

YOUR LOCAL SECRETS

LAKE MAGGIORE & SURROUNDINGS
NOT AN ORDINARY GUIDE



THE LOCAL GURU



Welcome to Verbania!

**This guide is a special gift
for our guest offer by the
staff of Hotel Ancora.**

**It will help you organize
your vacation to make it
truly unforgettable!**

Need help?

Call

+ 39 340 29 13 467

***The Staff of the Hotel Ancora
is at your disposal***



Where to park?

- Private garages located 200 meters from the hotel by reservation

Public parking lots:

Blue Lines for Hire

Free white lines

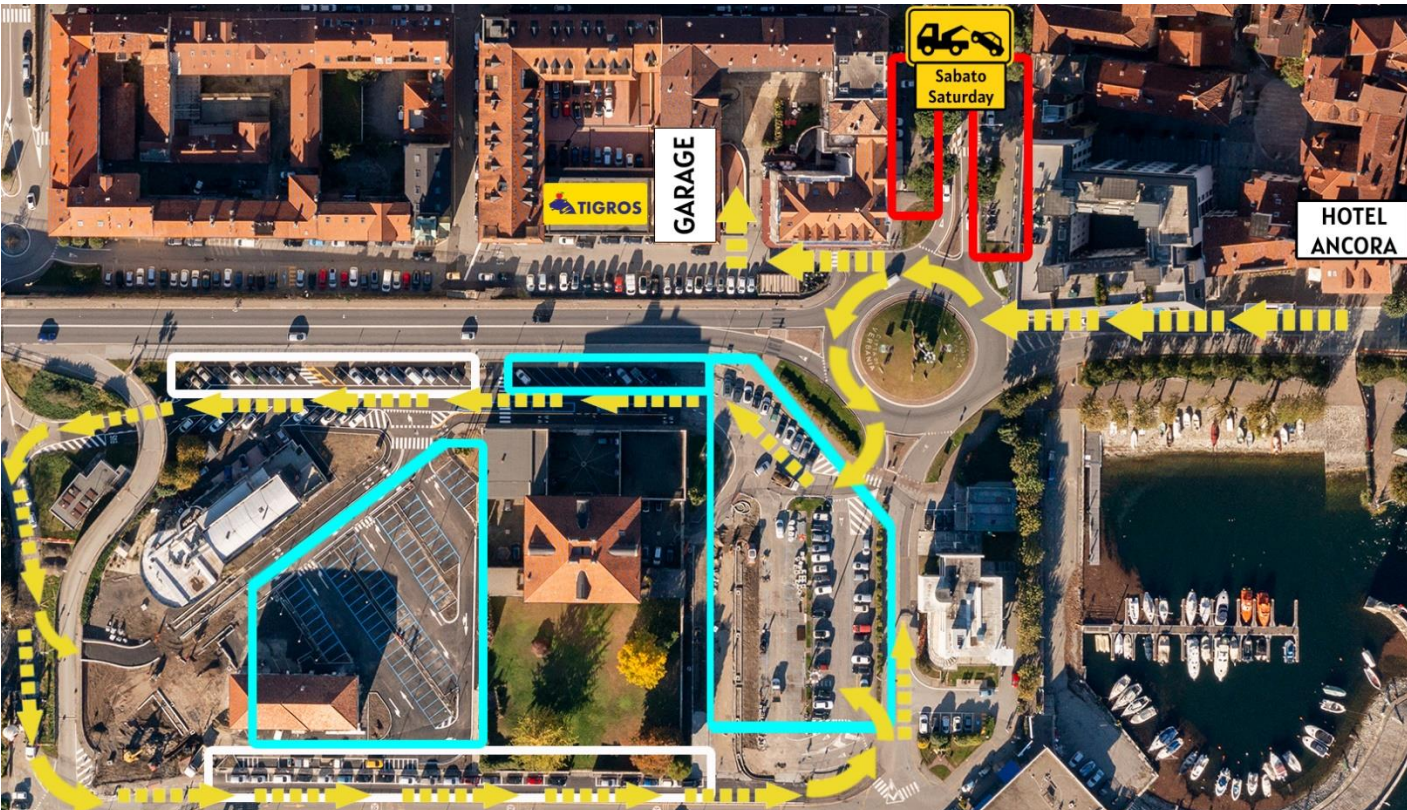


Attention!

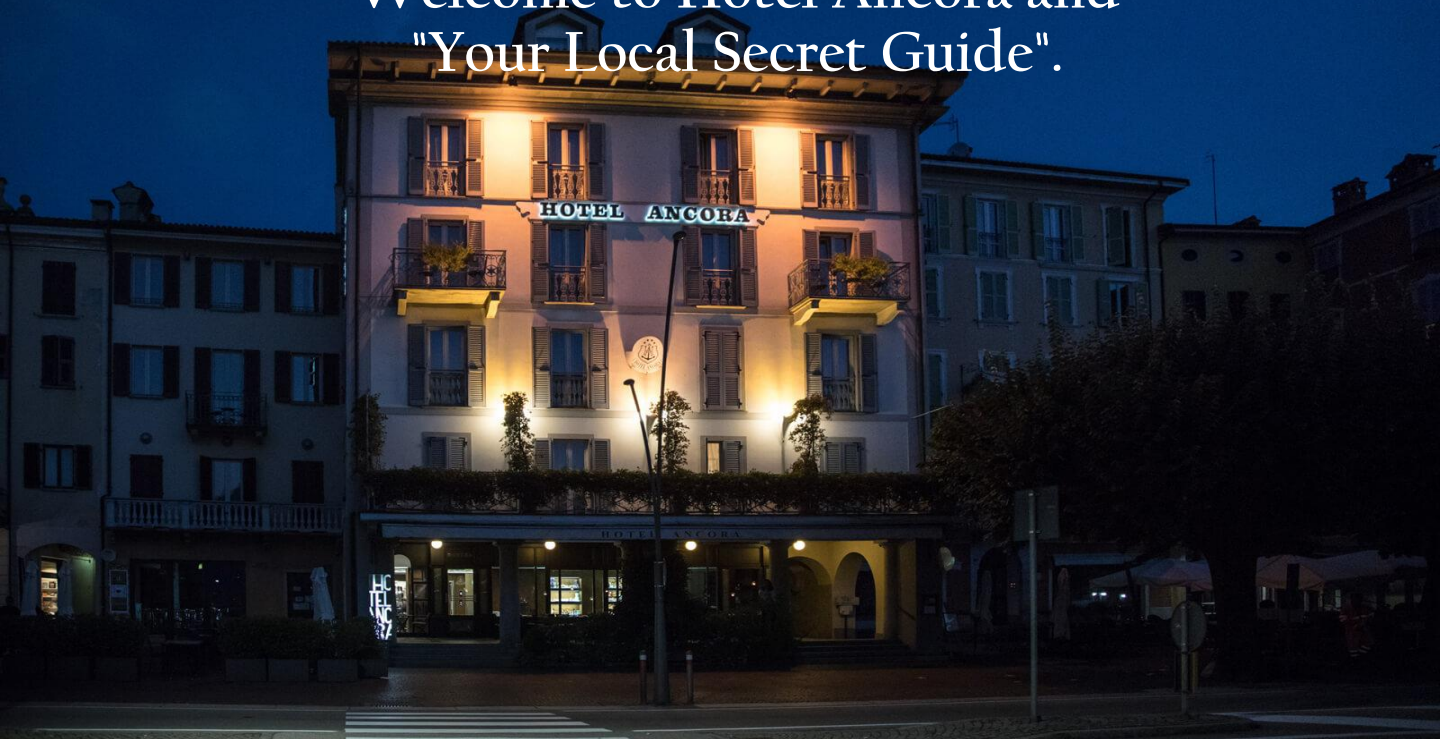
On Friday evenings and Saturdays, do not park in the red zone.

On Saturday all day, there will be the big Intra market!

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Hi, I'm your Local Guru. Welcome to Hotel Ancora and "Your Local Secret Guide".



