

ON FOOT HOLIDAYS GUIDED TOURS AVAILABLE FROM OUR LOCAL CONTACT - 2026



Beatrice (Bea) grew up in the Ossola Valley near Lakes Maggiore and Orta and loves walking and hiking in any mountain range, but especially in the Alps, where she lives. She's a licensed hiking and tour guide, loves nature and culture and has a special interest in flora, and fauna (especially birdwatching!), as well as Italian art. She never tires of guests being surprised and inspired by the beauty of the landscape she calls home, which is always changing according to the season.

This selection of guided tours can be adapted if need be to the clients' wishes and is of course subject to her availability, so book early.

Beatrice Bariletta

Tour guide, naturalist hiking guide, tour leader,
Nordic walking instructor

Official guide of Val Grande

Official Guide Sacro Monte Orta

English, Spanish, French spoken

Via Murata, 50 - Villadossola (VB) - Italy

mob: + 39 347 4413832

e-mail: beatricebariletta@hotmail.com

www.ossolahiking.com/ossolahiking/benvenuti.html



LAKE MAGGIORE
(Before starting your holiday)

ISOLA BELLA AND FISHERMEN'S ISLAND



The Borromean Islands have charmed visitors for centuries. On this tour, visit Isola Bella, famous for its sumptuous palace, rich with tapestries, antique furniture, grottos and historic paintings. The recently restored and very impressive Berthier Gallery has 130 canvases on show. The garden is a unique example of a Baroque Italian-style garden, full of different tree species from all over the world. Then we head to Fishermen's Island by boat. It is still inhabited and has lots of characteristic lanes crossing it, the church of San Vittore and its unique atmosphere.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 4 hours guided trip: €220 (includes 4 hours guided tour: Fishermen's Island with the museum of fishing, Church of San Vittore and town; Isola Bella guided tour including the Palace, Gardens and town).

Ticket Isola Bella Palace + Gardens: €25/6 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: public boat with fixed timetables €5 per person plus €1 per person landing tax (to pay also the ticket for tour guide).

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



The Borromean Islands have charmed visitors for centuries. We will dedicate the whole day to the visit of these gems moving by boat from one to the other, in order to enjoy the amazing views that are gained from the different points of view of the Borromean Gulf. On this tour, visit Isola Bella, famous for its sumptuous palace, rich with tapestries, antique furniture, grottos and historic paintings. The recently restored Berthier Gallery has 130 canvases on show. The garden is a unique example of a Baroque Italian-style garden, full of tree species from all over the world. Then we head to Fishermen's Island by boat. It is still inhabited and has lots of characteristic lanes crossing it, the church of San Vittore and its unique atmosphere. We then head to Isola Madre, famous for its lush garden, rich with rare plants (including the Cashmere cypress), and peacocks and pheasants have free range of the gardens. Also visit the collection of marionettes hosted in the palace.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Full Day 7 hours guided trip: €320 (includes 7 hours guided tour: Fishermen's Island with the museum of fishing, Church of San Vittore, town; Isola Bella including the Palace, Gardens and town; Isola Madre botanical garden guided tour including the Palace and marionettes collection; guided boat tour on Borromean Gulf. Stop for lunch on one of the islands). *Note: the full day option is ideal if you want to take your time looking around with no rush and dedicate the whole day to see the island more carefully and also in case you want to have lunch with no rush.*

Half Day 4 hours guided trip: €260 (includes 4 hours guided tour in the morning or afternoon: Isola Bella Palace guided tour, part of Isola Bella Gardens guided tour, Isola Madre botanical garden guided tour, Isola Madre part of the Palace and Marionettes collection guided tour. It does not include Fishermen's Island and lunch stop.) *Note: the half day option is ideal if you want to see the most important parts of the islands by skipping some parts and have the other half of the day free for yourself. For this option the private boat is recommended as it permits spare time on transfers and more time for the visits.*

Ticket Isola Bella Palace and gardens + Isola Madre Palace and gardens: €37 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €15.50 per person plus €1.50 per person landing tax (to pay also the ticket for tour guide).

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal 4 or 7 hours: rates on request.

