



VARESE

SIMPLY STUNNING!



TOUR
EXPERIENCES
ACCOMMODATION

An aerial photograph of the Certosa di Varese, a large stone castle complex built on a hillside. The castle features a prominent tower with a crenellated top and a long wall extending towards the right. The foreground is a grassy slope. In the background, a large lake (Lake Varese) is visible, with several sailboats and small boats on the water. Beyond the lake, a range of blue mountains (the Alps) stretches across the horizon under a cloudy sky.

VARESE

INFINITE BEAUTY!



The Varese Convention & Visitors Bureau invites you to “discover Varese”.

Whatever your reason for visiting Varese and the surrounding province, you will be captivated by the vast wealth of things to see and do. The magnificent countryside offers an abundance of glorious landscapes, art, traditions and fine food just waiting to be discovered. Over the centuries the local population has worked in harmony with nature and the area's resources, creating Varese's inimitable spirit and leaving behind unique examples of art and architecture. The province also seems to have been intentionally created for anyone who loves travelling and sport. Today lakes, hills and mountains that make up the breathtaking scenery are home to a fantastic range of modern sports facilities guaranteed to please sportspeople of all levels.

If you are planning on visiting Varese, look no further than the Varese Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Whether you are travelling for business or pleasure, the Bureau can help you to find the ideal solution for all your needs. It will help you choose from the over 500 hotels and other accommodation options, sixty-six museums, numerous villas and art and culture venues, of which eight are UNESCO sites and protected by the Italian National Trust (FAI).

The Bureau will tempt you with all the best places to eat and drink, including Michelin-starred restaurants, agritourism destinations and every eatery famed for giving your taste buds an memorable gastronomic treat. If you need to organise a business event, the Varese Convention & Visitors Bureau will see to every last detail and propose comprehensive offers tailored to your specific requirements.

Whether you are visiting Varese for your own bespoke event or on a prearranged trip, you can enjoy our accommodation booking service, an extensive choice of activities, and the infinite trips and outings this wonderful area has to offer.

Our hotel reservations office is happy to help with whatever you need.



INFO

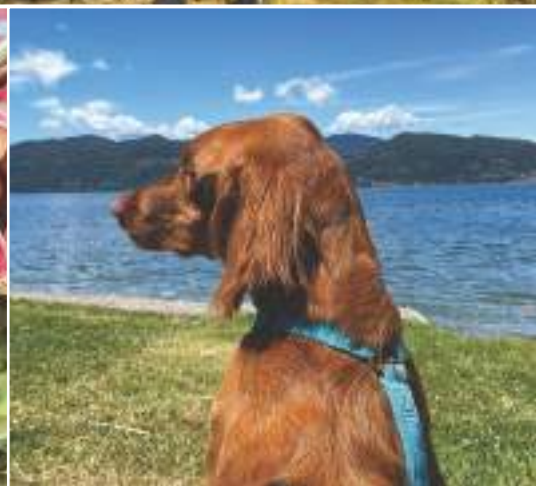
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Some images may show places that differ from those advertised in the trips on offer.













DIRECTIONS



- ✈ Varese is located a few kilometers from Milan and counts the presence of the **intercontinental airport of Malpensa**.
- 🚗 The **A8, A9 and A26 motorways** offer excellent national and international road links so Varese is easily accessible.
- 🚌 Varese is well served by a **city bus service** for getting around the city, and a **provincial bus service** that provides a great way to visit towns throughout the province.
- 🚢 You can also explore the province "by lake" as **boat and ferry services** link Piedmont to the towns of Laveno, Luino and Angera on the Lombardy side of the lake.
- 🚆 Thanks to the presence of two railway stations, the **North Station** and the **Central Station** you can reach the city easily by train.

KEY

THINGS TO SEE AND DO

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Nature |  Lakes |
|  History / Culture |  Cycling Routes |
|  Art / Religion |  Footpaths |
|  Food and Drink |  Sailing |
|  Views |  Dog Friendly |

EVERYONE'S TOP PICK

Varese is a safe destination with many large green spaces where you can relax or enjoy outdoor activities: whether you get in the saddle or pull on your walking boots to explore the area, you can always find well-marked paths and tracks to help you discover the natural beauty of our province in complete safety. In addition to visiting the key cultural sites with their wide open spaces and enchanting properties accompanied by certified expert tour guides, you can find many places of natural and cultural interest out in the countryside and nestled in the marvellous gardens for which the Garden City is famous: painted villages, rural architecture, waterfalls and other smaller lakes are just waiting to be discovered.

An aerial photograph of Lake Varese, Italy, showing the town of Varese in the foreground and the surrounding mountains. A paraglider with a red and orange canopy is visible in the sky over the lake. The text 'VARESE' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image, with 'WHERE YOUR SPIRITS SOAR' written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters below it.

VARESE

WHERE YOUR
SPIRITS SOAR



And a warm friendly welcome is guaranteed

Imagine a place of myriad attractions and vistas where the unique atmosphere is matched only by comfort and professionalism. This is what makes Varese and the surrounding province the perfect destination for enjoying a one-of-a-kind holiday packed with the emotions and thrills of walking around the lake, savouring the delicious delights of Varese's local food and drink or trying any of the countless activities guaranteed to make your stay fun and carefree.

The many hotels throughout the province are all equipped to meet any request you may have whether you are visiting for business or pleasure. If you love really getting to know an area and its local customs, Varese offers a superb range of agritourism, B&B, and traditional eateries and inns. Most of these are family-run with a well-deserved reputation for quality cuisine and generous hospitality where you can discover genuine, traditional dishes made with locally sourced ingredients.

VARESE

WHERE CULTURE IS ART

The cradle of Art Nouveau

Varese became the architectural, artistic, social and cultural heart of the Art Nouveau style at the beginning of the twentieth century.

A style that changed how we think and live.

The industrial building housing the Poretto Brewery was the first to be designed and built in this new style, and paved the way for many more buildings.

