelli Rosselli leads to the **Duomo Santa Maria Assunta** (nineteenth century), designed in neo-classical style by Alessandro Antonelli and to the charming **Piazza delle Erbe**. The cathedral was built on a previous Romanesque church; the mosaic floor has been preserved in the presbytery. The **Baptistery** rises up opposite, the oldest building in the city (fourth/fifth century). The frescoes inside show scenes from the Apocalypse (eleventh century), and the Last Judgement (fifteenth century). The adjoining **cloisters** are a genuine treasure as well, not least because of the archaeological finds exhibited here (steles from the second century BC, and more). On the first floor of the north wing other highly fascinating exhibits are on show in the **Lapidary Museum**. The **Municipal Museum** is situated in the **Broletto**, a complex of buildings stemming from various epochs; it has an archaeological department and a painting gallery. The former political centre constituted out of the **Palazzi del Podestà, dei Paratici, dei Referendari and dell'Arengo**. Novara's most important church is the **Basilica di San Gaudenzio** built in 1659 with architecture by Pellegrino Tibaldi. Its dome is 121 m high, the **city's landmark**, heralding from afar the approach to the city. It is also a work of Alessandro Antonelli (completed in 1888) and crowned by a gilded figure of Christ. Inside, one of its most interesting features is the **Scurolo**, a kind of ground-level crypt, holding the mortal remains of Novara's patron saint, St Gaudenzio. Furthermore, the visitor can see outstanding works of religious art in the polyptych by Gaudenzio Ferrari (c. 1516) in the **Cappella della Natività**, and numerous paintings from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Not far from the basilica is the **Palazzo Faraggiana**, now housing a very interesting **natural history museum**; it contains works of taxidermy showing around 2500 species of animals from all over the world. Again only a few steps away we arrive on the **Corso Cavour**, Novara's promenade along the route of the ancient Roman road and lined with elegant houses and shops.

In the vicinity

East of Novara is the municipality of **Galliate**, landmarked by an enormous redbrick castle looming up in its centre. Erected on the foundations of an ancient fortress destroyed by Frederick I Barbaross in 1154, it was restored and extended in 1476 by Galeazzo Maria Sforza. Most of the **Castello Sforzesco** is today owned by the municipality; the northeast tower now houses the modern art department of the "Angelo Bozzola" Museum. No more than a stone's throw from Galliate and from **Romentino** situated a little further to the south is the huge nature reserve of the **Parco Naturale Valle del Ticino**.

THE PADDY FIELDS

Town Information Trecate
Postcode 28069 - Province NO
Altitude 131 m
Population 20.189

Market day Wednesday

Tourist Information
Proloco
Piazza Cavour 24
Telephone (+39) 0321 71335
e-mail prolocotrecate@aliceit
www.prolocotrecate.it

Town Information Cameri
Postcode 28062 - Province NO
Population 10.878

Tourist Information
Piazza Dante 25
Telephone (+39) 0321 519753
e-mail cameri.proloco@libero.it
www.prolococameri.altervista.org

Museums

Museo Etnografico della Civiltà e Cultura della Bassa Novarese
Ethnographic Museum
c/o Villa Marzoni
Via San Carlo 14
28070 Tornaco - NO
Telephone (+39) 0321 846118
Fax (+39) 0321 846377

Museo Etnografico 'L Çivel'

Ethnographic Museum
Via Cavour 4
28060 Casalbeltrame - NO
Telephone (+39) 0321 838375
e-mail museo@casalbeltrameonline.it
www.casalbeltrameonline.it

Waterpark
Ondaland
Via Case Sparse 1
28060 Vicolungo - NO
Telephone (+39) 0321 875987
Fax (+39) 0321 875986
e-mail info@ondaland.it
www.ondalando.it

Novara Broletto

Sightseeing

The southern section of the Province of Novara — all around the capital city, so to speak — is an immense flat plain characterised primarily by paddy fields. It is most impressive when the innumerable parcels of land are flooded in spring. Then the so-called Bassa Novarese is transformed into what seems to be an endless lagoon formed of fragmented planes of water, interspersed by dams, poplars and canals. The loamy soil is optimally water-retentive and fed by the many rivers and canals, hence rice was planted here as early as 500 years ago. However, the modern paddies were first cultivated during the industrialisation of agriculture in the nineteenth century, giving the landscape its "artificial" appearance of today. In between we see occasional townships, castles, churches and farmsteads rising up above them **Tornaco** and **Trecate**.

