



Milan & the Lakes

Includes →

Milan	242
Lago Maggiore	263
Lago d'Orta	268
Lago di Como	270
Lago di Garda	281
Bergamo	289
Mantua	294
Cremona	298

Best Places to Eat

- Ratanà (p254)
- Cracco (p254)
- Seta (p254)
- Casabella (p266)
- Materia (p279)

Best Places to Sleep

- Lido Palace (p286)
- Atellani Apartments (p251)
- Hotel Silvio (p275)
- Hotel Garni Villa Maria (p286)
- Da Vittorio (p292)

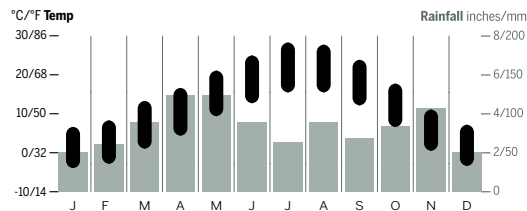
Why Go?

Wedged between the Alps and the Po valley, the lakes of Lombardy (Lombardia) were formed at the end of the last ice age, and have been a popular holiday spot since Roman times. At the region's heart is Milan, capital of the north and Italy's second-largest city. Home to the nation's stock exchange, one of Europe's biggest trade-fair grounds and an international fashion hub, it is also Italy's economic powerhouse.

Beyond Milan pretty countryside unfolds, dotted with patrician towns including Pavia, Monza, Bergamo, Cremona and Mantua; all are steeped in history, hiding Unesco monuments and world-class museums. To the north a burst of Mediterranean colour and a balmy microclimate awaits around lakes Orta, Maggiore, Como, Garda and Iseo. Ringed by hot-pink oleanders in tiered gardens, the lakes are powerfully seductive. No wonder European aristocrats, Arab princes and Hollywood celebrities choose to call this home.

When to Go

Milan



Spring (Mar–Jun)

Peak season – delightful weather, Salone (Furniture Fair) and Fashion Weeks are in progress.

Summer (Jul & Aug)

Low season in Milan. The city is hot and everyone heads to the lakes and mountains.

Winter (Nov–Feb)

Opera season starts (December); followed by Christmas fairs.

Milan & the Lakes Highlights

- 1 The Last Supper** (p247) Pondering the power of Leonardo Da Vinci's ageless painting.
- 2 Il Duomo** (p243) Climbing Milan's marble cathedral for views of spires and flying buttresses.
- 3 Museo del Novecento** (p243) Discovering the modernists who shaped Milan.
- 4 Accademia Carrara** (p291) Coming face to face with Old Masters in Bergamo's newly renovated gallery.
- 5 Isola Bella** (p265) Strolling in Lago Maggiore's most spectacular island garden.
- 6 Lago di Como** (p270) Touring this famous lake James Bond-style, in your own cigarette boat.
- 7 Riva del Garda** (p285) Sailing, surfing and kayaking beneath the snowcapped peaks.
- 8 Palazzo Ducale** (p295) Marvelling at sumptuous Renaissance frescoes in this Mantuan palace.
- 9 Orta San Giulio** (p268) Discovering lake-side bliss in this enchanting town on Lago d'Orta.