You are about to discover the secret of how to experience a complete and rewarding holiday on Lake Maggiore and its valleys.

I've created this Local Secrets Guide to help answer the questions and challenges that every authentic traveler faces:

- Where to go according to my preferences?
- What are the best things for me to do?
- Who can give me interesting and reliable advice about the area?
- Where do I find the information I need to make the perfect plan?

The good news is that in this guide, you will find answers to all your questions.

Have fun!

Your Local Guru
Partner of Hotel Ancora, VERBANIA



Let your journey begin

HOW IS OUR GUIDE MADE?

This guide is designed for 4 specific types of travelers:

- Lovers of relaxation, good food, and good wine
- Adventure seekers and sports lovers
- Families who love to travel together
- Hopeless romantics

Among all the experiences and places that Lake Maggiore and its valleys have to offer, The Local Guru has selected the very best, in line with your personal desires.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE?

- The Local Guru Guide is made just for you, to help you quickly discover the best activities based on your preferences.
- It ensures that you'll live unforgettable moments — whether you're with others or traveling alone. Instead of spending hours looking up ideas, you'll be able to plan your days immediately and rely on trusted local recommendations.
- This guide will help you organize your journey and enjoy the best vacation of your life, with peace of mind.



HOW TO FIND WHAT YOU'LL LIKE

In each attraction you will find a label.
Each label describes whether the attraction or place or
experience is recommended based on your attitude.



RELAXATION, FOOD AND WINE LOVERS



SPORTS & ADVENTURE SEEKER



FAMILY BAND



COMPAGNIA D'AMORE



MERCATO
INTRA

verbania / lago maggiore



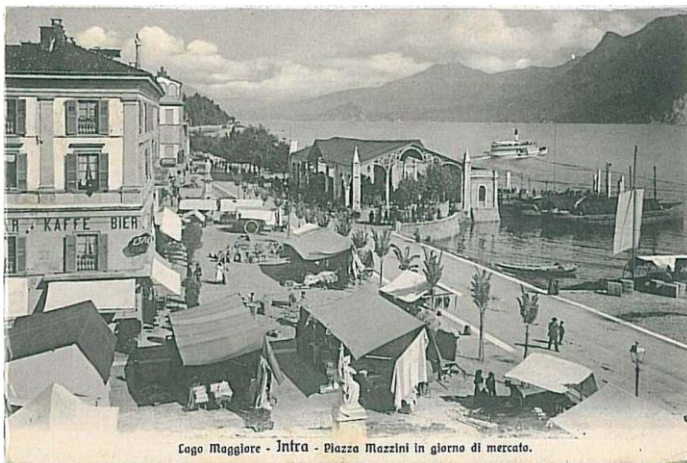
COLORS, SCENTS, FLAVORS THE HISTORY OF THE INTRA MARKET

Founded in **1393**, when it was first mentioned in the municipal statutes, the Intra Market was originally held every two weeks in the Saxony district, along the San Bernardino stream.

the market comes alive with 240 stalls across four squares in the historic center of Intra, offering: Typical cheeses, cured meats, and local delicacies Fresh fish from the lake and sea Fruits and vegetables from hilltop gardens Footwear, clothing, and a rich selection of leather goods Household linens, flowers, and toys



It's the ideal place to stroll in the open air, discover unique finds, and enjoy top-quality products at great prices.



Lago Maggiore - Intra - Piazza Mazzini in giorno di mercato.



1903 - Lago Maggiore - Mercato a Intra.



VILLA TARANTO



DISTANZA
DALL'HOTEL ANCORA

1,3 km  16 min

If you're visiting Verbania, you can't miss the Gardens of Villa Taranto, even if just for a short walk along its beautiful paths. These wonderful gardens are the result of the vision and dedication of Captain McEacharn, who began the project in 1931. **His dream lives on through the hard work of the garden's management team and gardeners, maintaining over 16,000 m², 7 km of walking paths, and more than 115,000 plants.**

Visiting Villa Taranto is like taking a journey through foreign, wild, and exotic lands.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

It is ideal to spend on eday just walking smoothly from Intra to Suna. Villa taranto is 15 min walk away from Intra, and then you can continue your walk.

I suggest you walk in this amazing park or get a guide if you are passionate about flowers, plants and curious details.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- At the entrance of Villa Taranto you can find a bar, or slightly to the left on the lake you have a Pizzeria pieds dans l'eau



HOW TO GET THERE



Meet Roberto, the heart of Villa Taranto since 1979



ENTE GIARDINI BOTANICI
VILLA TARANTO

Roberto is the beating heart of Villa Taranto, the botanical garden named by Needs as the number one in the world. He has devoted body, mind, and soul to the gardens since 1979, finding full satisfaction in the wonder expressed by visitors.

His greatest motivation has always been: "To show people something they didn't think could exist."

"Even in difficult times, Roberto remains driven."

Today, the garden shines with over 80,000 hand-planted bulbous plants, including magnificent tulips blooming in April. In 2012, despite a tornado that brought down 620 tall trees, the garden endured and continues to thrive. His love for the garden runs deep it's in his blood. The story begins with his father, who was right-hand man to the Scottish tycoon who founded Villa Taranto.

This Scottish captain, owner of a shipping company between England and Australia, bought the villa and its surrounding lands in 1931, aiming to recreate a true Scottish garden on the slopes of Castagnola in Verbania

.He traveled the world four times by sea and land, collecting plants and flowers for his dream. In 1952, the garden was opened to the public

.Roberto's father was a key figure of the team until 1976, when he took over the management and passed on the role — along with his passion and expertise — to Roberto, who watched his love for the garden grow day by day.



Roberto Ferrari - Manager

Meet Eros, the Verbania cheese refiner!

Eros is one of the most important cheese experts we are lucky enough to have in northern Italy, and he has his headquarters in Verbania-intra.

The beginning of Eros' adventure is lost in time. His family had a small shop in the center of Verbania-Intra, where day after day he saw **his passion for the research and trade of cheeses and typical products of the areas of Lake Maggiore and its valleys grow.**

Today Eros is one of the most important cheese refiners in Italy and, together with his wife Cristina, he has transformed his small family shop into a place where tradition and innovation coexist in full harmony.

Eros and Cristina are always looking for new flavors and the best local and national dairy production companies. The selected producers are family businesses, mostly from Piedmont, with a massive presence of Ossola companies.

Eros and Cristina have created a maturing cellar in the center of Verbania-Intra and created a tasting space for their best products.

If you want to taste the products they have carefully selected for those like you who want to fully enjoy their holiday in contact with the local culture, be sure to book a table.

And if you want to be completely carefree for your return, the Ancora hotel is still a stone's throw from Eros's Shop and Bar

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Eros Buratti

*The magic circle between flavors, aromas
and local tradition.*



THE LOCAL GURU

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He knows everything about the lake, a passion passed down from his father, a devoted diver.

In 1982, after serving as a sergeant in the Italian Navy, **Pier bought his first small boat, which he lovingly restored to fulfill his dream** to sail freely across his beloved lake and share its secrets with others.

Today, Pier continues to live that dream every day — now aboard his new boat, the "**Signora Paola**".

He finds the greatest satisfaction in watching customers step ashore with wonder in their eyes, after discovering secret corners of the lake and hearing true stories, like when Stendhal or Lord Byron fell in love with Lake Maggiore during the Grand Tour, or when Hemingway stayed there to write *A Farewell to Arms*. His motto? "Promise 9 and give 10."

It's not just about transportation — it's about going above and beyond to make every wish come true, surprising his guests with unforgettable experiences. Pier and his lady Paola can pick you up directly at the pier in front of Hotel Ancora. If you'd like Pier to be your local guide on Lake Maggiore, scan the QR code — and get ready for a truly memorable day.



*"People are different, of different nationalities, cultures, social classes, ages,
But antiquity and real-life stories intrigue and excite everyone.
In the end, you can't help but fall in love with this wonderful and magical place."*

INTRA, PALLANZA, SUNA



If you don't have much time but want to see as much as possible, you can walk, run, or ride the bike path along the lake. It's a beautiful way to enjoy the lake from a different perspective, and you might even catch a glimpse of blooming private gardens.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Villa Taranto
- Villa San Remigio



It's Verbania!



