

GUIDED TOURS OF LAKE MAGGIORE BY BEATRICE BARILETTA

ISOLA BELLA AND FISHERMEN'S ISLAND

The Borromean Islands continue to amaze and charm! On this tour, we visit Isola Bella, famous for its sumptuous Palace, rich with tapestries and precious furniture, ancient paintings including the impressive Berthier Gallery with 130 canvases and fascinating grottos. The garden is a unique example of a Baroque Italian style garden, full of different tree species from all over the world. After this, we reach Fishermen's Island by boat – still inhabited and with lots of characteristic lanes crossing it as well as the church of San Vittore and its special atmosphere.

Costs:

- **Half Day 4 hours** guide service: €180 (includes 4 hours guided tour: Fishermen's Island with the museum of fishing, Church of San Vittore, town and Isola Bella Palace guided tour, Isola Bella Gardens guided tour, Isola Bella town)
- Ticket Isola Bella Palace + Gardens: €17 per person
- Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables €7 per person (includes a ticket for tour guide). Option Private boat at our complete disposal 4 hours 50 euro (from 2 to 10 pax)



THE ENCHANTING BORROMEAN ISLANDS: ISOLA BELLA, ISOLA MADRE AND FISHERMEN'S ISLAND

Today is dedicated to visiting these island gems, taking a boat from one to the other, in order to enjoy the amazing views which can be enjoyed from different viewpoints on the Borromean Gulf. The tour comprises of Isola Bella and the Fishermen's island as above but after this, we visit Isola Madre, famous for its lush garden, rich with rare plants, the Cashmere cypress and unfettered peacocks and pheasants. After the gardens, we visit a collection of marionettes hosted in the Palace.

Costs:

- **Full Day** 7 hours guide service: €250 (includes 7 hours guided tour: Fishermen's Island with the museum of fishing, Church of San Vittore, town and Isola Bella Palace guided tour, Isola Bella Gardens guided tour, Isola Bella town. Isola Madre Botanical Garden guided tour, Isola Madre Palace and Marionettes collection guided tour, guided boat tour on Borromean Gulf)
- Ticket Isola Bella Palace + Gardens: €24 per person
- Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables €13,80 per person (includes a ticket for tour guide). Option: Private boat at our complete disposal 7 hours €90 euro (from 2 to 10 pax)



STRESA, VILLA PALLAVICINO

After landing on the lake promenade of Stresa, enjoy a guided walk in Stresa and finally reach Villa Pallavicino (30/45 min walk). This was the private residence of the noble Pallavicino family who enlarged the estate, transforming it from a simple dwelling into the splendid nineteenth-century neoclassical-style villa that still stands on the hill today, but not accessible to the public. In 1956, the Pallavicino family decided to transform their gorgeous garden into a wildlife museum open to the public. Today we visit the gardens with its wonderful trees: centuries-old chestnuts and giant liriiodendrons, red beeches, maples, larches, ginkgo bilobas, redwoods, magnolias, the great Lebanon cedar and the unmissable Flower Garden. Above all, the Parco Pallavicino is famous for over fifty animal species living including zebras, kangaroos, coatis, cranes and flamingos.

- **Half Day 3 hours** guide service: €150 (includes 3 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Stresa, guided tour of Villa Pallavicino gardens, guided cruise on the Borromean Gulf, guided tour of Santa Caterina Hermitage).

Note: You can also choose a full day guide service (7 hours) at €250, Santa Caterina Hermitage (see below) and Villa Pallavicino.

- Ticket: €11 per person

- Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect: c. €8 round trip



SANTA CATERINA HERMITAGE

From Stresa, we take the public boat to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina which stands on a cliff overlooking Lake Maggiore, in Leggiuno, a balcony which faces the lake. The hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso consists of three buildings: the southern convent, the convent and the church. We visit the chapter room with its beautiful frescoes, the small convent, and finally the small church flanked by the 14th-century bell tower. Inside, the altar is surrounded by murals of great artistic value.

Costs:

- **Half Day 3 hours** guide service: €150 (includes 3 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Stresa, guided cruise on the boat to Santa Caterina and tour of Santa Caterina Hermitage.

- Ticket: €5 per person

- Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect (limited journeys from Stresa to Santa Caterina): €7 round trip from Stresa, €15,50 round trip from Fishermen's Island (includes ticket for tour guide from Stresa). Option Private boat at our complete disposal 7 hours €120 (from 2 to 10 pax).

Note: Note: You can also opt for a full day guide service (7 hours) at €250, Santa Caterina Hermitage and Villa Pallavicino.