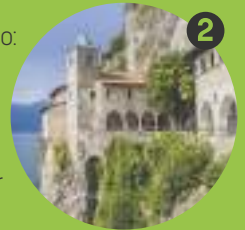
Our Art Nouveau tours enables you to relive the atmosphere of that period and discover some of the great masterpieces and “hidden” gems created in this unique style. During these journeys to the past you almost feel as if everything stopped in the Belle Époque period as Art Nouveau made itself very much at home here in Varese.



Here are our seven top picks for your next visit to Varese!



- 1** The top of **Sacro Monte**: the views over the city are breathtaking. Ideal for families, groups of friends or believers wishing to climb the "Via Sacra" road up to the Santa Maria Sanctuary.



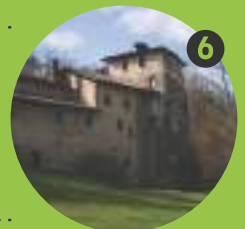
- 2** **The Hermitage of Santa Caterina** in Leggiuno: there are several ways to visit this cliff-top hermitage: from the lake and then up a staircase with eighty steps, down a picturesque staircase with 268 steps and lake views from the large square above, or if you prefer you can take the lift.

- 3** **Angera's Borromeo Castle**: a mediaeval castle with a Hall of Justice containing countless historical artifacts. While at the castle you can also visit the Doll and Toy Museum.

- 4** **Corso Matteotti**: the perfect street for a relaxing stroll past shops and bars; take time out for shopping or to admire the stunning architecture.



- 5** **Palazzo Estense and Gardens**: the residence of Francesco III d'Este during his rule. In a letter to his sister Paolina, Italian poet Giacomo Leopardi once described Varese as "Milan's little Versailles", partly because of the Estense Gardens and their blend of Italian and French styles. While there you can visit Villa Mirabello, which houses the Civic Museums and is an absolute must if you want to experience the Italian Risorgimento.



- 6** **Beautiful FAI properties**: Villa Panza and its garden, Villa della Porta Bozzolo, and Torba Abbey.



- 7** **The Borromean Islands**: Isola Bella and Isola Madre in the Borromean Islands archipelago on Lake Maggiore; easily accessible with ferry services from Laveno or Stresa.



Above: the Panperduto dam at sunset.

Below: Villa Panza and garden. Art Nouveau facade at Sacro Monte.

VARESE

WHERE MOTHER NATURE SHINES

The Land of Seven Lakes

The Province of Varese is best known for its many lakes. Lake Maggiore and the other smaller lakes are often called the “Seven Varese Lakes”. They are all perfect for enjoying long walks through the world-famous breathtaking countryside, or trying your hand at the many water activities either for pure pleasure or more competitive pursuits!

The alpine foothills are equally enchanting. Extending across to the border with Switzerland, they offer the unspoiled countryside of valleys, peaks and rivers and the perfect escape if you love relaxing walks or hiking along trails of varying levels of difficulty. There are also woods and tracks for mountain biking and horse riding. Varese has hundreds of miles of trails to choose from. The province is flatter to the south and, while it may have become a hub for finance, industry and trade, you can still find swathes of heathland that provide a glimpse into how rugged the countryside was centuries ago. How can you turn down the opportunity to explore the remains of a prehistoric village and see how people lived aeons ago? Or a chance to relax with some retail therapy while shopping in Varese’s larger towns?





The Garden City

Varese is known as the “Garden City”: green is the colour that comes to mind when you think of Varese because it has so many public parks and private gardens.

Everywhere you look is green; Varese was centuries ahead of the trend for environmental awareness that now sees cities across Europe trying to carve out more green spaces. And it was all done to ensure a healthier quality of life and better air quality. If you love spring and summer blooms, you must visit the parks at Villa della Porta Bozzolo in Casalzuigno and Villa Cicogna Mozzoni. You could then recharge your batteries by lunching at one of our many award-winning restaurants and savouring our traditional cuisine made with locally grown ingredients.

Above: view of the lake from the Lake Maggiore-Sasso del Ferro funicular and Angera’s Borromeo Castle garden.

Below: a view across the park at Villa della Porta Bozzolo.



THE LAND OF SEVEN LAKES

The Varese area is the perfect destination for a weekend break or a day by the lake.

What makes this area so unique is the choice of seven lakes. No other part of Italy can boast so many lakes in one area. They are ideal for relaxing on charming little beaches or organising a trip on a sailing boat in pursuit of some of the most picturesque views from the lake. A wide range of cycling routes offers a great way to explore the lakes' banks with routes created to suit every level of ability from a leisurely pedal to a fast-paced ride. The villages and villas overlooking the lakes are real architectural masterpieces. Lake Maggiore is also home to the famous Borromean Islands; a tiny archipelago with a group of three islands: Isola Madre, which is renowned for its exquisite botanical collections; Isola Bella, famous for the baroque style of Palazzo Borromeo and its gardens; and Isola dei Pescatori with its tiny hamlet and narrow streets where life still revolves around the traditional fishing trade. The towns along the banks of the lake are well worth visiting; the quaint historic centres of Luino, Laveno and Angera are lined with bars, restaurants and shops inviting you to lose track of time as you saunter from one to the next and enjoy a little shopping. Travel back through time with the historic halls and mediaeval garden at Angera's Borromeo Castle. Breathe in the atmosphere of the late fifteenth century when the Visconti family took up residence in this magnificent fortress, symbolising their place in the political order.

The castle is also home to the Doll and Toy Museum, which is the largest of its kind in Europe.



Above: the Hermitage of Santa Caterina is just one of the many treasures on the banks of Lake Maggiore. Accessible by foot or boat, it offers unique panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. The shores of Varese's lakes are home to so many gems, such as the colourful lanes in Luino (left) and Angera's Borromeo Castle (right). The real pleasure is being free to visit them however you wish.



THE VALUE OF NUMBERS

Certain things are invaluable and we appreciate what we have in the Province of Varese.

