



Tempio Voltiano

# 24 HOURS TO DISCOVER THE CITY

Have you just arrived in Como and have the day to get to know the city but don't know where to start?

Here are some tips to help you make the most of your time:

## THE WALLED CITY, A PRECIOUS TREASURE CHEST

For city lovers, a stroll through the picturesque historical city centre and perhaps a spot of shopping, with appetising breaks in-between your sightseeing expeditions



Approximate duration: without visiting the inside of monuments, about 1 hour

## A NATURAL ENERGY BOOST

For landscape and nature lovers, a walk along the lakeshore and a hike in the hills taking the funicular railway



Approximate duration: lakeshore walk, about 1 hour and 40 minutes; including the trip by funicular railway, about 4 hours

## REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST AND LOTS TO STIMULATE CURIOSITY

For history lovers attracted by the past, a visit to the city's museums



Approximate duration: around 1 hour for each museum

...and while 24 hours are not enough to discover all that the city has to offer, they are definitely a good place to start and think about your next trip to the lake!



# COMO in 24 hours



COMUNE DI  
COMO



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Villa Olmo

## Travelling to Como from:



Bergamo	1,19' / 92 km	1,40'
Brescia	1,45' / 136 km	1,35'
Cremona	1,51' / 149 km	2,11'
Lecco	0,45' / 32 km	1,12'
Lodi	1,14' / 91 km	1,43'
Mantova	2,37' / 223 km	2,59'
Milano	0,57' / 50 km	1,02'
Monza Brianza	0,56' / 41 km	1,09'
Pavia	1,13' / 88 km	1,36'
Sondrio	1,46' / 111 km	2,41'
Varese	0,57' / 31 km	0,43'
Lugano	0,44' / 39 km	1,01'
Locarno	1,14' / 73 km	1,21'

google maps

For lots more information and all the events point your phone to the screen to capture the QR CODE of [visitcomo.eu](http://visitcomo.eu)





## THE WALLED CITY, A PRECIOUS TREASURE CHEST

The historical city centre of Como, within the medieval walls, preserves the charm of days gone by and is easily accessible on foot. The main entrance is from the imposing medieval tower of **Porta Torre**. The city market takes place along the walls on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and not far away, at the Mercato Coperto (indoor market hall), you can buy locally sourced products.

Continuing along Como's elegant shopping streets, you will reach **piazza San Fedele**, once piazza del Mercato del Grano, with its 12th-century Romanesque Basilica of the same name and its Renaissance buildings with exposed wood and herringbone brickwork.

You will then arrive in piazza Duomo, where you can admire the majestic **Cathedral**, dominated by the great baroque dome by Filippo Juvarra and characterised by the statues of Plinio the Elder and Plinio the Younger, adorning the late Gothic facade in precious white marble. Next to it stand the **civic belfry** and the thirteenth century **Broletto** (Medieval town hall). Behind the Cathedral is the neoclassical **Teatro Sociale** and the masterpiece of Italian rationalism,



Cathedral and Broletto

Past the futuristic **War Memorial**, from whose summit you can admire breath-taking views, and the hangar of the

the **Casa del Fascio** (1932-36) designed by architect Giuseppe Terragni. Close by is the lake-facing piazza Cavour, until 1871 a sixteenth century port and still today the docking point for public ferries and the starting point for daily excursions to Lake Como's famous locations.

## A NATURAL ENERGY BOOST

It's impossible to think of Como without thinking of its lake. The walk "embracing" the main basin in both directions offers wonderfully romantic views allowing you to dive into the lake's peaceful and relaxing atmospheres. Here, the pictures simply take themselves! Starting from **piazza Cavour**, head west in the direction of the outer breakwater and the **Life Electric** monument by architect Daniel Libeskind dedicated to Alessandro Volta, the illustrious scientist from Como whose inventions and possessions are displayed in the nearby neoclassical

**Tempio Voltiano**.

international seaplane airport, starts a walk along the villas of Borgo Vico (now passeggiata Lino Gelpi): an evocative sequence of elegant aristocratic homes built between the 18th and 19th centuries, as far as the majestic **Villa Olmo** with its beautiful Italian-style garden at the front and English-style park at the back. The romantic eastward walk ends at **Villa Geno**, where a powerful fountain jet greets the ferries entering the bay.

Teatro Sociale



Along the way, in piazza Alcide De Gasperi, you will come across the art Nouveau **funicular railway station** taking you in just seven minutes up as far as Brunate, the "balcony" overlooking the Alps. From here, the breath-taking views are an experience not to be missed!

## REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST AND LOTS TO STIMULATE CURIOSITY

Perhaps not everybody knows that it is to Como's famous scholar, Paolo Giovio, that we owe the modern idea of museum.

The **Civic Picture Gallery** in Palazzo Volpi, within the city walls, hosts 40 of the portraits of illustrious men originally collected by Giovio in his villa in Borgo Vico, later destroyed, which he called



Ritratto di Dante

"Museo" (the Italian word for museum). Visiting all four sections of the Picture Gallery is like taking a journey into the past, starting from the Middle Ages, passing through the Renaissance, with a remarkable panel painting (Virgo advocata) thought to be by Antonello da Messina, and reaching the 20th century, with paintings by the Como Group of abstract artists and drawings by the futurist architect Antonio Sant'Elia.



Villa Geno

The **Archaeological Museum** and the **Historical Museum** in piazza Medaglie d'Oro, both temporarily closed, house numerous historical artefacts from the Como area, dating back from protohistoric civilizations

through to Ancient Rome and up to the unification of Italy.

The **Educational Silk Museum** in via Castelnuovo, outside the city walls, documents and celebrates Como's textile production, a tradition that has earned it worldwide fame as the City of Silk.

The tour ends with the marvellous 14th-century frescoes in the apse of the **Basilica of Sant'Abbondio**, just a 10-minute walk from Porta Torre. The Basilica itself is a splendid example of Romanesque architecture, featuring - uncharacteristically for Italy - twin bell towers.



S. Abbondio