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

You can also start from intra, then go to Villa Taranto, and then continue towards the cycle path to Suna

Climb the Castagnola hill to the charming Villa San Remigio and take a look at the church of San Remigio. The view is unique!

Stop at Villa Giulia, you will find a nice bar and temporary exhibitions!



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- First of all, go to **La Casera** in Intra, Eros will take care of you
- Grab a drink in **Estremadura**, the turning point of your walk
- Taste a great pizza at **Matisse** in Suna, or **Dalf** in Intra
- Have an aperitif at the **Ittico fish Bar** in Pallanza
- If you want to have a lunch with a starred chef, go to Max Celeste at the "Caffè delle Rose".



HOW TO GET THERE



ALBAGNANO HEALING MEDITATION CENTER



A Tibetan Buddhist center overlooking Lake Maggiore, which offers spiritual retreats surrounded by nature.

Located in Albagnano (Verbania), this Tibetan Buddhist center is surrounded by a forest of pine and chestnut trees. It was founded in 1999, starting a community of people in search of a closer and more spiritual connection with nature. with nature, contributing with various projects to the revitalization of the country and rural and alpine cultures. Buddhist philosophy, meditation, and tantric practices are among the courses taught at the center, which welcomes guests seeking a spiritual retreat in a natural setting. Individual consultations, Himalayan medical traditions, therapies for physical and mental well-being, Reiki, Yoga, Indian and Tibetan astrology, art therapy are also part of the program.



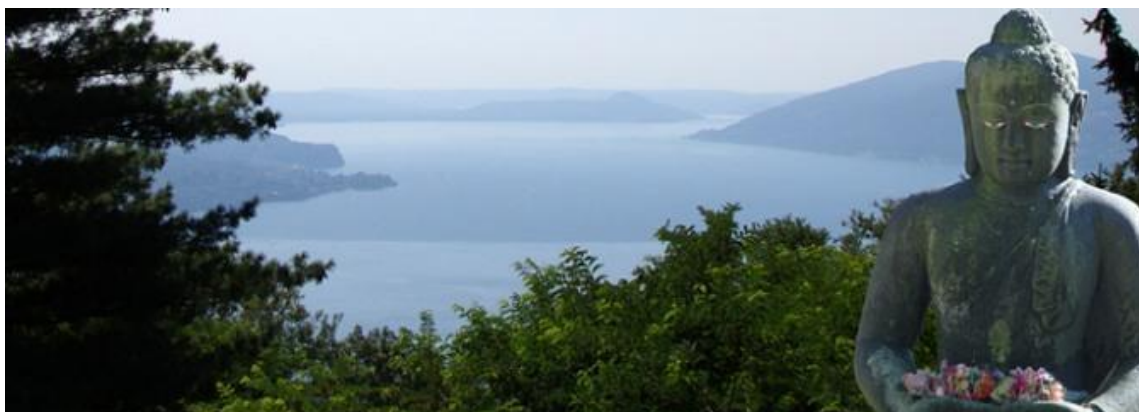
BESIDE

- Verbania
- Val Grande National Park
- Villa Bernocchi in Premeno



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

9 km



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Restaurant Chi Ghinn in Bee
- Villa Bernocchi bar for a drink in the park during the hottest summer days



SACRED MOUNT OF THE HOLY TRINITY IN GHIFFA



BESIDE

▪ Intra



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

8 km



A stone's throw from Verbania, this religious complex is located at the foot of Mount Carciago, from where it dominates Lake Maggiore while a protected forest surrounds its Baroque architecture.

The Sacred Mount of the Holy Trinity in Ghiffa is an unfinished Baroque complex surrounded by 200 hectares of woodland. It includes the Stations of the Cross, the sanctuary and three chapels dating from 1647 to 1703. The church of the sanctuary presents the painting of the Holy Trinity from which the complex takes its name, where the image of Christ is reproduced three times, while the portico of the Via Crucis is formed by 14 arches that end in a small chapel. All around the complex, the protected forest adds natural interest to this religious complex, with rich flora and fauna, themed trails, a fitness trail and traces of ancient settlements.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Try the Trail gym near Trinity Church



HOW TO GET THERE



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THE LOCAL GURU

MONTEROSSO



A scenic hill near the lake, Monterosso is rich in wildlife, medieval villages, and religious sites. Rising to 694 meters, this wooded hill lies just behind Verbania and the Borromean Gulf, offering views over Lake Maggiore.

Its exceptional biodiversity includes chestnut and oak trees, ash, yew, and animals such as roe deer. The site also has great historical value, with numerous archaeological discoveries from both ancient and more recent times.

Look out for: Dry stone terraces Drainage channels Quaint rural cottages and cobbled paths, especially in Cavandone The area is also rich in oratories and votive chapels..

The area is also rich in oratories and votive chapels.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The church of Our Lady of Good Remedy is one of the most interesting religious sites. Located at the top of the hill, the Monte Rosso Farmhouse is perfect for a lunch in the sun.



BESIDE

- Cavandone
- Church of the Madonna di Campagna
- Villa Taranto



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

6 km



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Agriturismo Monte Rosso



HOW TO GET THERE



VAL GRANDE



Crossing Val Grande from Cicogna – the “small capital of Val Grande” – to Re is a dive into unspoiled nature and a journey through memory. You’ll walk through: Mountain pastures
Forests
Ruins of old mills
Signs of ancient life
Streams where the erosive power of water has smoothed and shaped the rocky terrain

⚠ For experienced hikers: Take a guide or go with someone who knows the trail. The full trek is 8 hours, 20 km, with 1,335 meters of elevation gain..

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NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Cicogna, Re, Pogallo
- Capanna degli Alpini
- Cima Sasso



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

17 Km, 30 min in auto



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

If you want to explore the Val Grande in a more relaxing way, I recommend going to Pogallo, it is a wonderful 1h30min walk in an easy hike. It is ideal for children and if you want, you can take a dip in the wonderful river. Remember to bring some food!



THE LOCAL GURU



HOW TO GET THERE



CICOGNA, HOUSE ALPINO, CIMA SASSO



From Cicogna (730 m) to Colma di Belmello (1,590 m) and up to Cima Sasso (1,916 m), the path is not easy — but the view from the top of unspoiled Val Grande and Lake Maggiore is worth it. The hike: **Duration:** 4.5 hours

Distance: 11.6 km

Elevation gain: demanding — good fitness level required As with any trail in Val Grande, it's recommended to go with a guide or experienced companion, and never alone, as the terrain is remote and challenging.



SPECIAL NOTE If you prefer to take it easy, stop at Casa Alpino, a welcoming CAI refuge offering a breathtaking panoramic view.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Pogallo
- Val Grande



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

17 Km, 30 min by car



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Casa Alpino is the perfect place to relax. Grab something to eat or make sure the hut is open!



HOW TO GET THERE



FUNIVIA LAVENO-MOMBELLO



Specially designed to enjoy the stunning landscape, the cable car connects Laveno-Mombello to Monte Sasso del Ferro in just 10 minutes.

At about 1,100 meters, Monte Sasso del Ferro is a peaceful spot overlooking Lake Maggiore, surrounded by nature. You can reach the top: By cable car (with both open and closed cabins for panoramic views) Or by hiking trails that start directly from Laveno-Mombello



BESIDE

- Hermitage of Santa Caterina



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

20 minutes by ferry



Just 10 minutes from Laveno, the Hermitage can be reached:

By zigzagging down 268 scenic steps

Or by boat/private boat, docking at the small pier and climbing about 80 steps

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The cable car is usually closed in January, and opening hours vary throughout the year.