282 km²
of lakes

7
7 magnificent
unique lakes

5
5 cultural sites a stone's throw
from our lakes: Angera's
Borromeo Castle, the Hermitage
of Santa Caterina del Sasso, the
Borromeo Islands, International
Museum of Ceramic Design and
Villa della Porta Bozzolo

4
4 must-visit lakeside towns
- Angera, Luino, Laveno
and Ispra

3,750
3,750 beds in lakeside hotels



TOUR

A two-day tour around Lake Maggiore



 2 DAYS

This tour reveals some of Lake Maggiore's most beautiful sights. On the first day we will explore some of the highlights on the Lombardy side of the lake, then visit the picturesque Borromean Gulf on the second day with a trip to two islands.

DAY 1: The day begins with a guided tour of the Hermitage of Santa Caterina, where the sheer cliff offers amazing views over the lake. We then pause at a lakeside restaurant

for lunch made with local produce. The afternoon continues with a visit to Angera's Borromeo Castle, the residence and symbol of the renowned Visconti family, and an exhibition in the Scaligera Wing where you can admire the large frescoes on the walls commissioned by Bernabò Visconti. We then visit Angera, where a guided tour is available if preferred, and conclude the afternoon with aperitifs by the lake.

DAY 2: Sailing on Lake Maggiore; first we sail to the Borromean Gulf and then stop for lunch at one of the restaurants in the characterful village on Isola dei Pescatori. After lunch we sail to Isola Bella to spend an enjoyable afternoon with a guided tour of Palazzo Borromeo and its spectacular gardens. We finish the day by sailing back to the Hermitage of Santa Caterina or Laveno.



Scan the QR and discover other tours!



TOUR

Varese: a blend of nature and culture



2 DAYS

This two-day tour offers an introduction to the lakeside town of Laveno Mombello, which can be seen from the top of Monte di Sasso del Ferro, and enables you to explore its historic town centre and visit the International Museum of Ceramic Design. The second day includes a visit to Sacro Monte in Varese, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that can be accessed with a one-hour walk or the funicular railway, and a guided or self-guided tour of Varese city centre.

DAY 1: We start the day with a cable-car ride up to Monte Sasso del Ferro (about 1,100 metres above sea level), where you can enjoy the peaceful countryside and drink in the enchanting panoramic views over Lake Maggiore, the Alps, the alpine foothills and the Lombardy lakes. Lunch is a traditional meal made with local produce at one of the restaurants with views over the lake. In the afternoon you won't want to miss the guided tour of the International Museum of

Ceramic Design in Laveno Mombello followed by a visit to the town's historic centre where you are free to browse around the shops and quaint streets. At the end of the day you can relax with aperitifs on the lakefront.

DAY 2: The day begins with a climb up to the top of Varese's Sacro Monte and a guided or self-guided tour.

Lunch is made with locally-sourced ingredients and we finish the day with a guided tour of Varese's historic city centre.



TOUR

The Lake Maggiore road trip: exploring the Lombardy shores



1 DAY | 38 km CAR

Ever thought of travelling the Lombardy shores of Lake Maggiore? Then this is the tour for you. We set off from Laveno and follow the main road (SP69) through the characterful villages overlooking the lake until we reach the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso, the ancient monastery perched on top of a sheer cliff by the lake. From the Hermitage you can continue southwards through more tiny villages,

each with its own unique character. Well worth a visit are Arolo with its small distinctive pier, or Ispra and Ranco which are delightfully quiet and peaceful so perfect for relaxing walks with the alpine foothills in the background. The next stop is Angera, reputed to be one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. It is worth taking time to stroll through the old town's narrow streets and up to

Angera's Borromeo Castle. It towers over the lake, offering unique panoramic views over the lake. Why not wrap up your road trip in Sesto Calende, where you can savour a mouthwatering evening meal made with the famous Raviolo di Sesto Calende. A unique dish that blends lake-caught perch and crayfish from the river with Sesto Calende mint. All wrapped up in thin sheets of pasta made with eggs.

OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

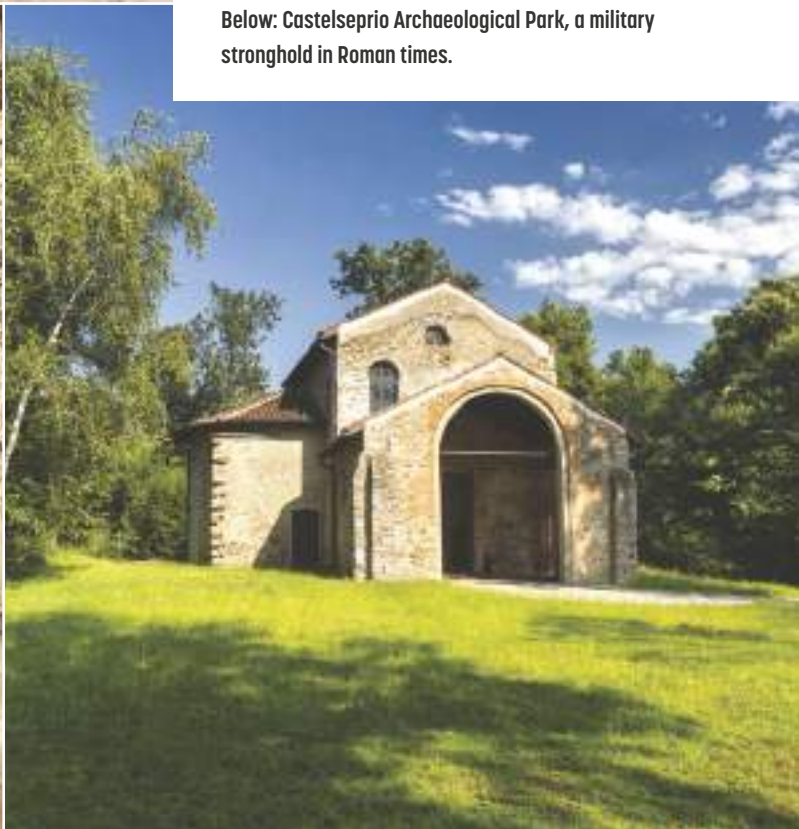
Explore the Province of Varese's outstanding artistic, architectural and cultural heritage.