STRESA, VILLA PALLAVICINO



We will stop on the lake promenade of Stresa and enjoy a guided walk in Stresa, finally reaching Villa Pallavicino (30/45 min walk). This became a private residence, and the noble Pallavicino family enlarged the estate, transforming it from a simple dwelling into the splendid 19th century neoclassical-style villa that still stands on the hill today (but was not accessible to the public). In 1956, the Pallavicinos decided to transform their marvelous garden into a wildlife museum, open to the public. We will visit the gardens with their wonderful trees: centuries-old chestnuts and giant liriodendrons, red beeches, maples, larches, ginkgo bilobas, redwoods and magnolias, the great Lebanon cedar and the unmissable Flower Garden. Above all, the Parco Pallavicino is famous for over 50 animal species living here, including zebras, kangaroos, coatis, cranes and flamingos.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 3 hours guided trip: €220 (includes 3 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Stresa, guided tour of Villa Pallavicino gardens)

Ticket: €17 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €5 per person

Note: You can also decide for a full day guided trip (7 hours) at €320, adding Santa Caterina Hermitage (see below).

+ Ticket: €5 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect: €15.50 round trip (to pay also the ticket for tour guide from Stresa €6.80).



SANTA CATERINA HERMITAGE



From Stresa we take the public boat to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina in Leggiuno. The hermitage stands on a cliff overlooking Lake Maggiore and consists of three buildings: the southern convent, the convent and the church. We will visit the chapter room with beautiful frescoes, the 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 (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 3 hours guided trip: €220 (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 (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect (consider limited rides from Stresa to Santa Caterina): €6.80 round trip from Stresa, €15.50 round trip from Fishermen's Island (to pay also the ticket for tour guide from Stresa €6.80)

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal 3 or 7 hours: rates on request.

Note: You can also decide for full day guided service (7 hours) at €320, Santa Caterina Hermitage and Villa Pallavicino (see program above).

VILLA TARANTO – A UNIQUE GARDEN IN VERBANIA



A guided visit of 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 very well-known around the world and offer the best of each season of the year: 80,000 tulips in April, azaleas and rhododendron until May, 1700 dahlias, water lilies, the rare Victoria Cruziana from summer to autumn, and the autumn foliage from October to November. You will learn about the curiosities, stories, uses of the plants and gardens' styles.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 3 hours guided trip: €220 (includes 3 hours guided tour: guided tour of Villa Taranto Botanical Garden)

Ticket: €15 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €12.40 per person roundtrip (to pay also the ticket for tour guide – or not if the guide waits for you in Villa Taranto).

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal: rates by request.

Note: You can also decide for a full day guided trip (7 hours) at €320, Villa Taranto and Pallanza and the Landscape Museum (see program below)

Full Day 7 hours guided trip: €320 (includes 7 hours guided tour: guided tour of Villa Taranto Botanical Garden, Pallanza and the Landscape Museum)

Ticket: €8 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €20.70 per person roundtrip.

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal: rates by request.

VISIT TO PALLANZA AND THE LANDSCAPE MUSUEM



The sunny center of Pallanza offers much inspiration: from the views of the lakeside promenade with its beautiful villas, to the narrow streets of the interior that conceal a medieval center to be discovered. The Landscape Museum is one of the cornerstones of the local artistic heritage, where the most important collections of painting and sculpture are housed. The most consistent and significant nucleus of the art gallery is represented by the Lombard and Piedmontese paintings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the important works of Guido Boggiani, Arnaldo Ferraguti, Daniele Ranzoni and Mario Tozzi. The sculpture section includes the gipsoteca that houses 340 works by the impressionist sculptor Paolo Troubetzkoy (1866-1938), and by Arturo Martini (1889-1947), considered the most important Italian sculptor between the two wars.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 3 hours guided trip: €210 (includes 3 hours guided tour: guided tour of Pallanza and the Landscape Museum)

Ticket: €8 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €10 per person roundtrip.

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal: rates by request.

Note: You can also decide for a full day guided trip (7 hours) at €320, Villa Taranto and Pallanza and the Landscape Museum (see program above)

Full Day 7 hours guided trip: €320 (includes 7 hours guided tour: guided tour of Villa Taranto Botanical Garden, Pallanza and the Landscape Museum)

Ticket: €8 per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

Boat: option public boat with fixed timetables to respect €20.70 per person roundtrip.

Option: Private boat at our complete disposal: rates by request.

LAKE ORTA

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



Lake Orta is known as one of the most romantic lakes in Italy and you can always feel a magic atmosphere by looking at its waters.

We will start our visit from 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 frescoes. In this place, art and architecture combine with the beauty and harmony of its natural setting, and contribute to create a special atmosphere.