Enjoy the view of the Ossola Valleys on the way back by ferry

Do not miss a visit to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Restaurant Funivia



HOW TO GET THERE



PIAN CAVALLONE



Pian Cavallone is a scenic plateau: 400 meters of open space in the mountains, over 1,500 meters above sea level, covered in lush green grass between Val Pogallo and Intrasca. From here, you'll enjoy stunning views: To the south: **Lake Maggiore** To the north: **the mountains of Val Grande** This area is also home to one of the most historic mountain refuges, built in 1882 by the CAI. 🕒 **Itinerary** This panoramic trail leads through WWI military tunnels and fortifications of the Cadorna Line, offering a peaceful and historic walk surrounded by nature. **Difficulty:** Easy **Total walking time:** ~1h30



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Val Grande National Park
- Partridge Lace
- Zeda Mountain



DISTANZA DA VERBANIA

20 Km



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

From Verbania-Intra follow the signs for Alpe Pala, Miazzina and park your car at Cappella Fina (27 min by car). From the chapel follow the path and enter nature by walking along the eastern slope of Pizzo Pernice and through the wide saddle of Pian la Carica (1,401m). The refuge is glued to the mountain overlooking the lakes, near the chapel of Pian Cavallone.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Piancavallone Refuge - ask for Lorenza +39 (0)323407482



HOW TO GET THERE



MONTE FAIÈ'



The excursion to Monte Faiè (1352m) is ideal for a walk in nature and to enjoy truly out of the ordinary landscapes. It is the middle ground between the wild Val Grande and the hilly area of the lakes: downstream you can see Lake Mergozzo and Lake Maggiore, while to the west you can see Lake Orta, Monte Cerano, Poggio Croce, the Monte Rosa group and the beginning of the Val d'Ossola. Mount Faiè is a border between two worlds. Its name indicates the appearance that distinguishes it, an extensive and shady beech forest.

Itinerary: to get to Mount Faiè you have two alternatives: from Bracchio (2.5 h) and from Ompio (1.5h)

From Bracchio the first part of the itinerary is an ulattiera that connects Bracchio to the Hermitage of Vercio, a walk with precious views of the surrounding landscape.

The path then reaches the Colma di Vercio and continues uphill to the top of Monte Faiè, where the view embraces Lake Orta, Lake Maggiore, the mouth of the Toce and the mountains of Val Grande. The next section descends through the Val Grande National Park and leads to Corte Buè and Ompio (white-red path). The road to Alpe Ruspesso winds its way between high stone walls and chestnut woods to the Erfo Chapel, from where the road leads back to Boscopiano and Bracchio.

What it's like: 2.5 hours walk from where you park To the summit from Mount Faiè. There are 432 m of elevation gain, It's easy but it's steep in the end. The view of the lakes and the Val Grande repays all the efforts.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

At the Hermitage of Vercio, take a short detour from the main path to see the oratory chapel and the view from the cross.

Starting from Ompio, the trail leads to the top of the mountain in about an hour.



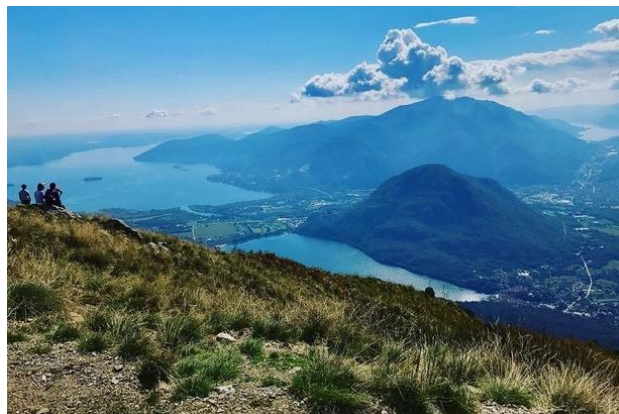
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Rifugio Fantoli
- Val Grande



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

14 Km, 20 min by car



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- In Ompio, the Fantoli refuge is a great place to fill up on local food and drink. Elena and Andrea will take care of you. They can also organize special dinners!

HOW TO GET THERE



LAKE MERGOZZO



Renowned for its exceptionally clean waters, Lake Mergozzo is particularly well-suited for water sports, but its attractions also include beautiful beaches and a fascinating hiking trail.

This small lake was originally part of Lake Maggiore, from which it was divided by alluvial debris carried by the Toce river. The stretch of land that was formed today houses the hamlet of Fondotoce, while the two lakes are connected only by a narrow underground canal. The particularly favorable conditions that characterize this area make the waters of Lake Mergozzo always calm, therefore ideal for practicing the most popular water sports such as canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

- Portaiolo, La Rustica, Quartina and La Quiete are some of the best beaches on the lake.
- The Blue Path will allow you to see beautiful views of the lake, the small and magical village of Montorfano up to the top of the mountain of the same name for a 360° view of the lakes and the mountain of the area (2h30 total)



BESIDE

- Mount Faïé
- Cima di Montorfano
- Lake Maggiore adventure park



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 km



Motor boats are prohibited and the local sewage system does not discharge into the lake, making these waters known as exceptionally clean.

Attractions in the area include the small village of Mergozzo, several beaches and the 'Azzurro' trail to the small village of Montorfano with its romantic church.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Cà del Mosto or Birreria Freelance both perfect for tasting wines and beers while enjoying the view of the lake
- Cave the Pantry
- Pizzeria Vecchio Olmo
- Restaurant: House of the Goat



HOW TO GET THERE



THE CANDOGLIA QUARRY



Upstream of the hamlet of Candoglia, in the municipality of Mergozzo, on the left of the Toce river and right at the mouth of the Val d'Ossola, in Piedmont



Its crystalline beauty mottled with pink, combined with the great resistance due to its exceptional physical-chemical characteristics, has made an extraordinarily valuable contribution to the construction of the Monument and has conditioned its architecture, statics and ornamental part.

It was Gian Galeazzo Visconti who decided to replace the brick, originally designed for the construction of the Duomo in the initial project, with marble. To this end, on 24 October 1387, he gave the use of the Candoglia Quarry to the Veneranda Fabbrica and granted free transport of the marbles to Milan via the waterways.

The transport of the material to Milan took place from the Toce to Lake Maggiore, along the Ticino and the Naviglio Grande and then inside the city to the dock of Sant'Eustorgio. Through the system of locks, built by the Fabbrica, it reached the Laghetto (today Via Laghetto), a few hundred meters from the construction site of the Cathedral, in the heart of the city.



Foto Andrea Cherchi



THE LOCAL GURU

THE LOCAL GURU



HOW TO GET THERE



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The **Isola Madre palace**, the largest in the archipelago, houses original furnishings from the historic residences of the Borromeo family, while its English garden offers floral shows in the background

What it's like: A fascinating archipelago located on the western branch of Lake Maggiore, the Borromean Islands are home to grand palaces, sumptuous gardens, and rich flora and fauna. Glorious white peacocks are among the natural treasures that can be found on these islands.



- Pallavicino Park
- Rocca di Angera
- Villa Taranto



Two to three km.



Isola Bella and Isola Madre are open every day from the end of March to October.

While in Isola dei Pescatori, be sure to try freshly caught fish at a local restaurant.



- Belvedere Restaurant
- Restaurant Italy



HOW TO GET THERE



MOTTARONE



Located between Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore, Monte Mottarone (1,491 m.a.s.l.) offers priceless views that range from the Swiss peaks to the extreme foothills of the Po Valley, as well as gentle slopes and a number of hiking trails.

The view from Monte Mottarone embraces seven lakes, the Po Valley, the Ligurian Apennines, the Maritime Alps, the Monte Rosa massif and more. All of this can be enjoyed while hiking along a plethora of gentle trails such as



BESIDE

- Mottarone & Alpiland Ski Centre
- Lake Orta
- Borromean Islands
- Alpinia Botanical Garden



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

35 km

the one that descends from the top of the mountain to Baveno (about three hours of walking), or the one that starts from Stresa and reaches the summit in about 4 hours.