Countless castles stand ready to defend magnificent valleys, while innumerable stately homes house works by celebrated modern Lombard painters just waiting to be admired.

Varese's Sacro Monte is a World Heritage site. A road passes fourteen chapels as it climbs up to the Santa Maria del Monte Sanctuary, which has been a place of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages. It is now also a delightful village for pleasurable walks and aperitifs at sunset with views stretching as far as Milan.

Other UNESCO World Heritage Sites include Monte San Giorgio, one of the world's best fossil records of marine life from the Middle Triassic period, and the Castelseprio Archaeological Park with the Church of Santa Maria Foris Portas featuring frescoes by Masolino da Panicale.

Another site is Isolino Virginia, which is the oldest pile-dwelling settlement in the Alps and home to a LIPU (the Italian Society for the Protection of Birds) sanctuary. The Italian National Trust (Fondo Ambiente Italiano - FAI) has several internationally acclaimed properties in the area: Villa Panza and the Panza Art Collection, the villa has splendid Italianate gardens and hosts works of contemporary art and exhibitions; Villa della Porta Bozzolo in Casalzuigno, a sixteenth-century country residence; and Torba Abbey, which was a military outpost during the Roman Empire.



Above: Sacro Monte by night. Top right and bottom left: inside Villa della Porta Bozzolo. Below: Castelseprio Archaeological Park, a military stronghold in Roman times.

THE VALUE OF NUMBERS

Certain things are invaluable and we appreciate what we have in the Province of Varese.

66

museums and cultural sites

4

FAI properties: Villa Panza, Villa della Porta Bozzolo, Tower of Velate, and Torba Abbey

4

UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Monte San Giorgio, Isolino Virginia, Varese's Sacro Monte, and Castelseprio Archaeological Park

5

places of artistic and cultural interest in the Art Nouveau style: Poretti Brewery, Hotel Palace, Villa Recalcati, Grand Hotel Campo dei Fiori, and Sacro Monte funicular railway



TOUR

FAI: visit the Italian National Trust's historic villas and museums



This tour takes in two eighteenth-century villas owned by Fondo Ambiente Italiano (the Italian National Trust): while visiting Villa Panza, which stands atop Biomo Hill in Varese, we can view the collection of contemporary American art and explore its park. We then have lunch in a restaurant in

one of the villas. The afternoon continues with a visit to Villa della Porta Bozzolo and its splendid gardens in Casalzuigno. To finish the tour you can choose either a guided or self-guided tour around the old town of Laveno followed by aperitifs on the lakefront.



TOUR

10 things to do in 48 hours



Only have 48 hours to visit Varese? These are our ten must-see destinations.

DAY 1: Start by visiting the prehistoric pile-dwelling settlement on Isolino Virginia, which can be reached by boat from the lido at Schiranna. Once back in the city, head to the old town and Palazzo Estense, which is dubbed Milan's little Versailles and whose spectacular gardens combine Italian style with elements of French design.

From there go to the civic museums in Villa Mirabello, where you can admire artefacts dating back to the Neolithic period and the Bronze Age. Why not end your first day with a leisurely stroll along Corso Matteotti to the Basilica of San Vittore Martire.

DAY 2: Today is about exploring parks and villas. Start with Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza where you can visit the Museum of Contemporary Art, then head to the Civic

Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Masnago Castle where one of the most important collections of art in the province is housed.

Wrap up the day with an invigorating climb up Sacro Monte and visit Santa Maria del Monte Sanctuary. While there, don't forget to visit the Pogliaghi House Museum, which was once the home of the artist Lodovico Pogliaghi and is now a museum.



TOUR

Varese, city of culture: explore our UNESCO World Heritage Sites



In addition to offering many places of cultural interest, Varese is home to more World Heritage sites than any other province in Lombardy. With this tour you can explore Varese's historic city centre and two of the area's UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Sacro Monte and Isolino Virginia.

We begin the day by ascending Viale delle

Cappelle (the road of chapels) and visiting the village of Santa Maria del Monte and its sanctuary. From there we travel to Lake Varese to sail across to Isolino Virginia for lunch. We return to Varese's historic city centre in the afternoon to explore the pedestrian area and the Estense Gardens and Park. Last but not least, aperitifs in Varese's historic city centre.



TOUR

The Varese Liberty Tour



Perfect for art lovers.

This Art Nouveau experience begins with a guided tour of the Palazzo Estense Gardens, Villa Recalcati, the Palace Grand Hotel, and Piazza Montegrappa before a ride on Varese's Sacro Monte funicular railway. It continues with guided tours through the Poretti Brewery and Villa Panza to admire their Art Nouveau architecture.

While in the brewery, visitors will have a chance to sample the famous beers made by Poretti.



RIDE THROUGH THE LAND OF CHAMPIONS

The area around Lake Maggiore has always been very popular with cyclists.

Over the decades Varese has produced many champions who have made their mark on the history of cycling. Since 1900 a succession of Varese natives have ridden their way to the top of the sport: riders of the calibre of Luigi Ganna, Alfredo Binda, Michele Mara, Wladimiro Panizza, Claudio Chiappucci, Ivan Basso and Stefano Garzelli.

The Varese area offers routes and rides for all levels of fitness and training with an awe-inspiring variety of experiences: you can enjoy gentle rides along the banks of the lake, explore the woods, follow the rivers through the neighbouring valleys, or challenge yourself on steep climbs with some gradients that even exceed 20%! The Province of Varese and Lake Maggiore also offer a wealth of off-road experiences with extreme slopes and tricky terrain for mountain bikers and cross-country trails with steep descents and rough tracks for downhill fans. For thrill-seeking, daredevil mountain bikers we recommend the northern part of the province where you can explore woods and dirt tracks that hug the mountains and offer panoramic views of Lake Maggiore, the Alps and Monte Rosa.





We have a wide range of bicycles for hire. So, if you prefer to leave your bike at home and enjoy a hassle-free holiday, contact us now to choose your favourite make and model!



THE VALUE OF NUMBERS

Certain things are invaluable and we appreciate what we have in the Province of Varese.