Situated in the centre of the sleepy little village of **Tornaco** we find the **Villa Marzoni** dating from the late nineteenth century and preceded by a fifteenth-century castle, of which the gate arch and the remnants of two towers have been preserved. Today the villa houses a **Museum of Local History**, presenting a view of local agriculture. **Trecate** is a small agricultural and industrial township of ancient origin, with a main square, the **Piazza Cavour**, and, rising up behind it, the parish church of **S. Maria Assunta** (Our Lady of the Assumption, 14th century). Although the building has been remodelled several times, a fresco portraying St Catherine of Alexandria has been preserved from the early period.

Borgolavezzaro, Nibbiola and Casalino

Borgolavezzaro is a municipality on the southernmost tip of the province. Although the first official records date from the eleventh century, numerous archaeological finds prove that the Romans had already settled here. A cycle path leads from here to the **Campo della Ghina** Botanical Gardens, where various habitats of the Po Valley have been reconstructed. Keeping to a northerly direction you come to the municipality of **Vespolate** and then the small village of **Nibbiola** draped around the **Castello dei Tornielli**. A fortress dominated the environs here as early as the twelfth century, although the present castle dates from the fifteenth century. In **Casalino** to the west, the villa and park of the **Castello dei Leonardi** are well worth a visit. It is privately owned, so visiting is only possible during exhibitions and special events. Restricted visiting also applies to the parish church of **San Pietro** on the outskirts of the township, a three-nave church from the eleventh century which has undergone much reconstruction in its history. It contains frescoes from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Casalvolone, Casalbeltrame and San Nazzaro Sesia

The three-nave parish church of **San Pietro al Cimitero** stands on the outskirts of **Casalvolone**. Built of river stones, it is of Romanesque origin, has three apses aligned to the east and is decorated with several very beautiful frescoes. The campanile adjacent to the building stems from a previous church. The small agricultural township of **Casalbeltrame** 5 km to the north is a member of the Italian circle of "Città Slow", the Slow Food organisation. Well worth a visit here besides the **Castello Ricetto** are the **Agricultural Museum "L Çivel"** and the **Villa Bracorens Savoiroux**. The latter is a bustling cultural centre, with an enormous gingko biloba dominating the garden. There are more flora and fauna for visitors to marvel at in the **Riserva naturale della Palude di Casalbeltrame** not far from here. The nature reserve covers approximately 600 ha of land consisting of woodland, heath and marshland offering a habitat for around 200 species of birds. One of the most notable monasteries in the history of art in Piedmont is the **Abbazia dei Santi Nazario e Celso** in the municipality of **San Nazzaro Sesia** in the far west of the province. The abbey was founded in 1040 and restored in the mid-twentieth century. Among its most striking features are its campanile, its cloisters and Late Gothic frescoes.

Cameri, Caltignaga and Sillavengo

Barely 10 km to the north of Novara is the small township of **Cameri**, its vicinity landmarks by several farmsteads of exceptional artistic and architectural significance. The **Cascina Picchetta**, for instance, is a two-storeyed, U-shaped building with interesting frescoes and a beautiful garden. Today the sixteenth-century building accommodates the administration headquarters of the Parco Naturale Valle del Ticino. And there are two "must-see" sights further to the west in **Caltignaga**: the Romanesque oratory of **San Salvatore** (late 11th century) and the **Castello** built by the noble family of the Caccia (15th century). Finally, in **Sillavengo**, visitors are rewarded by the imposing sight of the two churches **S. Maria Nova** and **S. Maria delle Grazie**. The former possesses very beautiful frescoes but can only be viewed during special cultural events. The parish church of **S. Maria delle Grazie** (16th century) rises up on the main square of the town. Its organ was made in the second half of the seventeenth century by Giovanni Battista Gavinelli and is of great value. It was restored in 1994.



Paddy fields



Casalino Castello dei Leonardi



San Nazzaro Sesia monastery



General Information
Upper, Central,
Lower
Lago Maggiore

East Shore
and Varese

The Swiss part
of the Lake

Ossola Valleys

Lake Orta

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Vineyards and
Paddy Fields

Hotels

Local Services



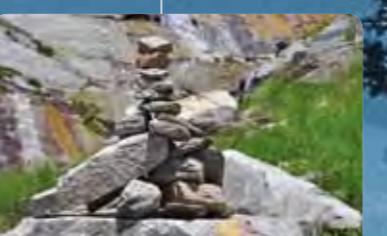
Rice plant

Ethnographic and agricultural
museum 'L Çivel'

NATURE

Nature

Overview



National and Regional Nature Park Authorities

Ente Parco Alpe Veglia, Alpe Devero e Alta Valle Antrona
V.le Pieri 27
28868 Varzo - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 72572
e-mail info@areeprotetteossola.it
www.areeprotetteossola.it

Ente Parco Nazionale Val Grande
Piazza Pretorio 6
28805 Vogogna - VB
Telephone (+39) 0324 87540
e-mail info@parcovalgrande.it
www.parcovalgrande.it

Ente Parchi Lago Maggiore
e-mail info@parchilagomaggiore.it
www.parks.it

Parco Nazionale Val Grande

This national park in the province of Verbania is surrounded by Val Vigezzo, Val d'Ossola, Val Cannobina and Lago Maggiore. Its 15,000 hectares make it the largest wild life and nature reserve in Italy. It is the only European region of this nature to be honoured by the global organisation Wilderness. The landscape here has remained wild and elemental. There are signed walking paths leading the visitor into the region's depths.