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SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

- The Alpinia Botanical Garden has more than 700 plants, from all over the world, especially alpine plants, but also Asian and American species. The symbol of Alpinia is the Gentian, a small and graceful purple-blue flower that is very rare and special
- Alpyland and Ski area: For those looking for a bit of fun, the Alpine Coaster is a rollercoaster-like attraction only downhill, where you can decide to adjust your speed.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Villa Pizzini is a local restaurant in a unique landscape on the top of Mottarone
- La Rampolina Restaurant, a terrace overlooking Lake Maggiore and its islands



HOW TO GET THERE



STRESA AND FERILO



BESIDE

- Villa Pallavicino
- Mottarone
- Hermitage of Santa Caterina
- Arona city



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

14 km

Located 6 km from each other, Feriolo and Stresa are two of the most picturesque villages on the water of Lake Maggiore.

Overlooking the Borromean Gulf, Feriolo boasts a picturesque row of colorful houses lined up on the shore. Popular with tourists, this small village offers a picturesque lakeside atmosphere, as well as historical landmarks such as the oratory of the Virgin of the Scarpia and the church of San Carlo, adorned with rich frescoes and stained glass windows.

A 5-minute drive away, Stresa is home to the Pallavicino Park, one of the most famous attractions on Lake Maggiore. This neoclassical villa was originally a modest house built in 1855, then renovated into an opulent villa. In addition, the park is home to a zoo with over 40 species of animals, attracting thousands of tourists every year.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

In front of the church of San Carlo (Feriolo), look for the sign indicating the water level reached by the lake in 1868.

Walk from the port of Carciano towards Stresa: you will enjoy a magical view of the Borromean Islands.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- La Rampolina in the hill of Stresa
- Sky bar of the Hotel La Palma in Stresa: a charming place to have a drink



HOW TO GET THERE



PARK PALLAVICINO



Villa Pallavicino was born as a private residence in 1855, when the area was acquired by Ruggero Bonghi, a Neapolitan statesman and writer.

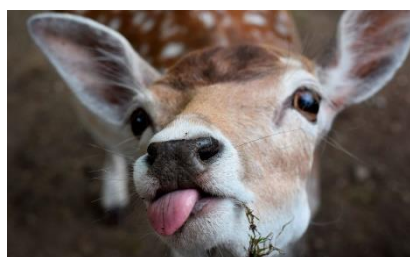
This was followed by the passage to the Duke of Vallombrosa and in 1862 the acquisition by the noble Genoese Pallavicino family who expanded the estate, built carriage roads, adorned the park with statues and transformed the simple residence into the splendid nineteenth-century villa in neoclassical style that still stands on the hill today. It was instead the Marquise Luisa, in 1952, who completed the work by hosting animals from all corners of the world here to build an exceptional zoo.

In 1956 the Pallavicino family decided to transform their wonderful garden into a wildlife museum open to the public.

Since 2017, the Pallavicino Park has entered the Terre Borromeo circuit



More than 60 species of mammals and birds are housed here, and over time some wild specimens rescued by the forest ranger and which would not survive if released back into the wild have also found a home in the Park.



HOW TO GET THERE



ORTA SAN GIULIO



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- The villas of Lake Orta
- Basilica of San Giulio



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

30 Km

The landscape of Orta San Giulio is marked by distinct villas and beautiful gardens that reveal Baroque and Renaissance influences at every turn. 20 frescoed chapels form the harmonious complex that is located on top of the hill, the Sacro Monte Orta, easily accessible through a panoramic walk. From the center of Orta, a short boat trip takes you to the island of San Giulio, famous for its Romanesque basilica, the bishop's palace and the Benedictine abbey. The narrow road connecting these landmarks suggestively whispers the spiritual character of the island, dominated by the basilica's bell tower. Returning to Orta, a pedestrian street runs along the lake passing through various points of interest such as Villa Motta, Punta Movero and Villa Curioni-Mazzetti.

What it is like: The Orta San Giulio district is one of the gems of Lake Orta. A small peninsula in the lake, a visit to this area includes a circular hiking route, wonderful religious buildings and the fascinating Island of San Giulio.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

On the Island of San Giulio, you know the legend that the Saint freed the island from snakes and monsters before settling here, but don't forget to try the typical bread made by local nuns.

EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Villa Crespi è il ristorante del famoso chef italiano Cannavacciuolo. È costoso ma è giustificato.



HOW TO GET THERE



TEA PLANTATION



Via Milano,
Premosello-Chiovenda VB

There is a magical place near Lake Maggiore, the unique territory of the Ossola Valley, rich in parks and natural oases of rare beauty, scattered with historic villages and a treasure trove of culture, ancient traditions and folklore.

It is in Val d'Ossola, on the Premosello plantation, that our project came to life: to create and distribute a precious all-Italian tea, grown and produced with love.

It all started from the meeting between La Via del Tè and La Compagnia del Lago Maggiore, from the union of the experiences of the Carrai family and the Zacchera family, expert growers of flower camellias who several years ago began to successfully reproduce tea camellias as well.

The Premosello plantation currently has about 20,000 Camellia Sinensis plants, many of which are reproduced from seeds of plants from Rize, Turkey, in different stages of growth, with the idea of expanding it in the coming years. It is by extension the second largest plantation in Europe and the first in Italy to be able to guarantee an appreciable and constant production of tea. A special place, with a particular microclimate, bathed by the Toce river and surrounded by the unspoiled majesty of the Alpine peaks.

You can reserve green tea bags via the website
[:https://www.laviadelte.it/collezioni/te-italiano?id=107](https://www.laviadelte.it/collezioni/te-italiano?id=107)



HOW TO GET THERE



DOMODOSSOLA



The numerous shops and historic shops scattered around the center make Domodossola a renowned shopping center, which attracts many tourists from across the border. The city is home to the Sacred Mount Calvary, while the many other attractions of the Ossola Valley are within easy reach.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Saturday is the best day for shopping with the local food and clothes market



BESIDE

- Sacred Mount Calvary
- Collegiate Church of Domodossola
- Galletti Civic Museums
- The path of the press and the mill (Villadossola)
- Castle of Vogogna



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

40 km

Domodossola is a charming historic town and a renowned commercial center. It is also at the center of the many attractions of the Ossola Valley, which include the Sacred Mount Calvary, classified by Unesco.

It is the main center of the Ossola Valley, flanked by the Toce river. Formerly known as Domus Oxila, this ancient city has recently renovated its historic center to highlight key elements such as the pentagonal walls and the market square.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Locanda Alegar where you can have the delicious cheese of Formazza Agricola
- Osteria pub Malatesta, only for lovers of local pubs
- La Stella restaurant for quality fish dishes
- Balabiött Brewery a gastropub with locally produced beer



HOW TO GET THERE



Domobianca: Trekking, Bike Park, Paraglider.. and much more!



Trekking: From here it is possible to reach the various mountain pastures through the easy path of the dirt road that leads to the Casalavera lake, or enter the woods and try more challenging routes!



Bike Park: natural paths, cycle hiking trails that connect Domobianca365 to the surrounding valleys, which provides for the creation of a modern bike area, favored by an ideal terrain and climate.

Paragliding: With 8 different take-offs as well as an area dedicated to the "fields" Domobianca presents itself as the reference flight site for amateur paragliding in Ossola.

Adventure Park: a multipurpose structure with services and equipment rental



HOW TO GET THERE



Do you want to spend an exciting day discovering Lake Maggiore and Ossola? See what Daniela does!

Daniela can accompany you on an exciting journey to discover Ossola and Lake Maggiore.

Daniela was born and raised in Domodossola, after moving away from her homeland to graduate in Milan, she rediscovered her love for her land.

She decided to return to do what he loves most: experience nature, the mountains always in safety, play sports, learn about tradition, art, culture, and pass on these wonders to other people.

Daniela first became a tour guide and then, driven by the desire to discover the area in an increasingly natural and eco-sustainable way, she became an environmental hiking guide and Nordic Walking instructor.

What makes Daniela happy is to entertain and intrigue her travel companions by telling the history and traditions of the place. What motivates her most is "to see in their eyes the desire to return again to discover other aspects of this wonderful territory".