100^{km}
+ km of cycling routes

3

waterside cycling routes:
Lake Comabbio, Lake Varese
and along the River Ticino at
Sesto Calende

800^{km}
of dedicated tracks

20%
gradients for off-road trails

8
bike hotels



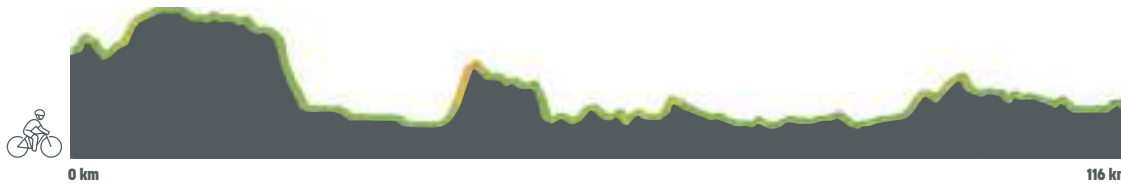
ROAD BIKE OR CITY BIKE TOUR

Varese - Ganna - Luino - Laveno - Angera - Comabbio - Gavirate



 **6 hours** DURATION |  **116 km** DISTANCE |  **start VARESE** |  **finish GAVIRATE** |  **level MEDIUM**

With this tour you get to see all seven lakes. This medium-difficulty route is quite hilly and sticks to tarmacked roads. Perfect for road and racing bikes.



MTB EXPERIENCE TOUR

Monte Pian Nave



 **3 hours** DURATION |  **43 km** DISTANCE |  **start MESEZNANA** |  **finish MONTE PIAN NAVE** |  **level HARD**

This route offers a mainly shaded ride through wooded countryside and climbs to the top of Monte Pian Nave, one of the peaks in Varese's alpine foothills. You will be glad you made the effort though when you see the incredible panoramic vistas of Lake Maggiore and the Alps, including the Monte Rosa mountain range, Mount Campo dei Fiori, and Monte Generoso. We set off from Mesenzana and the first part of the route through the woods is not particularly challenging; we start to climb halfway through the ride and the last part leading up to the summit is the most demanding.



The Casalzuigno Climb to Monte San Martino



 **4,5 hours** DURATION |  **22,6 km** DISTANZA |  **start CASALZUIGNO** |  **finish PEAK MONTE SAN MARTINO** |  **level HARD**

This off-road route is a great way to visit the uniquely beautiful painted village of Arcumeggia and the summit of Monte San Martino, which overlooks the Valcuvia valley. From Casalzuigno we climb towards Arcumeggia then follow the cross-country trail until we meet the path that climbs up to the summit of Monte San Martino, where there is a church, mountain refuge and a monument. We can finish the ride by looping back to Arcumeggia again and on to Casalzuigno.



FUN FACT

BIKE HOTELS provide special services for cyclists. Every hotel has secure storage facilities for bicycles, a changing room, a small workshop for repairs and maintenance, catering for cyclists, tour guides for cyclists, a laundry service, favourable arrangements with specialist shops, and medical assistance. Some of these hotels also have a fitness centre and wellness area.

EASY TOUR - FAMILY CYCLING EXPERIENCE

Unique corners of the Park of the Ticino Valley



2 hours
DURATION



31 km
DISTANCE



start
CASTELLETO

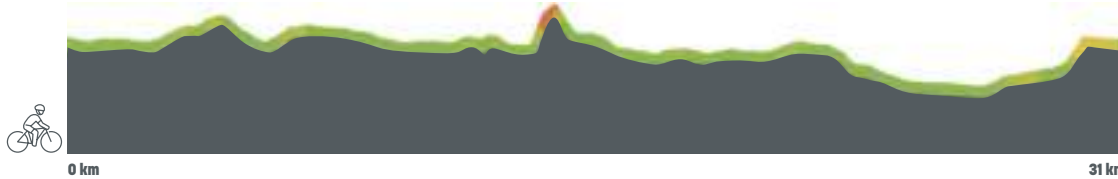


finish
OLEGGIO



level
EASY

Get on your bike to explore the River Ticino with its surrounding hills and admire the beauty of a landscape sculpted by water. This cycling and walking route starts from the bridge linking Castelletto to Sesto Calende. We follow the well-marked cycling route to the Tornavento bridge. The ride begins in Sesto Calende and if you come by car, you can park near the station.



Lake Varese Bike Path



2 hours
DURATION



28 km
DISTANCE

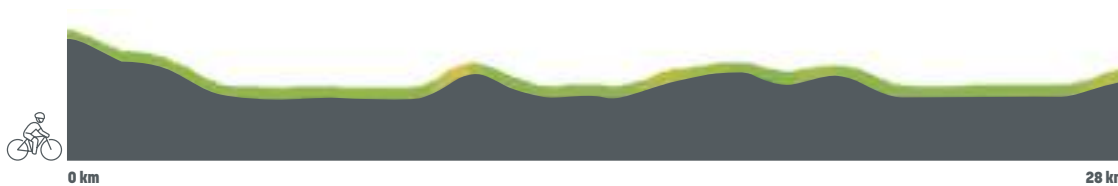


circular
ROUTE



level
EASY

A 28 km (17.4 miles) bike path runs around Lake Varese in a loop through the countryside that combines the blue waters of the lake with beautiful green scenery. Setting off from Gavirate, home of the traditional "brutti ma buoni" (ugly but good) biscuits, you pass through several places of interest, such as Biandronno and the UNESCO World Heritage Site Isolino Virginia, which has an ancient pile-dwelling settlement. Continuing on, the path takes you to Brabbia Marshes Nature Reserve and the picturesque fishing village of Cazzago Brabbia. This route is mainly flat so is suitable for novices and children.