After this visit, we will continue to 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.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 3 hours guided trip: €220 euro (includes 3 hours guided tour: Guided walking tour of Orta, guided walk to Sacro Monte, guided visit of the Sacro Monte)

LAKE ORTA: VISIT TO THE BURG 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.

We will start our visit in 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 will take a boat to reach the picturesque Island of Saint Giulio, visit the ancient Basilica rich with beautiful frescoes and the famous medieval pulpit in serpentine. We will visit the Island walking the Silence Way around the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 2 hours guided trip: €200 (includes 2 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: €5 per person with private boat (no ticket to pay for the guide)



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



Lake Orta is known as one of the most romantic lakes in Italy and you can always feel a magic atmosphere by looking at its waters.

We will start our visit from 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 frescoes. In this place, art and architecture combine with the beauty and harmony of its natural setting, and contribute to creating a special atmosphere.

After this visit we will continue to 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 will take a boat to reach the picturesque Island of Saint Giulio. Here we will visit the ancient Basilica rich with beautiful frescoes and the famous medieval pulpit in serpentine. We will visit the Island walking the Silence Way around the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Half Day 4 hours guided trip: €260 (includes 4 hours guided tour: short guided walking tour of Orta, guided walk to Sacro Monte, guided visit to some of the chapels of the Sacro Monte, guided boat drive to Island of Saint Giulio, guided visit of the ancient Basilica and Island of San Giulio).

Boat: €5 euro per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

**LAKE ORTA COMPLETE VISIT:
SACRO MONTE, BURG OF ORTA SAN GIULIO, ISLAND OF SAINT GIULIO,
PRIVATE GARDEN**



Lake Orta is known as one of the most romantic lakes in Italy and you can always feel a magic atmosphere by looking at its waters.

We will start our visit from 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 frescoes. In this place, art and architecture combine with the beauty and harmony of its natural setting, and contribute to creating a special atmosphere.

After this visit we will continue to 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 will take a boat to reach the picturesque Island of Saint Giulio. Here we will visit the ancient Basilica rich with beautiful frescoes and the famous medieval pulpit in serpentine. We will visit the Island walking the Silence Way around the Monastery Mater Ecclesiae.

We can add the visit to a private garden, a 5-acre English landscaped garden ornamented with centuries-old trees, including a 600+ years Chestnut, Rhododendrons, Camelliae, Azaleas and various species of Hydrangeas. Overlooking Lake Orta, San Giulio island and Mount Rosa, it provides a poetic and peaceful scenery and experience.

Costs (pay locally to Beatrice):

Full Day 7 hours guided trip: €320 (includes 7 hours guided tour: Short guided walking tour of Orta, guided walk to Sacro Monte, guided visit to some of the chapels of the Sacro Monte, guided boat drive to Island of Saint Giulio, guided visit of the ancient Basilica and Island of San Giulio, visit to the private garden)

Ticket: €15 per person + €60 for private entry to the garden (possibility to add a cocktail or gelato and/or the visit of a specialized gardener)

Boat: €5 euro per person (no ticket to pay for the guide)

ITINERARIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BOTANICAL TOURS - also with special openings of private gardens

CULTURAL TOURS - also with special openings of usually closed places (Romanesque churches etc)

WINE TOURS - visit to special cellars, wine tastings

LOCAL FOOD TOURS - to local producers of cheese, wine, honey, aromatic herbs... can add tastings, visit to local markets, laboratories etc



Notes:

Half day service is intended in the morning or in the afternoon (before or after lunch time).

If you are interested, please book your tours with plenty of notice.

PRE OR POST-TOUR TAILOR-MADE HIKES IN OSSOLA VALLEY AND VAL GRANDE NATIONAL PARK



Just one hour by car from Lake Orta or Malpensa airport, you can reach the Alps of Ossola Valley and its wonderful hikes. The area is rich with natural parks; Devero Natural Park and Alta Valle Antrona Natural Park, with lakes and larch woods. Val Grande National Park is considered one of the wildest areas of the Alps and it is recommended to be guided by an official guide there. Each one of the valleys of Ossola is different, dotted with small hamlets with characteristic rural architecture and slate roofs.

You can also discover the Walser villages, built by a Germanic population who settled there in the 12th century, with their marked culture, language and architecture. You can hike in the gorges of Uriezzo or in front of Mount Rosa, the second highest peak in the Alps.

According to the season, Beatrice can plan the best hike for you and guide you to discover the mountain area just behind the lakes.