And now the choice is yours: guided tours, nature hikes, environmental education, Nordic Walking and much more... always with passion and energy!

Come to Hotel Ancora and book an excursion with Daniela



"see in their eyes the desire to return again to discover other aspects of this wonderful territory".

ALPE DEVERO, CRAMPIOLO AND THE DAM



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Lake Devero
- Antrona Valley Natural Park
- Premia thermal baths



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

70 km, 1 hour by car

Located near the border between Piedmont and Switzerland, Alpe Devero is part of the Veglia-Devero Natural Park. A mountain house and a church mark the beginning of the path, which follows the signs for the Devero plain and leads to the hamlet of Canton. Here the path begins to climb through characteristic mountain pastures to the flat area of Crampiolo, where there are guesthouses and restaurants. After crossing a small bridge, the path reaches the dam and follows the lake shore through larch forests and pastures. Walk around the lake to the junction for the dam and follow the signs for the characteristic mountain village of Crampiolo. From here it is possible to return to the beginning of the trail.

What it is like: This 13 km route, suitable for intermediate and experienced hikers, offers spectacular landscapes of the Devero alp and the nearby lake.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

In Guangzhou you will find a mountain hostel, a hut and a guesthouse.

In the flat area of Crampiolo, a detour is highly recommended to the Witches' Pond, known for its clear waters.

Particularly recommended is Casa Fontana on Alpe Devero.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- In Crampiolo you will find some huts and restaurants with homemade cheese and special dishes.



HOW TO GET THERE



MACUGNAGA



The Walser culture permeates Macugnaga and its nearby hamlets, facing the east side of the imposing Monte Rosa, the most surprising wall in the Alps.

One of the main attractions in the area, the Lake of the Fairies, can be reached in three different ways. From the parking lot near the Guia Gold Mine, two paths start, one slightly steeper than the other. As the lake approaches, visitors encounter two bars, a small church, and a number of picnic areas. To reach the lake by car, follow the signs from the SS549 (Via Monte Rosa).



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

In addition to the Fairy Lake, attractions such as the Gold Mine (Guia) and Casa Walser make this region ideal for families and children.

On the Belvedere glacier, consider a stop at the historic Zamboni Refuge, opened in 1925.

Attractions such as the Gold Mine (Guia), Casa Walser and Lake of Firas make this region ideal for families and children.



BESIDE

- Belvedere di Skislope, Moro
- Rifugio Zamboni
- Miniere d'oro di Pestarena



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

60 Km, 1h in auto



Another great attraction is the Zamboni Refuge on the Belvedere Glacier, a historic refuge opened in 1925. At 2,070 meters above sea level, the refuge is connected to Macugnaga by a chairlift and three hiking trails (Pecetto di Macugnaga - Belvedere, Pecetto di Macugnaga - Alpe Rosareccio, Pecetto di Macugnaga - Alpe Roffelstafel).

The history of Mucugnaga dates back to the twelfth century, when the Walser communities settled around the 4,634 meters of Monte Rosa (the second highest massif in the Alps). Today, the architecture of this mountain village still reflects its history, as well as the local traditions, customs and the Titsch language. Legend has it that the 7-meter-wide lime tree that is located next to the Old Church was planted by a woman at the time of the foundation of this community.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Wengwald Hütte at the top of the Belvedere chairlift
- Agriturismo Alpe Burki where you can have a cheese workshop and see how they make their cheese
- Zamboni Refuge on the Belvedere glacier;
- Z'Makana Stube in Macugnaga
- * I recommend you try the typical pasta alla macugnghese!



HOW TO GET THERE



VAL FORMAZZA - RIFUGI CITTA' DI BUSTO & 3A - TOCE WATERFALL



The northern part of the Ossola region, Formazza is a little-known valley with rewarding hiking trails and beautiful mountain scenery.

Its hidden treasures include lakes, glacial circles, waterfalls, and quaint Walser villages.

Arriving in Riale you can admire the Toce Waterfall, considered as the most impressive waterfall in the Alps. Park your car before the dam of Lake Morasco and from that path you can choose to go to:

Gries Pass (2h 30m)

Maria Luisa refuge (1h30m)

City of Busto (2,840 meters, 680 meters of elevation gain) and then to the A3 (2,960 meters)



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The Toce Falls can be seen from June to September and only at certain times of the day.

The Città di Busto Refuge and the Maria Luisa Refuge are two of the most renowned local refuges.

Passing through the town of Busto and Gries you pass the Bettelmatt alp, where you will find many cows that produce the well-known Bettelmatt cheese, LA ROLLS ROICE DEI FORMAGGI!



BESIDE

- Casa Forte (Pomat)
- Bagni termali Premia
- La centrale idroelettrica dell'Ossola (Crevoladossola)



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

90 km, 1h20m by car



Located along the Gries pass, La Frua offers the 143-meter spectacle of the Toce waterfalls, considered to be the most impressive waterfalls in the Alps. A number of natural and man-made lakes also grace the surrounding landscapes, while a handful of lodges offer visitors warm local hospitality. Located at 2,480 meters above sea level, the Città di Busto Refuge is the oldest refuge in Val Formazza. It is open from June to September and offers private rooms, dormitories and local cuisine.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Walser Schtuba restaurant in Riale for a gourmand hangout
- Buy some local cheese at the Formazza agricola in the center of "ponte"



HOW TO GET THERE



LAGO ANTRONA AND CINGINO



Quite long and with an elevation gain of 1200 meters, this trail is suitable for intermediate and experienced hikers. It starts from the parking lot of Lake Antrona (1,073 MSL), from where it is easy to reach the dam in about 3h30minutes. The next destination is Alpe Granarioli, which can be reached by several trails. Take the path to Cingino and Passo Saas, which enters an enchanting landscape made up of waterfalls, larches and blueberries. After more than an hour, the path begins to become steep, heading to the top of the Cingino dam (2,250 MSL). Once at the top, the view of the climbing ibex is very rewarding, and is best enjoyed from the path that descends along one side of the dam. From there, the signs offer several options to complete the circular itinerary, which takes about 6 to 7 hours in total.

How it is: A beautiful hike around Lake Antrona, where alpine ibex climb the vertical wall of the dam in search of salt. The road to the Cingino dam is quite long, it is a 3-hour route and 1,200 meters of elevation gain which is really justified, in case you don't want to get there you can walk around Lake Antrona.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

It is also possible to start the hike from Lake Campliccioli, reducing the difference in altitude by 300 meters.

If you're going to the Cingino Dam make sure you have food for a small picnic, as there are no restaurants once there.



BESIDE

- Thermal baths Premia
- Bognanco Thermal



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

60 Km



VIDEO ON THE STARS OF THE ANTRONA VALLEY!

The ibex on the Cingino dam



HOW TO GET THERE



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Especially recommended is the Lago Pineta restaurant at Lake Antrona, one of the best pizzas in the area.

SENTIERO AND VIA FERRATA PICASASS



The view from the hiking trail "Via Ferrata dei Picasass" speaks for itself. The trail offers exceptional views of Lake Maggiore, the Borromean Islands, and the mountains surrounding the lake itself.

It takes its name from all those "picasass" people who have worked since the nineteenth century on the extraction and processing of the famous pink granite of Baveno.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Baveno e Stresa
- Mount Mottarone



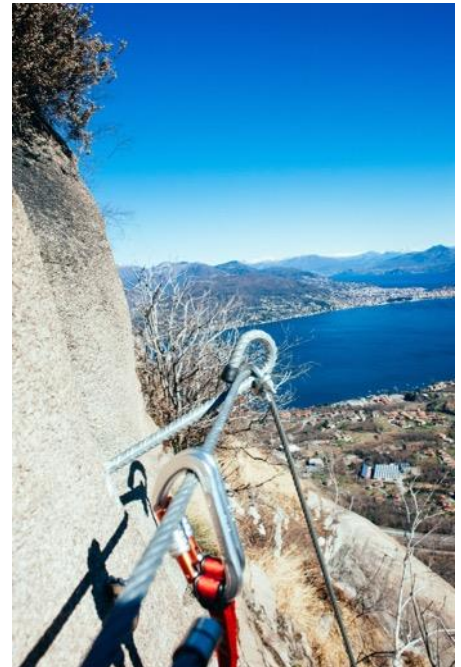
DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 Km

How it is: It is a 3-hour mountain hike (40min at the beginning of the Via Ferrata, 1.5h of path, 50min to return to the car) with a medium level of difficulty. To get to the top of Monte Camoscio there are 2 options: the Via Ferrata dei picasass (make sure you have a guide and equipment) or the well-marked path on the left.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

If you don't feel like doing the trail, continue slightly to the left to reach the top of Monte Cavallo. You will find a breathtaking view as in the picture.