The Tour of Two Lakes



2 hours
DURATION



26 km
DISTANCE



start
CADREZZATE

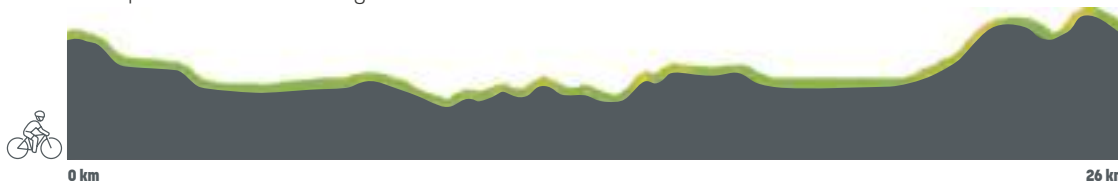


finish
RANCO



level
MEDIUM

This route is a fantastic way to explore two of the Province of Varese's seven lakes, Lake Maggiore and Lake Monate, while experiencing an enjoyable bike ride. The ride starts from Cadrezzate and heads towards Osmate then continues with panoramic views on the way to Angera, a picturesque lakeside town which is almost in the shadow of the mediaeval Borromeo Castle. Continuing on in the same direction, you come to the village of Ranco and then Capronno before returning to Cadrezzate.

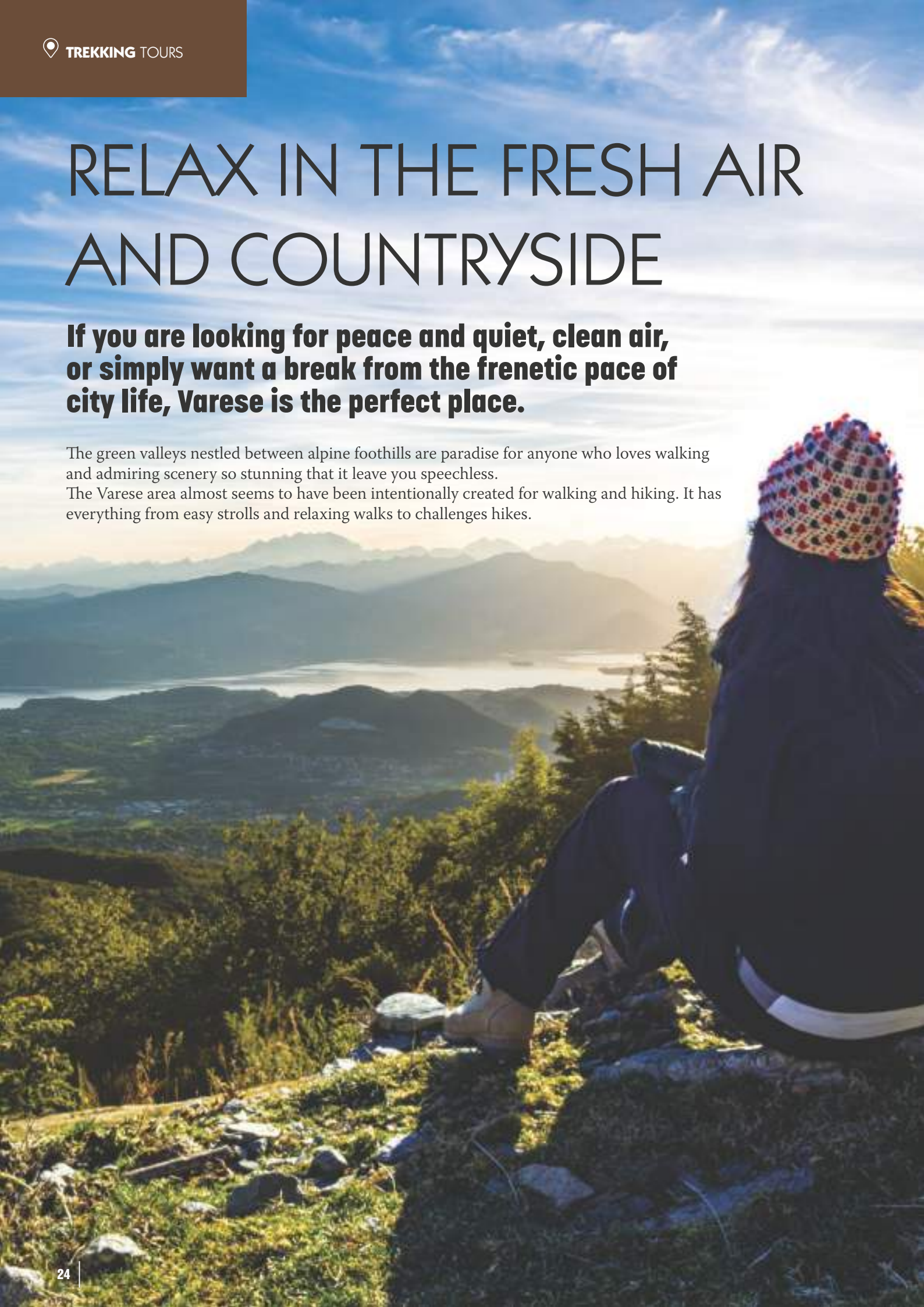


RELAX IN THE FRESH AIR AND COUNTRYSIDE

If you are looking for peace and quiet, clean air, or simply want a break from the frenetic pace of city life, Varese is the perfect place.

The green valleys nestled between alpine foothills are paradise for anyone who loves walking and admiring scenery so stunning that it leave you speechless.

The Varese area almost seems to have been intentionally created for walking and hiking. It has everything from easy strolls and relaxing walks to challenges hikes.





Wherever you walk, you can't help but come across places of artistic and architectural interest, areas of outstanding natural beauty and much more as well as the tantalising local food and drink.



THE VALUE OF NUMBERS

Certain things are invaluable and we appreciate what we have in the Province of Varese.

400 km

+ km of waymarked paths

8

parks and nature reserves

7

mountain refuges across the area

46%

of the province is wooded

34%

protected areas



TOUR

The San Quirico Loop



 1 DAY |  12 km DISTANCE |  100 m ELEVATION | ●○○ level EASY

The walk begins in Angera town centre and then joins the route of the lower loop on San Quirico hill. This takes you through Altinada from where you can see Angera's Borromeo Castle before descending through shady woodland and verdant vineyards back down to the town centre. We break for lunch at a restaurant by the

lake. We finish the day by exploring the relaxing nature walk (about 4 km / 2.5 miles) through the Bruschera wetland, where you will be amazed by the wide range of flora and fauna.