LANDSCAPE MUSEUM AND VILLA TARANTO UNIQUE GARDEN IN VERBANIA

The Museo del Paesaggio (“Landscape Museum”) of Verbania is one of the focal points of the local artistic heritage, with the most important collection of paintings and sculpture in the area. It was founded in 1909 by Antonio Massara with the intention of highlighting the scenic beauty of the Lake Maggiore area through art. We visit Palazzo Viani Dugnani with paintings by major local artists such as Daniele Ranzoni, Achille Tominetti, Carlo Fornara and Mario Tozzi, starting in the second half of the 19th century, when Romanticism was followed by the “Scapigliatura” movement and by Symbolism. Sculpture is also on display in Palazzo Viani Dugnani, particularly works by Arturo Martini and Paolo Troubetzkoy. Born in Intra in 1866 to a family of Russian origin, Troubetzkoy had exhibitions all over Italy and abroad; the Russian State Museum in Moscow still displays his statue of Emperor Alexander III, commissioned in 1900. Then we visit one of the most beautiful gardens in the Lake District, in Verbania on Lake Maggiore: the result of the work and passion of Captain McEacharn who realised his dream. These gardens are famous around the world and offer the best in each season of the year: 80,000 tulips in April, azaleas and rhododendron until May, 1700 dahlias, water lilies and the rare Victoria Cruziana from summer to autumn, and autumn leaves from October to November. You will hear about curiosities, stories and use of the plants as well as learning more about the garden’s styles.

Costs:

- **Full Day** 7 hours guide service: €250 (includes 7 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Verbania, guided tour of Museo del Paesaggio, guided cruise on the Borromean Gulf, guided tour of Villa Taranto Botanical Garden)

Notes: **You can also opt for a half day guide service (3 hours) at €150, either Landscape Museum or Villa Taranto.** Boat prices and entrances don’t change in this case.

- Ticket: €5 euro per person Museo del Paesaggio, €11 for Villa Taranto

- Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €13,80 euro per person (includes ticket for tour guide). Option Private boat at our complete disposal 7 hours €120 (from 2 to 10 pax).



GUIDED TOURS OF LAKE ORTA BY BEATRICE BARILETTA

LAKE ORTA: VISIT TO THE SACRO MONTE AND TO THE BURGH OF ORTA SAN GIULIO

Lake Orta is known as one of the most romantic lakes in Italy - you can always feel a magical atmosphere just by looking at its waters. We will our visit at the Sacro Monte, a devotional complex of chapels built between the late 16th and early 17th centuries, which lies on the hill above the village, looking out over Lake Orta.

This Sacro Monte is dedicated to the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, which is represented through terracotta statues and frescos. Here art and architecture combine with the beauty and harmony of its natural setting, and contribute to create a special atmosphere. After this, we head to the village of Orta with many picturesque streets and narrow cobbled lanes, flanked by old stone walls and ancient architraves, the Piazza Motta which is the main square of the village, and the Church of Maria Assunta.

Costs:

- **Half Day** 4 hours guide service: €180 (includes 4 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Orta, guided walk to Sacro Monte, guided visit of the Sacro Monte)



LAKE ORTA: VISIT TO THE BURGH AND TO THE ISLAND OF SAINT GIULIO

Lake Orta, with its characteristic village and the Island of Saint Giulio in the middle, is a small gem set among the mountains and hills that enclosed it.

The visit begins in the village of Orta with many picturesque streets and narrow cobbled lanes, flanked by old stone walls and ancient architraves, the Piazza Motta the main square of the village, and the Church of Maria Assunta. Then, we take a boat to reach the picturesque Island of Saint Giulio to pay a visit to the ancient Basilica, rich in beautiful frescoes and the famous medieval pulpit in serpentine. We visit the Island by walking the 'Silence Way' around the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae.

Costs:

- **Half Day** 3 hours guide service: €150 (includes 3 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Orta, guided boat drive to Island of Saint Giulio, guided visit of the ancient Basilica and Island of San Giulio)
- Boat: €4,5 per person with private boat



LAKE ORTA COMPLETE VISIT: SACRO MONTE, BURGH OF ORTA SAN GIULIO, ISLAND OF SAINT GIULIO

Lake Orta is known as one of the most romantic lakes in Italy - you can always feel a magical atmosphere just by looking at its waters. We will our visit at the Sacro Monte, a devotional complex of chapels built between the late 16th and early 17th centuries, which lies on the hill above the village, looking out over Lake Orta.

This Sacro Monte is dedicated to the life of Saint Francis of Assisi, which is represented through terracotta statues and frescos. Here art and architecture combine with the beauty and harmony of its natural setting, and contribute to create a special atmosphere. After this, we head to the village of Orta with many picturesque streets and narrow cobbled lanes, flanked by old stone walls and ancient architraves, the Piazza Motta which is the main square of the village, and the Church of Maria Assunta.

Then, we take a boat to reach the picturesque Island of Saint Giulio to pay a visit to the ancient Basilica, rich in beautiful frescoes and the famous medieval pulpit in serpentine. We visit the Island by walking the 'Silence Way' around the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae.

Costs:

- **Full Day** 7 hours guide service: €250 (includes 7 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Orta, guided walk to Sacro Monte, guided visit of the Sacro Monte, guided boat drive to Island of Saint Giulio, guided visit of the ancient Basilica and Island of San Giulio)
- Boat: €4.50 per person with private boat



Beatrice Bariletta

Tour guide, Naturalist Hiking guide, Tour leader, Nordic walking instructor

English, Spanish, French

Via Murata, 50 - Villadossola (VB) - Italy

mob: + 39 347 4413832

e-mail: beatricebariletta@hotmail.com

www.ossolahiking.com/ossolahiking/benvenuti.html

