



# COMO in 48 hours



Point your phone to the screen to capture the QR CODE



Chilometro della Conoscenza

# 48 HOURS TO DISCOVER THE CITY AND THE LAKE

You obviously don't have to follow the schedule proposed and can organise your two-day break as you wish, the only common denominator being at least one overnight stay in the city.

## DAY 1 MORE THAN A CITY

The first part of the day can be spent in the historical centre of Como, a precious treasure chest of buildings and memories of the past. The city's Roman origins can be seen in the remains of a large **roman baths** in Viale Lecco. The **Museo Archeologico** (Archaeological Museum) in Piazza Medaglie d'Oro, which is temporarily closed, devotes an entire section to finds from the daily life of the ancient inhabitants. Not far away is **Porta Torre**, an imposing medieval tower and the **Romanesque walls** where the lively city market is held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. **San Fedele**, in the picturesque square of the same name, and **Sant'Abbondio** are Romanesque basilicas, the latter a little outside the historical centre, but not to be missed for the cycle of 14th-century frescoes in its apse and its two exceptional bell towers. The stone working that brought fame to the local craftsmen, the "Maestri Comacini", is well documented at the **Pinacoteca Civica** (Civic Art Gallery). Exhibits in the Pinacoteca also feature throughout the city and the 20th-century section is a good example. Here, photos, drawings

by the futurist architecture Antonio Sant'Elia, paintings by the Como Group of abstract artists, sculptures and prototype furniture from the Sant'Elia nursery school by Terragni, illustrate the artistic fervour of that period and the architectural renewal brought about by Rationalism. The architect Giuseppe Terragni was its greatest exponent and it was in Como that he created his masterpieces: the **Novocomum** (1927-29), the **Casa del Fascio** (1932-36) and **Asilo Sant'Elia** (1936-37).

Lunchtime already? All you have to do is decide between a small restaurant in one of the characteristic streets in the old town or one with a lake view, with food ranging from local, zero-km cuisine to international and starred dishes.

The day can then continue with a relaxing walk along the lakefront.

Walking towards Villa Olmo to the west, you can admire: on the outer breakwater, the Life Electric monument by architect Daniel Libeskind dedicated to Alessandro



Piazza San Fedele

Staying overnight in Como and want to get to know the city and its lake? With two days at your disposal you can ... happily enjoy visiting churches and museums, shopping and good food if you prefer a city break; ... take a trip on board the lake ferries, if you want to fully experience the magic of the "most beautiful lake in the world". ... set off along the many scenic trails in the surrounding mountains, if you are a keen hiker or MTB fan;

Whatever your passion, Como is the perfect choice!

## Day 1 MORE THAN A CITY

## Day 2 GREEN AND BLUE WELL-BEING AT THE LAKE

... and while 48 hours might not sound long enough, it's enough for a real holiday feeling.

N.B.: before setting out, check ferry times and opening hours of villas and parks, mountain huts and refuges—they change with the seasons!

for info, guided visits and events, scan the visitcomo.eu QR code







Volta, the illustrious scientist from Como and inventor of the battery, whose prototype, together with other relics and inventions, is preserved in the nearby **Tempio Voltiano**, the only mausoleum in the world erected in memory of a scientist, and a little further on, the **War Memorial**. From the park of Villa Olmo continue along the **“Chilometro della Conoscenza”** (Kilometre of Knowledge), an extraordinarily scenic nature, that takes you past aristocratic residences and luxuriant gardens. Once you reach the hamlet of Tavernola or Cernobbio, you can return to the central Piazza Cavour in Como by boat.

A little shopping and a generous aperitif to end the day, perhaps in front of the majestic late gothic **Cathedral, civic belfry** and 13th-century **Broletto** (town hall) or in some other characteristic corner of the historical centre.

An alternative to an evening aperitif in the city could be to take the funicular railway (only 7 minutes) up to the picturesque hamlet of **Brunate** and, after reaching the Faro Voltiano (Volta Lighthouse) (about 48 minutes on foot, 2.5 km), enjoy a sunset with a view of the lake and the Monte Rosa chain before descending.

## DAY 2 GREEN AND BLUE WELL-BEING AT THE LAKE

Como is the starting point for exploring the lake at any time of year.

“See the lake ... from the lake” is the

slogan of the **Navigazione Lago di Como** ferry company, which sums up a must-try experience for enjoying unique scenery. The ticket office (tickets also online at [www.navigazione.laghi.it](http://www.navigazione.laghi.it)) and the Navigazione piers are located near Piazza Cavour, the ancient 16th-century port, which was filled in in 1871. Traditional slow-moving steamers or modern, fast catamarans and hydrofoils offer cruises to the small villages on the banks of Lake Como.

There are many options: from a tour of the first basin, between the villages of **Cernobbio-Moltrasio-Torno** and **Urio**, which takes about an hour, with the possibility of intermediate stops; to a cruise to the centre of the lake, which takes you to some of the most famous places and period villas: **Villa del Balbianello** in Lenno, **Villa Carlotta** in Tremezzo, **Villa Melzi** in Bellagio, **Villa Monastero** and **Villa Cipressi** in Varenna.

If you prefer to drive, there is a ferry service in the centre of the lake that takes you across to the other side of the lake so you can continue your tour on the Lecco branch. The surprises don't stop here: in the municipality of Ossuccio (26.5 km from Como) stands the only island in the lake, **Isola Comacina**, rich in history, as can be seen from the early Christian and early medieval architectural remains visible along the nature trail that crosses it; opposite, on the mainland, is the **Sacro Monte di Ossuccio**, a devotional complex listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Have you brought your beloved bike with you? Fitter cyclists can set out from Como and follow a circular route of about 85 km that takes you to iconic places: the scenic SP 583 road brings you to Bellagio, the start of the climb that leads to the **Sanctuary of the Madonna del Ghisallo**, the patron saint of cyclists. The small church and the **Cycling Museum**, with its memorabilia, are worth a visit, then it's downhill towards Erba and at the junction for **Sormano** the legendary



Isola Comacina

Bikes can also be loaded onto the Como-Brunate funicular railway. From the small village, mountain bike enthusiasts can ride to Bellagio, a route of around 36 km that

winds its way along the **“Triangolo Lariano”**, with some challenging stretches that however repay your efforts with breath-taking scenery. Local specialities are served in the many mountain huts that line the ridges and appetising aromas will make it hard to resist

the temptation of taking a break.

These trails can obviously also be walked and keen hikers are spoilt for choice: from the routes in the **Spina Verde Regional Park**, close to the city, that lead to medieval Baradello Castle and the archaeological sites of protohistoric Como, to the scenic Greenway that takes you 10 km from the village of Colonno on the lake to Griante, to the more challenging trails of the “Alta Via del Lario” on the western branch and the **“Sentiero del Viandante”** on the Lecco side, to be covered in stages with overnight stays in mountain refuges.

“Muro” awaits those who still want to test themselves on one of the toughest climbs.

Villa Melzi



The descent towards Nesso joins the SP 583 again and takes you back to Como along the lakeside. Hard work, but also exhilarating, along the roads ridden by the pro cyclists who every year take part in the Giro di Lombardia.

There are cycle paths in the centre and around the upper part of the lake that are suitable for everyone and away from traffic: the **“Menaggio-Portezza”**, along the route of an old railway line that leads from Lake Como to the shores of Lake Ceresio and also the dirt and asphalt cycle path from **Dongo** to **Colico**, by parks, beaches and through the Pian di Spagna nature reserve.

If at some point you run out of energy, remember that bicycles can be taken on some of the



Villa Carlotta