TOUR

Campo dei Fiori to Orino Fort



 1 DAY |  4,2 km DISTANCE |  190 m ELEVATION | ●○○ level EASY

The walk begins in front of Pensione Irma on Via Al Belvedere in Varese. From here we follow the signposts to "Forte d'Orino" (Orino Fort) and soon come to a fork in the trail. The two trails are the same length with the

same level of difficulty and follow parallel routes and then link up again before our destination. The best idea is to take one trail on the way out and the other on the way back.



TOUR

The Fornaci di Ispra Loop



1 DAY | 5,3 km DISTANCE | 150 m ELEVATION | ●○○ level EASY

This walk begins from Ispra tourist information centre and follows a circular route known as "VVL-L1".

We return to Ispra for lunch, which is made from local produce. After lunch you are

free for the rest of the afternoon to explore Ispra town centre.



TOUR

Pradecolo to Monte Lema



1 DAY | 9,5 km DISTANCE | 507 m ELEVATION | ●●○ level MEDIUM

This walk begins from the Campiglio mountain refuge on Alpe Pradecolo where we take the T8 trail. The entire route affords breathtaking views over Lake Maggiore, and you can also see the Castelli di Cannero (three rocky islets with ruined fortresses) and Monte Rosa.

The trail continues uphill until you reach the Swiss side of the top of Monte Lema (1924m).

The view from here is quite spectacular: in addition to Lake Maggiore and Lake Lugano, you can see the peaks of the Pennine and Lepontine Alps.



OUT ON THE GREENS

If you love getting out in the countryside away from the hubbub of the city and relaxing with friends, Varese offers a choice of four 18-hole golf courses.

All the golf courses are set in picturesque locations, such as ancient monasteries. Le Robinie Golf Club & Resort in Solbiate Olona, Golf Club Varese in Luvinata, Golf dei Laghi in Travedona, and Panorama Golf in Varese. If you are new to golf, we have qualified instructors who will take you out on the greens and introduce you to this magnificent sport.



Golf enthusiasts and professionals can put their skills to the "test" on the different courses, which are all set in beautiful green hilly countryside.



THE VALUE OF NUMBERS

Certain things are invaluable and we appreciate what we have in the Province of Varese.

100,000 m²
of greens

4

18-hole golf courses

1

golf resort with accommodation



ENJOY LIFE ON THE WATER

Learning to sail a boat has never been so easy or fun.

Lake Maggiore and Lake Ceresio are ideal places to try your hand at sailing. Leave the hustle and bustle behind as you sail around these unique lakes in complete tranquillity with only the wind and water to guide you for this relaxing experience. Sail across the waters with the wind in your favour and all the time you need to savour every stunning view as the sun rises over the bow on a crisp spring morning or your boat sails under an end-of-autumn sunset. This is an experience like no other and the thrills are definitely impossible to forget.



Rowing

The Province of Varese has always been associated with rowing. And one of the best stretches of water for rowing is Lake Varese. Its water and weather conditions are perfectly suited to the sport which is why so many rowing teams come from all over the world to train here every year before all the major competitions.



An ideal place for competitive rowers to hone their skills and the perfect setting for anyone looking for a healthy, satisfying way to spend a few hours in the fresh air without needing to win any medals.

EXPERIENCE

Sailing on Lake Maggiore



1/2
DAY

What better way than a sailing boat to visit some of the most important cultural sites in our area, such as the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso and the Borromean Gulf. This unique adventure gives you the chance to become a skipper for a day with expert guidance from qualified sailing instructors. We set off from Cerro di Laveno and sail towards the Hermitage of Santa Caterina del

Sasso, and then on to the Borromean Gulf and Laveno Mombello.

A thrilling experience for anyone who has ever dreamed of sailing a boat. Drinks are served on the boat later in the afternoon so you can top off your experience by sipping aperitifs while watching a magnificent sunset.





RIDE OUT IN PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Varese's roads, tracks and trails wind up and down hills and mountains offering stunning scenic vistas and mountain passes ensconced in woodlands where nature reigns supreme.

Our roads and trails have welcomed classic races and the routes provide the perfect introduction to period mansions and areas of outstanding natural beauty. Top of the list is a visit to MV Agusta Motors which has been making the finest motorcycles here since 1919. Avant-garde models manufactured with traditional craftsmanship.



MV Agusta still has strong ties to the area and is proud to open the doors of its factory to customers and fans. You can book a visit to the production line and see how the legendary MV Agusta motorcycles are made. Each one is created with the most advanced engineering and technologies while still remaining true to a culture of craftsmanship that has brought so much pride to the company and this area.



TOUR

International Six Day Tour



 1 DAY |  115 km DISTANCE

Explore the classic route used for the International Six Day Trial in 1951, which is now the stage for a famous vintage motorcycle event. The tour crosses the Valganna valley to Luino, on the eastern bank of Lake Maggiore. Along the way you can marvel at some of the impressive mountain waterfalls before joining the road to Santa Caterina del Sasso. From here we head to Villa della Porta Bozzolo and its

magnificent gardens then follow the road towards Brinzio and on to Sacro Monte. The tour begins and ends in Piazza Monte Grappa in Varese.



TOUR

No Borders Tour



 1/2 DAYS |  87 km DISTANCE

Your first stop on this tour is the Poretti Brewery, just a stone's throw from Varese. You then ride through the Valganna valley to Porto Ceresio, one of the most beautiful villages in Italy on the border with Switzerland. Here you can admire the crystal-clear waters of Lake Lugano. We then head into Switzerland, passing through Agno and the park at Figino and on to the Grancia shopping area. A must

when we get to Lugano is a walk along the lakefront with its famous hotels, bars and restaurants. From there we ride through Melide and Brusino Arsizio and back to the old town in Porto Ceresio before visiting the museum in Besano. If it is late spring, we always stop off in Cantello on the way home for a chance to savour the world-famous white asparagus.