Parco Naturale Alpe Veglia – Alpe Devero

Sheltering the nature park at the Swiss border between Val Divedro and Val Formazza are the Alpe Veglia (5777 ft) and the Alpe Devero (5351 ft), also two alpine pastures of the Ossola Valley. The landscape here is characterised by lakes, waterfalls and rivers. The park is renowned above all for its rich mineral resources: 127 kinds of stone were counted here alone.

Monte Mesma, Sacro Monte di Orta e Torre di Buccione Nature Reserve

The nature reserves of Monte Mesma, Sacro Monte di Orta e Torre di Buccione in the south-eastern part of Lago d'Orta are divided up by three hills. Remains of Middle Ages civilisation have been preserved in an elemental landscape. The connection of architecture and nature makes every walk or hike into an experience of a very special sort.

www.parks.it/riserva.sacro.monte.orta www.sacrimonti.net www.sacri-monti.com

Riserva Naturale Speciale Sacro M.te della SS. Trinità di Ghiffa

Ghiffa is a place of pilgrimage situated in a breathtaking spot above Lago Maggiore at an altitude of 1181 feet. The complex of buildings is baroque in style, its architecture inspired by the places of pilgrimage Sacri Monti of Orta and Varese. The nature reserve is about 200 hectares in area, extending along the sides of Monte Cargiago. It is combed through by numerous walking paths flanked by old stone walls. www.parks.it/riserva.sacro.monte.ghiffa www.sacrimonti.net www.sacromontedighiffa.it

Riserva Naturale Sacro M.te Calvario di Domodossola

This nature reserve was initiated in 1987 by the region of Piedmont and stretches over the hills of Mattarella. Starting from here the entire area of the Sacro Monte is protected – for example an orientation cage was installed here for the observation of nocturnal predatory birds.

www.parks.it/riserva.sacro.monte.domodossola www.sacrimonti.net

Lagoni di Mercurago – Parchi Lago Maggiore

The nature park Lagoni di Mercurago near Arona is administered together with the nature reserves of Fondotoce and Dormelletto by the Association of the Parks of Lago Maggiore. The wetlands of which the Lagone is the most extensive, are of exceptional importance for the fauna and rare genera of water and swamp flora.

Gorges of Uriezzo

The gorges of Uriezzo near Baceno in the Antigorio Valley were formed during the Ice Age. Today you can walk through three of these gorges on foot. The most fascinating the South Gorge, 656 feet long and between 65 to 98 feet deep, called "Grave of Uriezzo" by the locals. Incidentally, the region is also an interesting eco-system: many types of plants can be found here that scarcely exist anywhere else, above all mosses and ferns.

Ticino Valley Nature Reserve

The nature reserve covers more than 175 miles of the Ticino riverside region, from Sesto Calende to Mezzanino, in the Provinces of Varese, Novara, Milan and Pavia. The park area exceeds ninety thousand hectares and is divided into different zones: the river valley and surroundings, the plains, the irrigable plain and the morainic hills.

www.parcodelticino.pmn.it www.parks.it/parco.ticino.piemontese www.parks.it/parco.ticino.lombardo

Monte Fenera Nature Reserve

The park is named after the mighty and solitary Mount Fenera on the reliefs of Lower Valsesia. Its profile is clearly recognisable from the Novarese and Vercellese plains. The nature reserve territory is an ideal choice for an alternative holiday and has a favourable central position with the rice plains to the south, the Upper Valsesia, the Mt. Rosa, and Lakes Orta and Maggiore to the North. www.parks.it/parco.monte.fenera

Campo dei Fiori Nature Reserve

The Campo dei Fiori and Mount Martica massifs rise up between the Valcuvia, the Valganna, the city and lake of Varese, forming the Campo dei Fiori Natural Park. The highest point of the massif is the Paradiso peak (3727 ft.). The picturesque village of S. Maria del Monte, landmark of the city of Varese, lies on top of the Sacro Monte (2675 ft.) and is also part of the Reserve.

www.parcocampodeifiori.it



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Camera di Commercio
Varese