HOW TO GET THERE



CANNOBIO AND CASTLES OF CANNERO



Located on the northern shores of Lake Maggiore, the town of Cannobio boasts medieval architecture and historical monuments. Not far from

There are also the picturesque ruins of the Castles of Cannero.

Cannobio overlooks the northern stretch of Lake Maggiore which borders Switzerland. Its historic center is rich in medieval architecture and historical monuments such as Palazzo Omacini, Palazzo Pironi Sanctuary of the Santissima Pietà and the Church of San Vittore.



BESIDE

- Citrus Park in Cannero Riviera;
- Borromeo Castles
- St. Anne's Ravine in Cannobio



DISTANZA DA VERBANIA
20 km



Five km to the south, the castles of Cannero are among the most picturesque in all of Lake Maggiore. The ruins of these castles seem to float in the water, marking all that remains of a series of islets once used as shelter and defense. They cannot be visited because the ruins are not safe, but the view from the shore is worth the trip from Cannobio.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

According to a local celebration, every year on January 7 countless candles light up the lakefront of Cannobio.

The Sunday market in Cannobio.

The castles of Cannero can be seen up close by renting a boat to get from Intra to Cannobio.



HOW TO GET THERE



100
 100
 100
 100
 100



- Most of the attractions in the Lake Maggiore area are included in this tour.



Arrival and departure from Verbania

A tour between Italy and Switzerland offered by the Lake Maggiore Express Tour. The heart of the excursion is a three-hour boat trip that touches the main attractions of the lake such as the Borromean Islands, the Castles of Cannero and the Brissago Islands. Then, a scenic train ride from Locarno to Domodossola explores diverse landscapes, meandering across dizzying bridges and the idyllic scenery around the lake. Picturesque villages and important destinations such as Stresa, Ascona and Locarno can be visited during the tour. One- or two-day tickets are available, as well as full or reduced round-trip journeys.



Lunch on the boat is available but requires advance reservation.



CYCLING ALONG THE TOCE RIVER



A total route of 70 km made up of flat earth paths that run along the bank of the Toce. Ideal for easy and undemanding cycling, surrounded by beautiful river landscapes.

The path starts from the parking lot behind the shopping center "Le Isole" (Gravellona Toce). Once on the bank of the Toce River, a metal bridge leads to the Storna stream. Plant nurseries dot the path, before the path deviates from the riverbank to cross a busy main road shortly after. The next section bypasses the Fondotoce area and crosses an underpass that leads to the Mergozzo treatment plant, where it turns left along the railway line. It then passes through the villages of Bettola, Nibbio and Cuzzago, after which a country road heads towards the Bosco Tenso and Vogogna equestrian centre. An old parish church and a medieval signal tower are the main landmarks located along this part of the route, between Vogogna and Piedimulera. The next stop is Villadossola and its Romanesque church of San Bartolomeo, before the cycle path heads back towards the Toce and ends in Badulerio, where the cycle path ends. The center of Domodossola is about one km away.



BESIDE

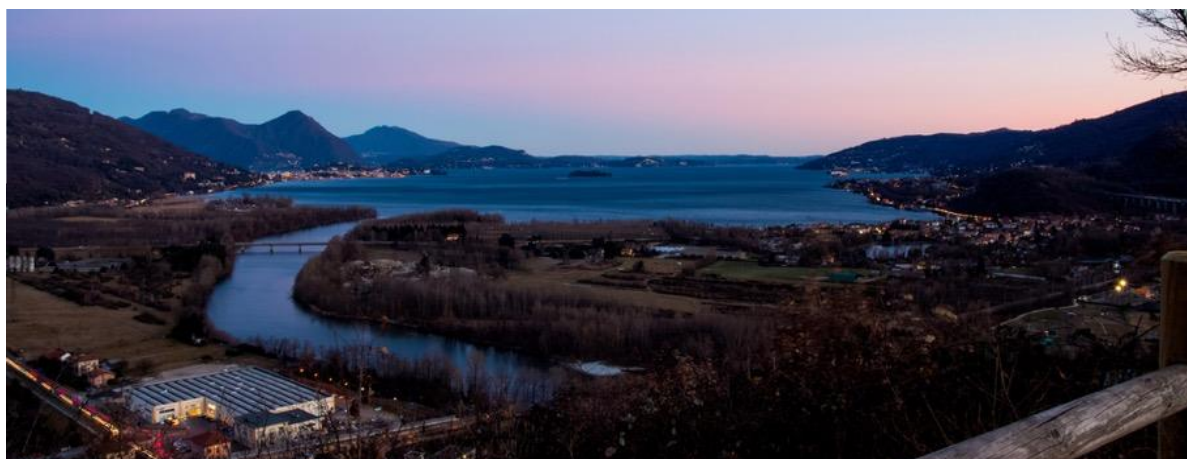
- The Castle and the Fortress of Vogogna
- Collegiate Church of Domodossola
- Sacred Mount Calvary of Domodossola



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 km

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SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Vogogna is a beautiful medieval village, which is also home to a Visconti castle.

Along the way, find the "Siberia" area and the memorial to Chavez, the first man to fly a plane across the Alps.



THE LOCAL GURU



HOW TO GET THERE



VIA DELLE GENTI

The ancient road to Switzerland



BESIDE

- Sacred Mount of the Holy Trinity in Ghiffa
- Cannero
- Cannobio



Departure in Verbania-Intra

The "Via delle Genti" was the ancient connection between Verbano and Switzerland. It could be done in two days all year round. The itinerary offers splendid views of Lake Maggiore through small villages and the Sacred Mount of the Holy Trinity in Ghiffa up to Cannero and Cannobio. Total distance 31 km, total time 9h30.



EAT AND DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- South Coast Inn in Ceredo
- Miralago in Ghiffa



HOW TO GET THERE



BEACHES AND RIVERS



Several options are available along the coast of Lake Maggiore in Verbania from Intra to Suna. Luxury beaches are at your disposal within 20 minutes drive such as that of Feriolo or Baveno which offers comfort and relaxation by the lake.

You can also choose the fresh water of a river such as the San Bernardino stream or the Uriezzo Gorges which offer wilder water attractions.

Lido di Baveno is the ideal place for recreation and relaxation by the lake. This vast and popular beach is equipped with sun loungers, umbrellas, showers, changing rooms and all kinds of water attractions, from wakeboarding to inflatable games. A restaurant and lounge bar are also available, offering meals and nightlife by the lake.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The best time to relax on the beaches is in the morning or early afternoon

Don't miss a drink before dinner in one of the beautiful bars in Verbania Suna or Pallanza



EAT AND DRINK

- Extreme Dura cocktail bar in Verbania Suna;
- Bar Sempione in Verbania Pallanza;
- Gourmet pizzeria Matisse in Verbania Suna

HOW TO GET THERE





GOLF CONTINENTAL VERBANIA

For all info and prices, scan here!



DISTANCE FROM HOTEL ANCORA

6,8 KM



Via 42 Martiri, 15, Fondotoce VB



GOLF PIAN DI SOLE

For all info and prices, scan here!



DISTANCE FROM HOTEL ANCORA

12,8 KM



Via Pineta, 1, Premeno VB





GOLF DES ILES BORROMEES

Per tutte le info e prezzi, scannerizza qui!



DISTANZA DALL'HOTEL ANCORA
23,6 KM



Via Motta Rossa, 1, Brovello-Carpugnino



A.S.D. GOLF CLUB APLINO



DISTANZA DALL'HOTEL ANCORA
25,3 KM

Per tutte le info e prezzi, scannerizza qui!



Via Golf Panorama, 48, Vezzo VB



WATER AND AIR SPORTS



There is no better way to experience the sunset at the lake than to experience the sunset in the lake or ABOVE the lake on a Zipline!

In the lake you can surf the waves with a surfboard, be towed by a speedboat on a wakeboard or water ski or jump on a jet ski, surrounded by the beautiful islands of the Borromean Gulf.

The water: It goes without saying that Lake Maggiore is a top destination for water sports enthusiasts. From sailing to canoeing, kayaking to rafting, the waters and landscapes of Lake Maggiore are ideal for water sports.



The Tramontana wind blows in the morning from the mountains to the plains, while the Inverna wind blows in the afternoon in reverse. This creates excellent conditions for sailing, as evidenced by the many local sailing associations and the Verbania Vela Festival, an annual event of regattas, concerts, food and wine. Kayaking and canoeing are equally popular, as the large surface area of the water allows for long days of boating immersed in the lake's unique landscapes.



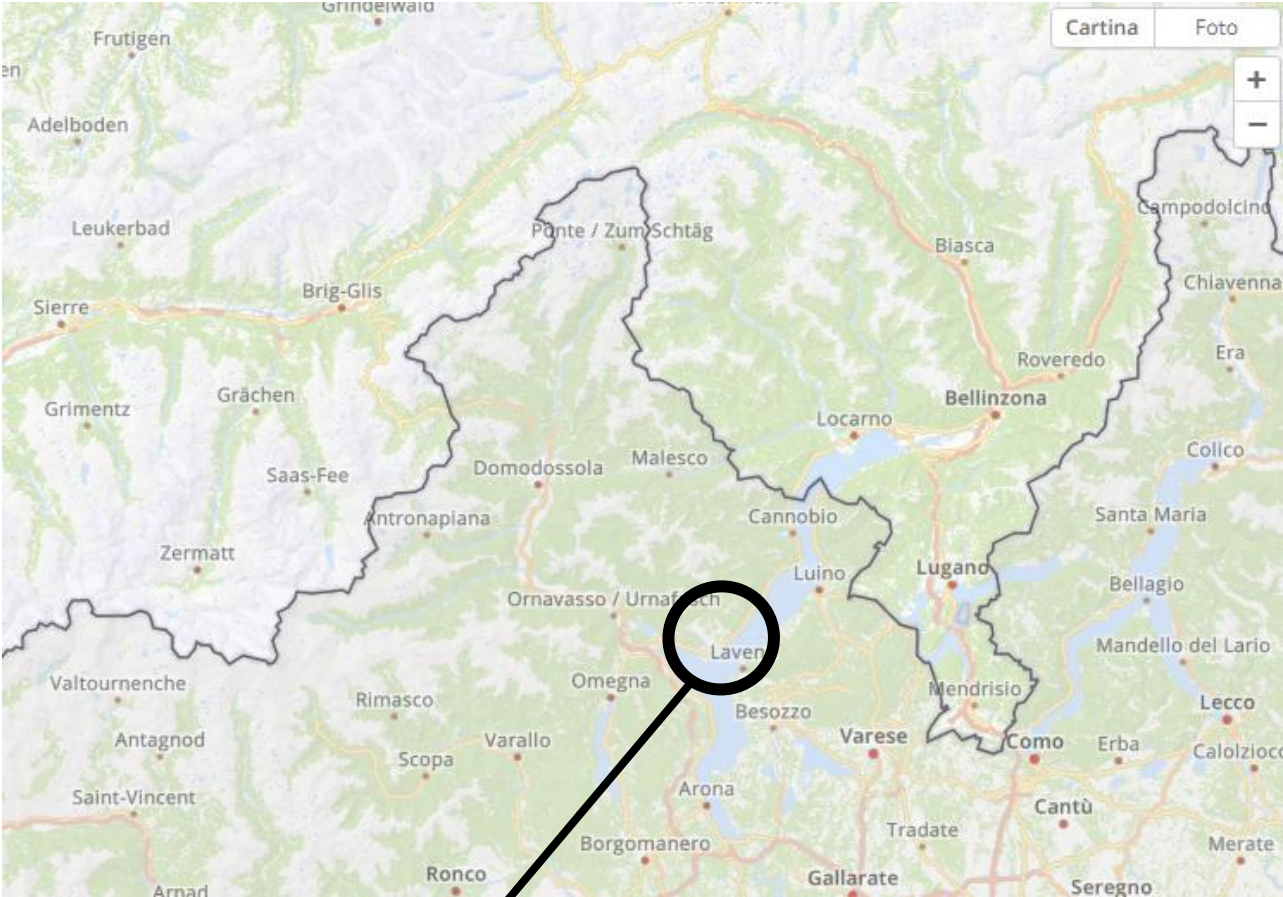
Lago
Maggiore
ZIpline

F L Y 4 F U N

The small lake of Mergozzo is also a popular spot for water sports, thanks to its calm and exceptionally clean waters. In addition, the valleys around Lake Maggiore are home to many streams and streams, ideal for exciting rafting sessions.



Do you want to know what the weather is like in
Verbania?
Stay up to date!



We are here!



Download the MeteoSwiss app on
- App Store - Google Play



Google Play



THE LOCAL GURU

What to do when the weather is bad in Verbania?

Here is a list of places to visit when the weather is bad in our city!



Gravellona Park, *Corso Guglielmo Marconi, 28883 Gravellona Toce VB*



Large distribution chain: **Tigotà, Piazza Italy, Sofas & Sofas, Biella shoes, Iperceramica, the Road House restaurant** and activities with household products and toys

Centro commerciale Le Isole *Corso Guglielmo Marconi, 42-44, 28883 Gravellona Toce VB*

Quiet shopping center on two floors with a large supermarket, food court and **55 shops**.



Museo del paesaggio

Via Ruga, 44 – Verbania Pallanza

The Museo del Paesaggio it is a **cultural institution deeply linked to the territory of Lake Maggiore and its valleys behind.**



What to do when the weather is bad in Verbania?

Here is a list of places to visit when the weather is bad in our city!

Premia Terme, *Frazione Cadarese, 46*
28866 Premia, Verbania



The structure has an L-shaped shape that encloses a space, open to the **south**, in which **there is a large outdoor recreational - therapeutic swimming pool**. The water path continues, also connecting inwards, with other pools dedicated to various therapeutic functions. **Saunas, aerosol therapy, water treatments complete the wellness equipment of the center, taking up the ancient Roman traditions that assigned the body and its soul a place in daily life.**



THE LOCAL GURU

 **vicolungo**
the style outlets

The Vicolungo Outlet Village is a large, very popular shopping village on the outskirts of **Novara**. Easily accessible by the A26 motorway, the outlet is in the heart of Piedmont. The cities of Milan and Turin are within easy reach. Malpensa airport is only 30 minutes away.



THE LOCAL GURU

Candles Hotel Ancora

We like to share with you even the small details in our hotel.

The 21 Elithium candles for Hotel Ancora handmade are made by Elena – receptionist at the hotel. These candles are 100% ecofriendly.

The handmade ceramic plaster container contains the soy wax candle with a wooden wick.

There are many ways to reach greater awareness: sometimes a "keyword" is enough to advance one step.



**The Local Guru with this guide
helps you experience
unforgettable moments.
We hope your suitcase is full
of unforgettable memories
lived on our wonderful
territory**

**For any need or request call
us.**

+ 39 340 29 13 467



The Staff of Hotel Ancora





The next time you come back to us, be sure to check out
the best deals that you can only find on our site

We also hope to see you here soon,
at the Hotel Ancora,
to live new magical experiences with us.

www.hotelancora.it

★★★★
HOTEL

 ANZOTEMAL

