



Italy's Magnificent Lake District

Inspiring Moments

- Indulge in glorious views of cobalt lakes, snowcapped mountains and opulent villas while cruising on **Italy's spectacular lakes.**
- Glide along tranquil **Lake Orta** and experience the enchantment of the legendary Isola San Giulio.
- Admire the stunning **Borromean Islands** and enjoy a special private reception on Isola Bella.
- Gain insight from local chefs during a **private farm-to-table cooking class.**
- **Savor lunch in Bellagio** and a walk in this terraced lakeside village known for its beautiful silk.
- Learn about the profound **Jewish history of Milan.**
- Witness **"The Last Supper,"** Leonardo da Vinci's brilliant fresco-style painting, a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**



Bellagio

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®

Experience Italy's lauded lakes district, a haven of sapphire waters and dreamy foothills. Here, the shores are strung with medieval churches and elegant 19th-century villas — an inviting region to experience *la dolce vita*! From your base in Stresa, venture out to picturesque islands and romantic villages. Visit tranquil botanical gardens, fragrant with sweet flowers, and marvel at Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece, "The Last Supper." Plus, join a chef and learn how to prepare Italian cuisine during a fun cooking lesson with a local family. Italy awaits to surprise and delight you!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Milan, Italy 🌐.

Day 2 | Milan, Italy | Stresa

Arrive in Milan, transfer 🚗 to Stresa and check in to the Hotel La Palma.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 | Stresa | Lake Orta

Enrichment: The Development of the Lake District. Learn about Italy's captivating Lake District, a haven of Alpine peaks, gardens and lakes.

Lake Orta. Enjoy a scenic drive to Orta San Giulio, built on a promontory that juts into the lake. During a walking tour, see the central piazza and soak up the charms of lakeside life. Board a boat and cruise to the enchanted Isola San Giulio. Learn about the history of the Romanesque basilica, the island's landmark attraction.

Free Time: Craft your own path in San Giulio.

Gather for an Italian dinner. Popular local dishes include stuffed pastas, seafoods and locally grown vegetables.

Day 4 | Borromean Islands

Enrichment: The Gardens of Lake Maggiore.

Learn about the powerful Borromeo family and how they transformed the tranquil islands into splendid retreats featuring palaces and landscaped gardens.

Free Time: Get to know Stresa at your own pace.

Borromean Islands. Begin your outing on Lake Maggiore aboard a private boat. Cruise to Isola Madre where you'll enjoy a guided tour of the botanical gardens. Embrace the rustic charm of Isola dei Pescatori, a peaceful fishing village. Continue to Isola Bella, "The Beautiful Island," and enjoy an exclusive visit. These stunning grounds feature a palatial palace and gardens filled with fragrant citrus trees, water-wheel towers, statues and peacocks.



Delight in a private reception in the island's terraced hanging gardens.

Day 5 | **Bellagio | Como**

Bellagio. Start your day with a boat ride on Lake Como to Bellagio. Known as the Pearl of Lake Como, this photogenic destination greets visitors with its inviting setting. Be captivated by the promenade lined with lime trees and flower boxes, the quaint city center, and charming buildings painted in shades of cream and butterscotch. Relax over lunch at a lakeside restaurant.

Free Time: Discover Bellagio on your own during leisure time. Take a romantic stroll along the waterfront or pause for a treat at a requisite gelato stand.

Cruising Lake Como. Travel by private boat from Bellagio to Como, a sensational way to experience the region. Glide on blue waters bathed in sunlight while viewing the graceful villas and villages nestled along the shores. Vistas of stunning gardens, hidden waterfalls and cypress groves will captivate your senses while the majestic Alps stand sentry in the background. This poetic boat ride is sure to be among your treasured memories! Arrive in Como and take a walking tour.

Day 6 | **Milan**

Milan. Travel to Italy's economic powerhouse, whose wealth of cultural heritage is lavished on superb architecture and museums. Step into the Renaissance Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to see Leonardo's magnificent "The Last Supper," hailed as one of the world's greatest paintings. Continue to Milan's Central Station for a poignant visit to the Shoah Memorial, which pays tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. It was in this tragic theater of deportation that Jewish prisoners were loaded onto trains headed for Auschwitz-Birkenau, Mauthausen and other camps. View the installations of this solemn space, including the Wall of Names.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Central Temple Hechal David u-Mordechai, the main place of worship for Milan's Jewish community. Visit the Central Synagogue and the Sephardic prayer hall. Along the way, your guide will discuss the history of Jews in Italy and Milan.



Day 7 | **Stresa**

Enrichment: Golden Age of the Renaissance. Delve into the true genius of Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci while tracing their profound influences on sculpture and painting.

AHI Connects: Flavors of Italy. Learn the secrets of northern Italian cuisine during an interactive cooking lesson from a local family. After, dig into a delicious lunch overlooking Lake Maggiore.

Free Time: Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Soak up a sunset by the harbor or settle in at a local café for a light snack or cocktail.

Enrichment: Contemporary Italy. Discuss Italy's economy, politics and role in the European Union.

Day 8 | **Stresa**

Free Time: There are endless opportunities to pursue your own interests during a day at leisure. Raise a toast to your Italian adventure during a festive Farewell Reception and Farewell Dinner.

Day 9 | **In Transit**

Transfer to the Milan airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Included Features

- Accommodations** {with baggage handling}
- **7 nights** in Stresa, Italy, at the first-class Hotel La Palma.
- Extensive Meal Program**
- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Your One-of-a-Kind Journey**
- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
 - **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
 - **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
 - **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
 - **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
 - **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
 - Free time to pursue your individual interests.
 - Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
 - A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
 - Tipping of guides and drivers.



Joseph Wardwell | Faculty Leader

Joseph Wardwell is Professor of Painting at Brandeis University and founder of the Brandeis-in-Siena program. Wardwell has been a recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Grant for Painting and was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from the School of Creative Arts at Boston University.

2024 Departures & Pricing

October 19-27, 2024

Garden View Price	\$4,845
Special Savings	\$250
Special Garden View Price	\$4,595*

*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.
VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$295 per person.
The Lake View category is an additional \$300 per person.
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).
Single prices are available upon request (limited availability)
Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://brande.ahitravel.com/destinations/1846A?schoolId=276>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.
Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.
Flights and transfers provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

Above: Piazza del Duomo, Milan | Above right: Isola Bella, Lake Maggiore