

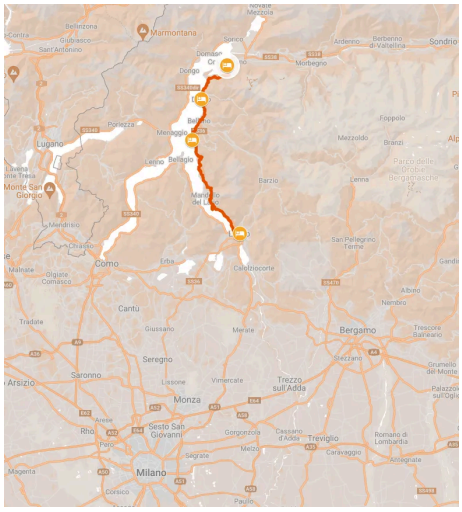
SUMMER SPRING & AUTUMN

type :	Self-Guided Hiking Tours Solo Holidays Caminos
level :	
duration :	6 days
period:	Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct
code:	ITSW500

The Wayfarer's Path, Other Side of Lake Como - Italy

The Wayfarer's Path, Other Side of Lake Como

6 days, PRICE FROM *€ 753*



The eastern branch of **Lake Como** is home to one of Italy's most scenic long-distance trails: the **Sentiero del Viandante**, historically known as the Wayfarer's Path. This lakeside route reveals a quieter and more authentic side of the region, far from the crowds of the western shore.

We begin in **Lecco**, famously portrayed in Alessandro Manzoni's masterpiece **The Betrothed**. With its elegant lakeside piazzas and breezy waterfront, Lecco offers the perfect introduction to a week of panoramic walking above the shimmering waters of Lake Como.

The journey continues northwards towards **Varenna**, a pastel-colored village adorned with flower-filled terraces and lush gardens. Along the way, dramatic alpine peaks frame the lake while ancient mule tracks and stone paths guide you through olive groves and quiet hamlets — the essence of hiking the **Sentiero del Viandante**.

Passing beneath the mysterious **Castle of Vezio**, perched high above the water, you'll witness one of the region's most spectacular panoramas: the two branches of Lake Como meeting in a shimmering expanse, with Bellagio at the centre of its iconic inverted Y shape.

Six days to embrace the beauty of an often overlooked lakeside heaven — a self-guided walking holiday where history, nature and Italian charm blend seamlessly.

Route

Day 1 Arrive in Lecco

On arrival at the lakeside town of Lecco on the shores of Lake Como, make your way to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore the town and take in the views of the rugged mountains across the lake. If you are lucky you might have the chance to see the swans on the lakefront. During the following days, take time to explore the small towns, viewpoints, forests and castles.

Day 2 Train to Abbadia Lariana and walk to Lierna, 11 or 19 km

In the morning a short train ride will take you to the start of the walk in Abbadia Lariana. **Abbadia Lariana** is a fabulous place to stop for refreshing swim before starting your walk towards Lierna. Today you walk mostly on a well-maintained mule track and footpath on the right side of the Lake up and down the shore. It is worth a visit to the **Church of San Giorgio** in Mandello, a precious jewel of Romanesque art with frescoes from the late fifteenth century. Remember to have your camera loaded as there are **many panoramic viewpoints over the Lake**. It is possible to walk the whole section from Lecco adding approx. 8km to the walk, this first section runs mostly on beaten trails in the wood just above the lake. The walk is not very panoramic but it is easy and mostly flat. At the end of the walk take the train back to Lecco.

Distance: 11 or 19 km km

Elevation gain: +748/-700 m

Day 3 Train to Lierna and walk to Varenna, 9,5 km

Today's walk is the most demanding in terms of difference in height. The itinerary starts climbing on mule-track which later becomes path mostly in the wood. Be very careful when the terrain is wet and slippery. Along the route we suggest you to stop for a pic-nic lunch by a **breath-taking viewpoint overlooking Bellagio** and Lake Como. Just before descending to Varenna, make a short detour to visit the castle in Vezio village. It's worth it! You can enjoy a 180-degree view of the lake and the surrounding mountains. The Vezio Castle has stood for more than a thousand years. It is an ancient military outpost of early medieval origin built by the Lombard Queen Theodelinda to defend and control the lake and surrounding villages. Today's destination is **Varenna, a jewel full of history** and unique character.

Distance: 9,5 km

Elevation gain: +850/-866 m

Day 4 From Varenna to Dervio, and train to Colico, 10 km

Start the day with an easy lake side warming-up walk. After breakfast say goodbye to Varenna following the East side of the lake take the "Sentiero del Viandante" (the Wayfarer's path) and experience a rich and ancient cultural landscape with traditional architecture and outstanding views of Lake Como and its surrounding mountains. Halfway through the walk we suggest you a visit to the **"Orrido di Bellano"**. This is **a natural gorge** created by the Pioverna river that has cut out gigantic potholes and fascinating caverns over the centuries. Its dark ravines and the hollow rumble of gushing water have inspired many authors and made this one of the most popular tourist attractions on lake Como. The **Cà del Diavol (Devil's House)** evokes fear and the idea of satanic rituals, capturing all **the mysterious charm** of this place. The itinerary then follows a well beaten mule track to Dervio. You then take a train to Colico.

Distance: 10 km

Elevation gain: +575/-560 m

Day 5 Train to Dervio, walk from Dervio to Colico, 13 km

The last section of the walk is **the most beautiful** in terms of panoramic views. You will have many chances to stop for pic-nic enjoying the atmosphere. From Dervio the path climbs up the mountain on a steep cobblestone stair and then descend gradually towards Colico. Almost halfway through the walk you will be able to see **the snowy peak of the Alps** appearing in front of you. In Colico you have the chance to go for a refreshing swim at the beach in the middle of the town. If you arrive early we suggest you to visit the The abbey of Piona, or more precisely, the Priory of Piona, a typical building of Comacina art in exposed squared stone, which can also be reached from the lake by boat, is a rare jewel of Lombard Romanesque architecture. Located on the Olgiasca peninsula, in front of Gravedona on the extreme tip of the Lecco branch, it offers **a splendid panoramic view** of the western coast of the Lario, as well as the opportunity to savor the tranquility and peace enjoyed by the Cistercian monks who still live there today.

Distance: 13 km

Elevation gain: +658/-674 m

Day 6 Arrivederci Colico!

The trip and our services end after breakfast and you bid farewell to the beautiful lakes as you depart for the airport with public transport, unless you have pre-booked a private transfer with us

Practical info



On arrival, you can reach Lecco by train.

On departure, you can leave from Colico by train.



Thanks to our special APP, you will be able to follow the track of the whole trip on your mobile phone, with no need for internet. GPS tracks are available on request.

Included

What is included

- 5 Nights in double room in **/*** hotels , B&B and agriturismi with breakfast
- luggage transportation from hotel to hotel
- maps and detailed description of the itinerary in digital form, app
- Pilgrim's Passport
- Medical and luggage travel insurance
- 24h phone assistance

What is not included

- Transfers to the starting location and from the arriving location of the tour
- lunches and dinners, if not otherwise stated
- visits and entrance fees - tips
- personal expense
- possible sojourn taxes
- everything that is not mentioned in the "What is included" section.

Optional Services

These services can be added to the ones included in the base price of the tour:

- Single room supplement
- cancellation insurance
- Transfers to reach the starting location or to leave the arriving location of the tour, which will be quoted on request.
- official camino guidebook, shipped to the first hotel
- travel documentation in printed form (maps and detailed description of the itinerary), shipped to the first hotel