VARESE: A TRIP FOR THE TASTE BUDS

Varese's cuisine is famous for the locally sourced ingredients used in the delicious traditional dishes enriched with the imagination and experience of our chefs.

If you love new food and drink experiences, the Varese area is the perfect place to savour the unique local flavours and traditional dishes. You can try the Formaggella del Luinese cheese, the Salame Prealpino mountain salami and the Violino di capra (cured goat's ham); these quintessential examples of Slow Food are well worth tasting. The Varese area also has many large valleys where we grow traditional and often unique vegetables, such as the asparagus from Cantello, and exquisitely flavoured fruit, like the Monate peaches that are transformed into sweets jams. Varese has everything your taste buds desire, the only difficulty is deciding where to stop next to savour the finest quality cuisine and traditional delicacies, such as polenta, game, and fresh fish from the lake.



Left: "Brutti e Buoni" biscuits from the Veniani patisserie in Gavirate.

Above and below: classic local produce.

EXPERIENCE

Varese, a foodie's paradise



We created this culinary tour especially for foodies keen to discover all the flavours hidden within the valleys and lakeside locations in the Province of Varese. If you love fine food, why not embark on an epicurean adventure with everything from fresh lake fish and PDO cheeses to traditional pastries, sweets and fruit, like the "brutti ma buoni" (ugly but good) biscuits or Monate peaches. Our tour begins in the Luinese Valley where you can taste the soft, creamy PDO Formaggella del Luinese cheese which is made in all the local dairies. You could also try this cheese in the many agritourisms and mountain refuges in the valley, excellent

served with honey or creamed into a delicious risotto. As we head to Laveno, the lanes and restaurants in the villages welcome you with the enticing aroma of whitefish and fried perch, some of the freshwater fish typically found in our lakes which have a distinctively subtle flavour. If you are a wine buff, a trip to the town of Angera is a must as the vineyards offer a tantalising choice, such as Ronchi Varesini I.G.T. This vineyard's production is governed by a specification approved in 2005 and is now one of the most important in Lombardy. We highly recommend taking time to stop here for a tasting session or visit to the many vineyards in the area.



EXPERIENCE

6 must-try delicacies



Our top picks for passionate foodies: these six culinary delights are an absolute must. Amaretti di Saronno, first created in 1718 as a gift for the Cardinal of Milan.

Bruscitti di Busto Arsizio, the perfect beef dish for the winter.

Dolce di San Tito from Casorate Sempione, a cake made with figs, walnuts and hazelnuts.

The white asparagus from Cantello is a traditional classic from this village on the Swiss border. They are mainly harvested between 30 March and 30 May. Poretti, the

famous beer from Induno. Dolce Varese, this light, moist version of the polenta sponge cake is a symbol of the City of Varese. These are all made exclusively with local ingredients.



FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS

“Pawfect” holidays around Varese and Lake Maggiore.

Our province’s travel experts have worked hard to ensure that our four-legged friends also enjoy great hospitality and services while holidaying in and around Varese.

Throughout the province are many green spaces, dog parks, dog-friendly hotels and other accommodation with “paw-some” services, beaches and cultural venues that welcome dogs. So you can organise your trip to Varese without having to worry about leaving your four-legged friend at home.





Go to www.vareseturismo.it where you can find all the addresses and key services for organising your Varese experience.

TOUR

A walk along the River Ticino: the Panperduto dam



1 hours DURATION | 3 km DISTANCE | ●●○ level MEDIUM | 0 m ELEVATION

start PANPERDUTO SOMMA LOMBARDO | finish PARKING DEI PESCATORI FRAZ. MADDALENA

This tour includes a visit to the nineteenth-century Panperduto dam, also known as the Villoresi Canal after the engineer who designed it. Nowadays this dam is a popular starting point for many beautiful walks along the River Ticino. From here you can see an old pound lock that is no longer in use. The area has

a wide variety of trees and plants with common oaks and willow trees lining the walk to Fogatore beach.

After admiring the wonderful views over the water, we walk through the woods to the "fishermen's" car park from where we can follow the E1 trail by the towpath to return to where we started.



TOUR

Discover Monte San Giorgio with a lake to mountain walk



2/30 hours DURATION | 7 km DISTANCE | ●●○ level MEDIUM | 800 m ELEVATION

start PORTO CERESIO | finish MONTE SAN GIORGIO

We set off from Porto Ceresio and take the border trail that leads to the hamlet of Cà del Monte.

The trail is well marked and we follow the signs across the border into Switzerland. This route takes us through the village of Sarpiano and on to Sant'Umberto.

From here we take the path that leads to the top of Monte San Giorgio, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site as it has the best fossil record of marine life from the Triassic period.



FUN IN THE SADDLE

Varese's love of horses and the equine world began 125 years ago when the first racetrack opened.

The countryside, tracks, woods and heathland provide the perfect backdrop for horse rides for novices and experienced riders, and even for corporate team-building experiences. Racing fans will love the racetrack, Ippodromo delle Bettole, which opened in 1911. It hosts many major national races and has a busy year-round race calendar. Although situated close to Varese city centre, the racetrack enjoys a leafy setting that offers a peaceful yet fun haven of entertainment. It is a very popular venue where people come to socialise and enjoy the thrills and spills of the races.



If you want to go horse riding, you can take to the bridleways and tracks crossing the Varese area and choose from the many rides organised to cater to every level from beginners and novices to experienced riders.



EXPERIENCE *Explore Varese by horse*



 1/2
DAY

Spending a weekend with family or friends and you're short on ideas? Why not explore the southern part of the province in the Park of the Ticino Valley? The local activities and attractions offer endless adventures and memorable experiences. Visit one of the area's many stables and farms for a half-day carriage ride or an afternoon of horse riding.



Whatever your reason for visiting Varese and the surrounding province, you will be captivated by the vast wealth of things to see and do. The magnificent countryside offers an abundance of glorious landscapes, art, traditions and fine food just waiting to be discovered.



TOUR
EXPERIENCES
ACCOMMODATION

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With the contribution of:

