

YOUR LOCAL SECRETS

LAKE MAGGIORE & SURROUNDINGS
NOT AN ORDINARY GUIDE



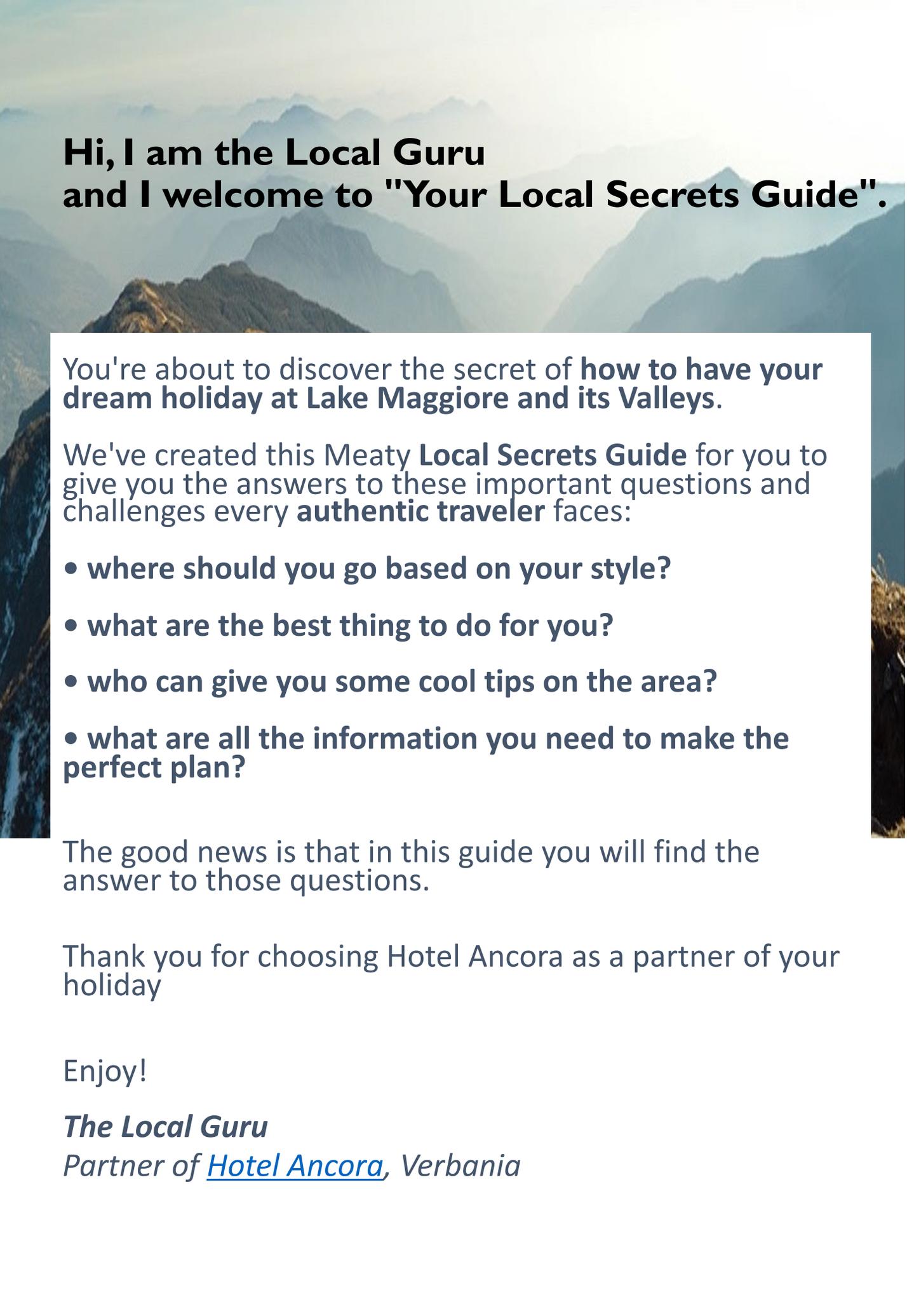
THE LOCAL GURU

**Welcome in
Verbania!**

**This is a special
gift for you from
Hotel Ancora, to
help you living
unforgettable
moments during
your holiday.**

**Enjoy your Stay
with us!**

**For any request
during your stay,
call Hotel Ancora
0323 53951**



Hi, I am the **Local Guru** and I welcome to "**Your Local Secrets Guide**".

You're about to discover the secret of **how to have your dream holiday at Lake Maggiore and its Valleys**.

We've created this Meaty **Local Secrets Guide** for you to give you the answers to these important questions and challenges every **authentic traveler** faces:

- **where should you go based on your style?**
- **what are the best thing to do for you?**
- **who can give you some cool tips on the area?**
- **what are all the information you need to make the perfect plan?**

The good news is that in this guide you will find the answer to those questions.

Thank you for choosing Hotel Ancora as a partner of your holiday

Enjoy!

The Local Guru

Partner of [Hotel Ancora](#), Verbania

Let your journey begin



HOW IT IS MADE

This guide is designed for **specific type of travellers:**

- Relax, food & Beverage lovers
- Sport & adventure seeker
- Family
- Romantic

Among all the experiences and places that you can enjoy in Lake Maggiore and its Valleys, The Local Guru has **picked the best ones, in line with your specific desires.**



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- The Local Guru Guide is designed for you, to help you immediately understand what is the **best thing to do for you in Lake Maggiore and its valleys, based on your preferences.**
- It assures you **will live unforgettable moments** with the people you are with, or if you are alone. Instead of looking for all the experience and than understand which is better for you, **with this guide you can immediately plan your days and have reliable people to refer to**
- That can help you organizing your tour while you can **enjoy the time of your life without any stress.**



HOW TO FIND WHAT YOU WILL LOVE

In every attraction you will find a **tag**. Each tag describe if the attraction or place or experience is recommended based on your attitude.



RELAX, FOOD & WINE LOVERS



SPORT & ADVENTURE SEEKER



FAMILY GANG



LOVE COMPANION

VILLA TARANTO



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Intra
- Pallanza
- Villa San Remigio



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

Less than 2 km

If you go to Verbania you certainly have to visit the Gardens of Villa Taranto, even just for a couple of hours to stroll along the paths.

The wonderful gardens are the result of an arduous elaboration undertaken by Captain McEacham in 1931, that continues through the hard work of the management and the gardeners of the 16.000 m² gardens, of the 7km pathways and and 115.000 plants.

Coming into the gardens of Villa Taranto is just like making a travel 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 to walk in this amazing park, or even get a guide if you are passionate about flowers, plants and corious details.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

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



HOW TO GET THERE

It is located in the center of Verbania, you can include villa taranto in a ferry boart trip since it is located right in front of a ferry stop called "villa Taranto". I am sure you won't have any trouble in finding it.

I introduce you 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 first in the world.

Roberto has been dedicating body, mind and soul to the garden since 1979, and sees in the amazement of the people who visit the garden the full satisfaction of his work. His real motivation all these years has always been to **show his visitors something they didn't think could exist**.

This keeps him motivated even in difficult times like this, where the garden today shines with **over 80,000 hand-planted bulbous plants including magnificent tulips** that bloom in April, and which again this year cannot be seen with amazement by eyes incredulous; or when in 2012 due to a tornado 620 tall trees fell to the ground.

Such a great passion for his work, and his bond with Villa Taranto were written in his history. In fact, they find their origin in his father, who was the right hand of the Scottish magnate who founded the garden.

The **Scottish tycoon** was the captain of a shipping company between England and Australia. In 1931 he bought The Villa and the surrounding land on the mild slopes of the Castagnola hill in Verbania, with the aim of recreating a true Scottish garden. From that **moment he traveled the world 4 times by sea and by land in search of plants and flowers for his garden**.

From 1952 the garden opened to the public and Roberto's father was always part of the team until he took over the management in 1976, handing down his role, passion and competence to his son, who saw his love for the garden grow day by day.

If you want to visit the garden of Villa Taranto in comfort and enjoy a pleasant holiday on the shores of Lake Maggiore, it is a stone's throw from Hotel Ancora.



Villa taranto, per mare e per terra

INTRA, PALLANZA, SUNA



If you don't have a lot of time, you can walk, run or cycle one of the cycling route along the lake. You are going to enjoy the lake view from different perspective and spy on random secret private blooming gardens like this one in this season.

If you want to spend an alternative reinvigorating day, you can do the entire cycling tour from Intra-Stresa-Arona-Sesto Calende-Laveno, and than take the ferry back to Intra. It is 72km and 5hr long cycling at 10km/h. Enjoy the ride and the amazing lake view!



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Villa Taranto
- Villa San Remigio



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

It is Verbania!



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

You can even from intra, then go to Villa Taranto, and then continue toward the cycle route till Suna

Walk up the Castagnola Hill reaching the charming Villa San Remigio and have a look at San Remigio church. The view is unique!

Stop by and get in villa giulia, you will find a nice bar and temporary exhibitions!



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- First of all, go to La **Casera in Intra**, Eros will take care of you
- Grub a drink at Estremadura, the turning point of your walk
- Have a great original Italian Pizza at Matisse in Suna, or at Dalì in Intra
- If you want to have a one star Michelin starred lunch stop by at "Il Portale" in Pallanza. Ask for a table outside!



HOW TO GET THERE

Park in intra or at Villa Taranto Park, it is much easier to find an easy spot for your car

I introduce you Eros, the cheese refiners of Verbania!

LA
CA
SE
RA



Eros is one of the most important cheese expert we are lucky to have in northern Italy, and has his headquarter in **Verbania-intra**.

The beginning of Eros's adventure is lost in time. His family had a small shop in the center of Verbania-Intra, where day by day he sees a growing **passion for researching and trading cheeses and typical products** of the areas of Lake Maggiore and his Valleys.

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 Piedmontese, 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, hotel Ancora still is a stone's throw from Eros's Shop and Bar



Il cerchio magico tra sapori, profumi e tradizione locale.

BORROMEAN ISLANDS



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Parco Pallavicino
- Rocca di Angera
- Villa Taranto



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

Two to three km.

Easily reached by boat, the islands that form this archipelago offer a variety of attractions. Isola Bella boasts a Baroque palace which blends in seamlessly with the surrounding natural beauty, as the Italian-style terraced garden is richly adorned with ponds, fountains and 17th-century statues.

The palace on Isola Madre, the largest in the archipelago, houses original furnishing from the historic residences of the Borromeo family, while its English-style garden offers floral spectacles backdropped by the coastline

of Lake Maggiore. Isola dei Pescatori (Fishermen's Island) is the only island in the archipelago to be permanently inhabited, home to a picturesque fishing village watched over by the ancient Church of San Vittore.

How is it: A charming archipelago located on the western branch of Lake Maggiore, Isole Borromeo are home to grand palaces, lavish gardens and rich flora and fauna. Glorious white peacocks are among the natural treasures which can be found on these islands.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

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

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



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Restaurants @isola pescatori: Belvedere Ristorante



HOW TO GET THERE

Ferries and private boats available from Stresa, Arona, Verbania and Baveno.

I introduce you Pier, Captain for passion.

Pier has a **great passion for water**, his favorite element, **for the Lake, for its geology, history and literature**. He knows **everything about the Lake Maggiore**. His passion was handed down to him by his father, a passionate diver.

Since 1982, after having been sergeant in the Italian Navy, he bought his first boat, a small and old boat that he restructured to realize his dream: **to sail free in the waters of his beloved Lake and to let his companions discover its secrets and beauties**. Today Pier chooses every day to make his dream come true, but on his new "Signora Paola".

Pier finds full satisfaction with his work in seeing the **customers come ashore with wonder in their eyes**. In **making them discover unique elements and secret corners of the lake, telling real stories**, such as when *Stendhal* and *Lord Byron* fell in love with Lake Maggiore during the *grand tour*, or when *Hemingway* stayed here to write his «*A farewell to arms*».

"Promise 9 and give 10" is his motto. It is not just a matter of transporting people on the lake, but **making everything he can to realize the wishes of his customers** and always find new ways to satisfy and surprise them.

Pier can pick you up with his Signora Paola **directly on the pier in front of Hotel Ancora**. If you want to be guided by Pier to discover the secrets of Lake Maggiore. At Hotel Ancora you will find who will be able to help you live an unforgettable day.

[>> Pier will pick you up at the dock in front of Hotel Ancora <<](#)



«le persone sono diverse, di diverse nazionalità, culture, classi sociali, età, ma l'antichità e le storie di vita reali incuriosiscono e appassionano tutti. Alla fine, non si può non innamorarsi di questo posto meraviglioso e magico».

DOMODOSSOLA



NEARBY

- Sacro Monte Calvary
- Collegiate Church of Domodossola Galletti Civil Museums
- The wine press and mill route (Villadossola)
- Vogogna Castle



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

40 km



Domodossola is a charming historic town and a renown shopping hub. It is also at the centre of the many attractions of the Ossola Valley, which include the Unesco-listed Sacro Monte Calvary.

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

The many shops and historic workshops scattered all over the centre make Domodossola a renown shopping hub, attracting many tourists from across the border. The town is home to the Sacro Monte Calvary while the many other attractions of Ossola Valley are also within easy reach.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Saturday is the best day to visit for shopping with the local market of foods and clothes



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

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



HOW TO GET THERE

By train: Domodossola international rail station

By car: A26 motorway to Gravellona Toce, then SS33 and exit at Domodossola.

Do you want to spend an exciting day discovering Lake Maggiore and Ossola with Daniela?

Daniela, who will be able to accompany you on an exciting journey to discover Ossola and Lake Maggiore.

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

She has decided to come back and do what she loves most: living **nature**, the **mountains** always in safety, playing **sports**, learning about **tradition**, **art**, **culture**, and passing on these wonders to other people.

Daniela first became a **tour guide** and then, driven by the desire to let her discover her territory in an increasingly natural and eco-sustainable way, she became an **environmental hiking guide as well as a 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, naturalistic excursions, environmental education, Nordic Walking and much more ... always with passion and energy!

[>> Call to Hotel Ancora and book an excursion with Daniela <<](#)



A balcony with a table set for a meal, surrounded by lush greenery and flowers. The table is covered with a dark cloth and has a white mug, two glasses of water, a folded white napkin, and a small basket of snacks. The background is filled with green trees and white flowers, creating a bright and inviting atmosphere.

**We hope our
Local Guide
helps you living
unforgettable
moments in
Verbania.**

**For any request
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0323 53951**

STRESA E FERILO



NEARBY

- Villa Pallavicino
- Mottarone
- Eremo Santa Caterina
- Arona city



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

14 km

Locate 6 km apart, Feriolo and Stresa are two of the most picturesque waterside villages in the Lake Maggiore area.

Facing the Borromean Gulf, Feriolo boast a picturesque row of coloured houses lining up the shore. Popular with tourists, this small village offers a quaint lakeside atmosphere, as well as historic landmarks such as the Virgin of the Scarpia oratory and the church of San Carlo, adorned with rich frescoes and stained glass windows.

A 5-minute drive away, Stresa is home to **Parco Pallavicino**, one of Lake Maggiore's best known attractions. This Neoclassical villa was originally a modest house built in 1855, then renovated into an opulent villa. What's more, the park hosts a zoo with over 40 species of animals, attracting thousands of tourists every year.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Facing San Carlo Church (Feriolo), look for the mark indicating the water level reached by the lake in 1868.

Promenade from Carciano harbour direction Stresa: you will enjoy a magic view of Borromean Islands.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- **La Rampolina** in the hill of Stresa
- Sky bar at Hotel La Palma in Stresa: an enchanting place where to have a drink



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: Baveno exit on the A26, then follow directions to either Feriolo or Stresa.

By train: the nearest railway stations are Stresa, Baveno and Verbania-Pallanza.

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 distinctive villas and beautiful gardens revealing Baroque and Renaissance influences at every corner. 20 frescoed chapels form the harmonious complex lying on top of the hill, Sacro Monte Orta, easily reached through a panoramic walk. From the centre of Orta, a short boat trip takes to San Giulio Island, famous for the Romanesque basilica, the bishop's palace and the Benedictine abbey. The narrow street linking these landmarks suggestively whisper the spiritual character of the island, dominated by the basilica's bell tower. Back in Orta, a pedestrian street goes alongside the lake passing by various points of interest such as Villa Motta, Punta Movero and Villa Curioni-Mazzetti.

How is it: The district of Orta San Giulio is one of the gems of Lake Orta. A little peninsula into the lake, a visit to this area includes a circular hiking itinerary, wonderful religious buildings and the charming San Giulio Island.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

While on San Giulio Island, learn about the legend according to which the Saint freed the island from snakes and monsters before settling here, but don't forget to try the signature bread made by the local nuns.

EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Villa Crespi is the restaurant of the famous Italian chef Cannavacciuolo. It is quite expensive but it is worth it.



HOW TO GET THERE

By train: the local railway station is Orta – Miasino - Legro Station

By bus: Stop Orta San Giulio along the line Domodossola - Omegna and Novara - Borgomanero - Omegna - Domodossola.

By car: From North: exit at Gravelona Toce on A26 motorway. Take SR229 to Omegna and follow directions to Orta San Giulio. From South: exit at Borgomanero A26 motorway. Take SP229 to Orta San Giulio.

LAKE MERGOZZO



NEARBY

- Mount Faié
- Top of Montorfano
- Aquadventure Park Lago Maggiore



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 km

Renown for its exceptionally clean waters, **Lake Mergozzo** is particularly suited for water sports, but its attractions also include nice beaches and a charming hiking path.

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 formed is today home to the hamlet of Fondotoce, while the two lakes are linked only by a narrow underground channel. The particularly favourable conditions that grace this area make the waters of Lake Mergozzo always calm, therefore ideal for popular water sports such as canoeing, kayaking and windsurfing.



Motorboats are forbidden and the local sewage system doesn't drain in the lake, making these waters known as exceptionally clean.

The area's attractions also include the small town of Mergozzo, several beaches and the '**Azzurro**' hiking path up to Montorfano small village with its romantic church.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

- 'Portaiolo', 'La Rustica', 'Quartina', and 'La Quiete' are some of the lake's best beaches.
- Azzurro hiking path will allow you to see some wonderful views of the lake, the small and magic village of Montorfano up to the top of the homonymous mountain for a 360° view of the lakes and mountain of the area (2h30 total)



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Cà del Mosto or Birreria Freelance both perfect for wine and beer tasting enjoying the view of the lake
- Grotto la Dispensa
- Pizzeria Vecchio Olmo



HOW TO GET THERE

By train: nearest station is Verbania Fondotoce

By car: on Motorway A26 to Gravellona Toce exit at Verbania, then follow the direction for Mergozzo

DEVERO ALP, CRAMPIOLO AND THE DAM



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Lake Agaro
- Antrona Valley Natural Park
- Premia Thermal Baths
-



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

70 km, 1 hr by car



Located near the border between Piedmont and Switzerland, Alpe Devero is part of the Veglia-Devero Natural Park. A mountain cottage and a church mark the beginning of the track, which following the directions to the Devero plain takes to the hamlet of Canton. Here the path starts going up through characteristic mountain pastures until the flat area of Crampiolo, where guest houses and restaurants are located. After crossing a small bridge, the path reaches the dam and follows along the lakeside through larch woods and pastures. Walk around the lake until the fork to the dam and follow the directions to the quaint mountain hamlet of Crampiolo. From here, it's possible to head back to the beginning of the trail.

How is it: This 13-km trail offers suitable for intermediate and expert hikers offers spectacular landscapes of Devero Alp and the nearby lake.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

In Canton are located a mountain hostel, a refuge, and a guesthouse.

At the flat area of Crampiolo, a detour is highly recommended to the Laghetto delle Streghe (Witches' Lake), known for its clear water.

Specially recommended is Casa Fontana in Alpe Devero.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- In Crampiolo you will find some refuge and restaurants with home made cheese and special course.



HOW TO GET THERE

By car - A26 motorway to Gravellona Toce, then continue along the Sempione SS until the exit for Crodo. Continue to Baceno and turn left following directions to Devero.



CICOGNA AND VAL GRANDE



The Val Grande crossing from Cicogna “the small capital of the Val Grande”, to **Re** is a dip dive into an uncorrupted nature, but also a memory bath. You cross mountain pastures, woods, ruins of old mills and signs of ancient life, streams where the erosive power of the water has deeply engraved the rocky bed smoothing the walls.

How it is: for experts, get a guide or go with someone who knows the path. The walk will be 8hr and 20km long for 1.335m difference in height.



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

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



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

17 Km, 30 min by car



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

If you would like to explore Val grande in a more relaxing way, I suggest you to go to **Pogallo**, it is a wonderful 1h30min walk in an easy hike. It is ideal for kids and if you would like to, you can have a dive into the wonderful river. Remember to take some food with you!



HOW TO GET THERE

Go to Cicogna and start following the path P0 Cicogna- Pogallo, P12 Pogallo- Bocchetta Di Terza, S27 to Finero and than follow signs to Re. It is one way track so you need to organize your transportation to the starting point, but it's worthed!

MONTE FAIE'



The hike to Mount Faiè (1352m) is ideal for a walk in the nature and to enjoy landscapes truly out of the ordinary. It is the middle-earth between the wild Val Grande and the hilly area of the lakes: downstream you can see Lake Mergozzo and Lake Maggiore, while in the west you can see Orta Lake, Mount Cerano, Poggio Croce, the Mount Rosa group and the beginning of the Ossola Valley.

Mount Faié is a border between two worlds. Its name indicates the aspect that distinguishes it, an extensive and shady beech forest.

Itinerary: The first part of the itinerary is a mule track linking Bracchio to the Vercio Hermitage, punctuated by precious glimpses at of the surrounding landscape.

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

How it is: 2hr walk, 432m height difference, it's easy but at the end is steep, But the view on the lakes and the Val Grande repays all efforts.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

At Eremo di 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 takes to the peak of the mountain in around one hour.



HOW TO GET THERE

Set your gps to Alpe Ompio and park your car at the end of the street, in correspondence of the first rural house of the Ompio Alp. Then follow the path that leads to the mountain retreat CAI "A. Fantoli" (1000m) and then the signs for the Nature Trail "The Tree Man". Continue along the path that leads to the mouth that marks the border with the wild Val Grande. Follow the path to the left along the ridge, in the shade of the beech forest and proceed to the top of the mountain, from which you can enjoy an unforgettable view!



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Rifugio Fantoli
- Val Grande



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

14 Km, 20 min by car



EAT & DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- In Ompio, the Fantoli Refuge is an excellent spot to fuel up with local food and drinks. Elena and Andrea will take care of you. They also can organise special dinners!



MACUGNAGA



Walser culture permeates Macugnaga and its nearby hamlets, facing the east slope of imposing Monte Rosa, the most amazing mountain wall in the alps.

One of the main attractions of the area **Lago delle Fate** (Fairies' Lake) can be reached in three different ways. Two walking paths start from the car park next to the **Guia Gold Mine**, one slightly steeper than the other. As the lake approaches, visitors meet two bars, a small church and a number of picnic areas. To reach the lake by car, follow the directions from SS549 (Via Monte Rosa).



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

As well as Lago delle Fate, 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 Rifugio Zamboni, opened in 1925.

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



NEARBY

- Skislope Belvedere, Moro
- Rifugio Zamboni
- Pestarena Goldmines



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

60 Km, 1h by car



Another major attraction is **Rifugio Zamboni** on the **Belvedere Glacier**, a historic refuge opened in 1925. 2,070 meters above the sea level, the refuge is linked to Macugnaga via a chairlift and three trekking trails (Pecetto di Macugnaga – Belvedere, Pecetto di Macugnaga – Alpe Rosareccio, Pecetto di Macugnaga – Alpe Roffelstafel).

The history of Macugnaga goes back to the 12th-century, when **Walser communities** settled around the 4,634-meter peak of Monte Rosa (the second highest massif in the Alps). Today, the architecture of this mountain village still reflects its history, and so do the local traditions, customs and Titsch language. The legend has it that the 7-meter wide tilia standing next to the Old Church was brought by a woman at the time of the foundation of this community.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- **Wengwald Hutte** at the top of Belvedere chairlift
- **Agriturismo Alpe Burki** where you can have a *cheese lab* and see how they do their cheese
- Rifugio Zamboni on the Belvedere Glacier;
- Z'Makana Stube in Macugnaga

* I recommend you to try the typical pasta ala macugnaghesè!



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: after Gravelona Toce on A26 motorway, continue until Piedimulera-Valle Anzasca and continue up the valley road ending at Macugnaga.

By train: the nearest station is Piedimulera.

By bus: a public bus service links Piedimulera Train Station to Macugnaga.

VAL FORMAZZA – RIFUGI CITTA' DI BUSTO & 3A



The northern part of the Ossola region, the Formazza is a little-known valley with rewarding hiking trails and glorious mountain landscapes. Its hidden treasures include lakes, glacier circles, waterfalls and quaint Walser hamlets. Arriving at Riale you can admire the Toce Fall, regarded as the most striking waterfalls in the Alps. Park your car before the Lake Morasco Dam and from that path you can choose to go to:
Gries Pass (2h 30m)
rifugio Maria Luisa (1h30m)
Città di Busto (2.840mt, 680-meter drop) and then to A3 (2.960mt)



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The Toce Falls can be seen from June to September and only on certain times of the day. Rifugio Città di Busto and Rifugio Maria Luisa are two of the most renown local refuges. Going through Città di Busto and Gries you will pass through Bettelmatt Alp, where you will find many cows that produces the well known Bettelmatt Cheese, THE ROLLS ROICE OF THE CHEESES!



NEARBY

- Casa Forte (Pomat)
- Premia Thermal Baths
- The hydro-electric power station of the 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 Falls, regarded as the most striking waterfalls in the Alps. A number of natural and artificial lakes also grace the surrounding landscapes, while a handful of refuges provide visitors with warm local hospitality. Located 2,480 meters above the sea level, Rifugio Città di Busto is the oldest mountain refuge in Val Formazza. It is open from June to September, offering private rooms, dormitories and local cuisine.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

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



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: after Gravellona Toce on the A26 motorway, continue along SS33. Take the turn for Crodo and follow the SS659 to Formazza.
By train: the nearest train station is Domodossola.
By bus: public bus service available from Domodossola train station to Formazza.

LAKE ANTRONA AND CINGINO



Rather long and covering a 500-meter drop, this trail is suitable for intermediate and expert hikers. It starts at the Lake Antrona (1.073 MSL) car park, from where it's easy to reach the dam in around 3h30minutes. The next destination is Alpe Granarioli, which can be reached from different trails. Take the path to Cingino and Passo Saas, which enters an enchanting landscape made of waterfalls, larches and blueberries. After over an hour, the trail starts getting steep, headed to the top of the Cingino dam (2.250 MSL). Once on top, the sight of the climbing ibexes is highly rewarding, and best enjoyed from the path that descends along one side of the dam. From there, the directions offer different options to complete the circular itinerary, which takes around 6 or 7 hours in total.

How is it: A stunning hiking trail around Lake Antrona, where the alpine ibexes climb the vertical wall of the dam in search of salt. The way to Cingino Dam is quite long, it is a 3h track and 1.200m difference in height that is really worthed, in case you do not want to get there you can walk around the Antrona lake, it is still a very nice charming walk.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

It's also possible to start the hike from Campliccioli Lake, reducing the drop by 300 meters.

If you are going to Cingino Dam make sure to have food for a small picnic since there are no restaurants once there.



NEARBY

- Premia Thermal Baths
- Bognanco Thermal



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

60 Km



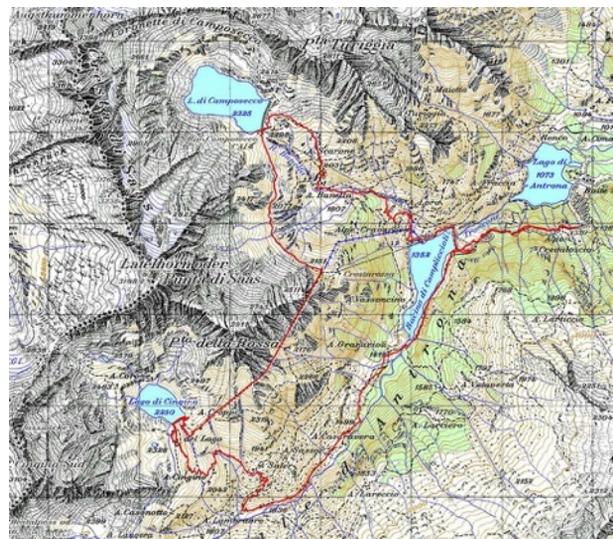
EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Specially recommended the restaurant **Lago Pineta** at Lake Antrona, one of the best pizza in the area.



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: from Verbania drive throughout Gravelona Toce and take the motorway toward Domodossola and exit at Villadossola. From there follow the directions to the Lake Antrona.



PIAN CAVALLONE



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Val Grande National Park
- Pizzo Pernice
- Zeda Mountain



Pian Cavallone is an image: 400m of plains in the mountains; over 1500m altitude, an expanse of green grass between Val Pogallo and Intrasca; sight open on the lake Southside and the mountains of val grande Northside. Here there is also one of the most important mountain retreat built in 1882 by the CAI.

Itinerary: A scenic trail wide open on Lake Maggiore and the surrounding mountains, this itinerary passes through the tunnels and fortifications of Linea Cadorna, a military route dating back to World War I.



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

20 Km



How it is: easy difficulty level, total Walking time: 1h30min



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

From Verbania-Intra follow directions for Alpe Pala, Miazzina and park your car at Cappella Fina (27 min by car). From the chapel follow the track and get into the nature walking along the eastern slope of Pizzo Pernice and through the wide saddle of Pian la Carica (1.401m). The mountain retreat is glued on the mountain overlooking the lakes, close by the Pian Cavallone chapel.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Rifugio Piancavallone –ask for Lorenza +39 (0)323407482



HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: From Verbania-Intra follow directions for Alpe Pala, Miazzina and park your car at Cappella Fina (27 min by car)

MOUNT MOTTARONE



Standing in between Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore, **Mount Mottarone** (1,491 msl) offers priceless views stretching from the Swiss peaks to the far reaches of the Po Valley, in addition to gentle slopes and a number of hiking paths.

The views from Mount Mottarone embrace seven lakes, the Po Valley, the Ligurian Apennines, the Maritime Alps, the Monte Rosa massif and more. It all can be enjoyed while hiking along a plethora of gentle paths such as



NEARBY

- Mottarone Ski Centre & Alpiland
- Lake Orta
- Isole Borromee
- Alpinia Botanical Garden



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

35 km

the one that descends from the top of the mountain to Baveno (roughly a three-hour hike), or that which starts in Stresa and reaches the peak in about 4 hours.

Another way to get to the top is the cableway that starts from the lido of Carciano and makes an intermediate stop at Alpino. From skiing in winter to mountain biking and climbing in summer, this area offers plenty of activities all year long.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

- **Alpinia Botanical Garden** has more than 700 plants, coming from all over the world, in particularly alpine plants, but also Asian and American species. The Alpinia's symbol is the Gentian, a little pretty purple-blue flower very rare and special
- **Alpyland e Ski area** for a those who are looking for some fun the Alpine Coaster is an attraction similar to roller coaster only downhill where you can decide to adjust the speed.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Villa Pizzini is a local restaurant in a unique landscape on the top of Mottarone
- Restaurant La Rampolina a terrace on lake Maggiore and its Islands



HOW TO GET THERE

The top of Mount Mottarone can be reached from Armeno ("Due Riviere" road), or from Stresa-Gignese ("Borromea" toll road). The cableway service leaves from the Lido of Carciano (near Stresa).

CICOGNA, CASA ALPINO, CIMA SASSO



NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Pogallo
- Val Grande



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

17 Km, 30 min by car

Cicogna (730mt.) - Colma di Belmello (1590mt.) - Cima Sasso (1916 mt.)

The walk to heaven is not so easy, so is not the walk to the top of Cima Sasso. And I tell you, the panorama at the summit of the untouched Val Grande and of our lake is exceptional and repays all the efforts.

How it is: 4.5hr, 11,600km long, the difference in altitude requires some workout. As with all excursions in general, especially in Val Grande, caution is recommended, do not tackle the solo hike. If you want to take it easy, stop at Casa Alpino, a CAI retreat with an amazing view!



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Casa Alpino is the perfect spot to have a relaxing time. Grab some food or make sure that the refuge is open!



HOW TO GET THERE



Once in Cicogna (VB), park your car in the parking lot near the bar and at the Casa del Parco and follow the signs for Alp Prà and the **Casa Alpino** refuge. Climb the wood, and afterwards you continue on the meadows up to the alp Prà (1300 mt.). Then an easy path enters the beech forest to lead you to the characteristic carving in the rock, which allows you to look towards the Val Pogallo and Alpe Leciuri. Follow Cima Sasso directions and after a couple of slightly exposed points, you reach the Colma di Bemello and the top of Cima Sasso! (The return is made by the same road)

HIKING TRAIL AND VIA FERRATA PICASASS



The views from the hiking trail “Via Ferrata dei Picasass” speak for themselves. The trail offers an exceptional view of Lake Maggiore, the Borromean Islands and the mountains surrounding the lake itself.

It is named after all those “picasass” people that since the XIX century have worked on the extraction and processing of the famous pink granite of Baveno.

How it is: It is a 3hr mountain excursion (40min to the beginning of the Via Ferrata, 1.5h hiking trail, 50min to return to your 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 to have a guide and the equipment) or the well marked trail on the left.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

If you do not feel like doing the hiking trail, continue slightly to the left reaching the top of Monte Cavallo. You will find a breathtaking view like in the picture.



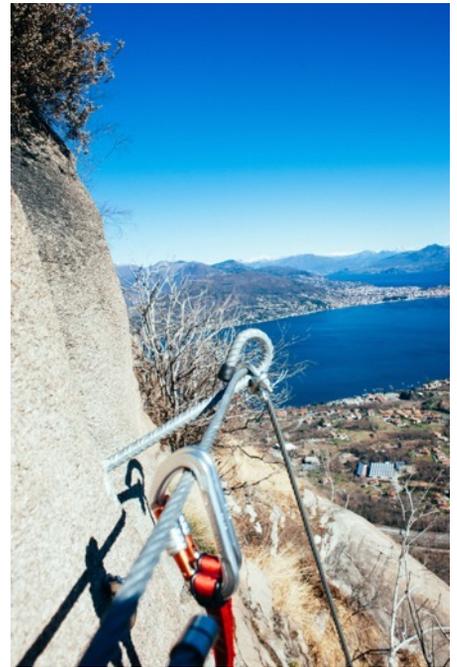
NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Baveno and Stresa
- Mottarone Mountain



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 Km



HOW TO GET THERE

By Car: from Baveno follow for Camping la Tranquilla and park there, follow the sign for the trail M3 and enjoy it!

CANNOBIO AND CANNERO CASTLES



NEARBY

- Citrus Park in Cannero Riviera;
- Borromeo Castles
- Orrido di Sant'Anna in Cannobio



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

20 km

Located on the northern shores of Lake Maggiore, the town of Cannobio boasts medieval architecture and historic landmarks. Not far from there are also the picturesque ruins of the Cannero Castles.

Cannobio overlooks the northern stretch of Lake Maggiore that borders with Switzerland. Its old centre is rich in medieval architecture and historic landmarks such as Palazzo Omacini, Palazzo Pironi Santuario della Santissima Pietà and the Church of San Vittore.



Five km south from there, the **Cannero Castles** are some of the most picturesque sights to be found in the whole Lake Maggiore area. The ruins of these castles seem to float in the water, marking all that remains of a series of islets once used for refuge and defence. They can't be visited as the ruins are unsafe, but the view from the shore is worth the trip from Cannobio.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

According to a local celebration, every year on January 7th countless candles lit up the lakeside of Cannobio.

The Sunday market in Cannobio.

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



HOW TO GET THERE

By bus: the line Verbania – Brissago stops in Cannobio

By car: A26 motorway to Gravellona Toce, exit Baveno. Follow Verbania SP 167 up to Fondotoce, then SS 34 del Lago Maggiore up to Cannobio.

LAVENO- MOMBELLO CABLEWAY



Specially-designed to enjoy the surrounding panorama, the **cableway** links Laveno-Mombello and Mount Sasso Del Ferro in about 10 minutes. Mount Sasso del Ferro (about 1,100 mt) is a secluded spot of Lake Maggiore dominated by nature. You can reach to top with the cableway leaving from Laveno-Mombello, designed with open and closed two-seater 'bins' to better enjoy the surrounding landscapes or by feet through the hiking tracks from Laveno-Mombello.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

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

The top offers a panoramic restaurant, a three-star hotel, and a bar equipped with a solarium and an outdoor terrace.

Enjoy the view of Ossola Valleys during the way back with the ferry

Not to miss a visit to the Hermitage of Saint Caterina



HOW TO GET THERE

By ferry from the harbour of Verbania Intra



NEARBY

- Hermitage of Saint Caterina



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

20 minutes by ferry



10 min driving from Laveno you will find the **Hermitage of Saint Caterina**. It can be reached from the impending square going down to zig zag from a picturesque and pleasant stairway of 268 steps or by lake with the boat or with private boats berthing in the small dock and climbing about eighty steps.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Ristorante Funivia



LAGO MAGGIORE EXPRESS TOUR



NEARBY

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



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

Arrival and departure from Verbania

An immersive round trip across the **Lake Maggiore and mountains**, travelling by boat and train.

A round trip between Italy and Switzerland offered by the Lake Maggiore Express Tour. The core of the excursion is a three-hour boat trip passing by the main highlights of the lake such as the Borromean Islands, the Cannero Castles and the Brissago Islands. Then, a suggestive train ride from Locarno to Domodossola explores different landscapes, winding across vertiginous bridges and the idyllic sceneries around the lake. Picturesque villages and major destinations such as Stresa, Ascona and Locarno can be visited during the tour. Both one- and two-day tickets are available, as well as complete and reduced round trips.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The tour runs every day only in high season. Tickets can be bought in many locations of the lake area.

Lunch on the boat is available but requires advanced booking.

The best season to get the train from Locarno to Domodossola is definitely autumn, it is also called the foliage train!



HOW TO GET THERE

Departure from the harbour of Verbania Intra

SACRO MONTE OF THE HOLY TRINITY AT GHIFFA



NEARBY

- Intra



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

8 km

A stone's throw away from Verbania, this religious complex is set at the foot Mount Carciago, from where it dominates Lake Maggiore while a protected woodland surrounds its Baroque architectures.

The Sacro Monte of the Holy Trinity at Ghiffa is an unfinished Baroque complex surrounded by 200 hectares of woodland. It comprises the Stations of the Cross, the sanctuary and three chapels dating from 1647 to 1703. The Sanctuary Church features the Holy Trinity painting from which the complex takes its name, where the image of Christ is reproduced three times, while the portico of the via crucis (stations of the cross) is formed by 14 arches ending in a small chapel. All around the complex, the protected woodland adds natural interest to this religious complex, featuring rich flora and fauna, themed footpaths, a fitness trail traces of ancient settlements.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Try the gym Trail close by the Trinity Church



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: from A26 motorway, exit at Gravelona Toce and follow Verbania-Ghiffa.
By train: the nearest railway station is Verbania-Pallanza, 14 km away from Ghiffa.

CYCLING ALONG THE TOCE RIVER



NEARBY

- The Castle and Rocca of Vogogna
- Collegiate Church of Domodossola
- Sacro Monte Calvario of Domodossola



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

10 km

A 70-km route total made of flat earth trails running along the Toce bank. Ideal for easy, non-demanding cycling surrounded by beautiful riverside landscapes.

The trail starts from the car park behind 'Le Isole' shopping centre (Gravellona Toce). Once at the bank of the River Toce, a metal bridge leads to the Storna stream. Plant nurseries dot the way, before the track diverts from the riverside to cross a busy main road shortly after. The following section goes around the area of **Fondotoce** and through an underpass, leading to the **Mergozzo** treatment plant where it turns left along the railway line. Then it passes through the villages of Bettola, **Nibbio** and Cuzzago, after which a country road directs towards equestrian center Bosco Tenso and **Vogogna**. An old parish church and a medieval signal tower are the main landmarks located along this part of the track, comprised between Vogogna and **Piedimulera**. The next stop is **Villadossola** and its Romanesque church of San Bartolomeo, before the cycle track leads again to the Toce and ends at **Badulerio**, where the cycle track ends. The centre of Domodossola is around a km away.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

Vogogna is a fine medieval village, 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.

Piazza Mercato and Monte Calvario are two of the main attractions in Domodossola.



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: A26, exit Gravellona Toce
By train: Gravellona Toce station



MONTEROSSO



NEARBY

- Cavandone
- Madonna di Campagna Church
- Villa Taranto



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

6 km

A panoramic hill close to the lake's shore, populated by rich wildlife, medieval villages and a number of religious sites.

Just behind the town of Verbania and the Borromean Gulf, Monterosso is a wooded 694-meter hill overlooking Lake Maggiore. The exceptional wildlife comprises plants and animals such as chestnut, oak, ash, badgers and roe deer. Its historical value is no less interesting, as shown by many archaeological finds dating to both ancient and more recent ages. Dry-stone terracing and drainage channels are some of the features to keep an eye out for. Characteristic rural cottages and cobbled paths are found across medieval villages such as Cavandone.

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 on top of the hill, Agriturismo Monte Rosso is perfect for a sunny lunch.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Agriturismo Monte Rosso



HOW TO GET THERE

By car: from Verbania follow the sign to Monterosso or Cavandone

By feet there are several option and distances from Verbania Suna and Verbania Fondotoce

ALBAGNANO HEALING MEDITATION CENTER



NEARBY

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



DISTANCE FROM VERBANIA

9 km

A Tibetan Buddhist centre overlooking Lake Maggiore, offering spiritual retreats immersed in nature.

Located in Albagnano (Verbania), this Tibetan Buddhist centre is surrounded by a forest of pines and chestnut trees. It was founded in 1999, starting a community of people in search of a closer and more spiritual bond with nature, contributing with various projects to the revitalization of the village and rural and alpine cultures. Buddhist philosophy, meditation, and tantric practices are among the courses held at the centre, which welcomes guests looking for a spiritual retreat in a natural environment. 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 programme.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Chi Ghinn restaurant in Bee
- Bar in Villa Bernocchi for a drink in the park during hotter summer days

VIA DELLE GENTI

The ancient road to Switzerland



NEARBY

- Sacro Monte of the Holy Trinity in Ghiffa
- Cannero
- Cannobio



Departure in Verbania Intra

The «Via delle Genti» road was the ancient connection between Verbania area and Switzerland. It could be done in two days all year long. The itinerary offers wonderful views on Lake Maggiore crossing small villages and the Sacro Monte of The Holy Trinity at Ghiffa up to Cannero and Cannobio. Total distance 31 km, total time 9h30.



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Locanda a sud in Ceredo
- Miralago in Ghiffa



HOW TO GET THERE

Departure from Verbania at the harbour of Intra you will find the signs.

BEACHES AND RIVERS



Several options are available along the coast of Lake Maggiore in Verbania from Intra up to Suna. Luxury Lido are at your disposal within 20min driving like the one in Feriolo or Baveno that offers comfort and relax by the lakeside.

You can also choose the fresh water of a river like San Bernardino creek or **Uriezzo Gorges** that provide wilder water attractions.

Lido di Baveno is the place to go for leisure and relax by the lake. This vast and popular beach is equipped with deck chairs, beach umbrellas, showers, changing rooms and all sorts of water attractions, from wakeboards to inflatable toys. A restaurant and lounge bar are also available, offering lakeside dining and nightlife.

The thrill seekers can reach Baceno and take the trekking path leading through the Uriezzo Gorges, rich in geological and morphological interest. Similarly, the course of the San Bernardino creek is dotted with remarkable landscapes and small waterfalls. The **Pozzone di Santino** is a particularly suitable spot for swimming.



SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

The best period for your relax yourself on the beaches are in the morning or first afternoon

Don't miss out a drink before dinner in one of the nice bar in Verbania Suna or Pallanza



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

- Cocktail bar Estrema Dura in Verbania Suna;
- Bar Simplon in Verbania Pallanza;
- Restaurant Dam a Traa in Verbania Suna;
- Pizzeria gourmet Matisse in Verbania Suna

WATER & AIR SPORTS



Zipline: 16Km, 30 min by car
Watersports: in Suna, Lake Mergozzo or sailing in Ghiffa



There is no better way to live the sunset at the lake, than to live the sunset **IN** the lake or **OVER** the Lake on a Zipline! **IN** the lake you can surf the waves with a surfboard, be pulled by a speedboat on a wakeboard or water-ski or jump on a jet ski, surrounded by the stunning islands of the Borromeo gulf... just to let the weekend begin!

Water: It goes without saying that Lake Maggiore is a top destination for water sports enthusiasts. From sailing and canoeing to kayaking and 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 the other way around. This creates great conditions for sailing, as shown by a number of local sailing associations and by the Verbania Vela Festival, a yearly event of regattas, concerts, food and wine. Kayaking and Canoeing are equally popular, as the wide water surface allows for long days of rowing immersed in the unique landscapes of the lake.

The small **Mergozzo Lake** is also a popular spot for water sports, thanks to its calm and **Exceptionally clean waters**. What's more, the valleys around Lake Maggiore are home to many creeks and streams, ideal for thrilling sessions of rafting.

SPECIAL LOCAL TIPS

With around 65 canyons, the Lake Maggiore area is also a great destination for canyonists, experts and beginners alike. Some of the best spots for watersports include the last beach in Suna and the Lago Maggiore canyoning areas.

I deeply suggest the Zipline if you enjoy adrenaline!



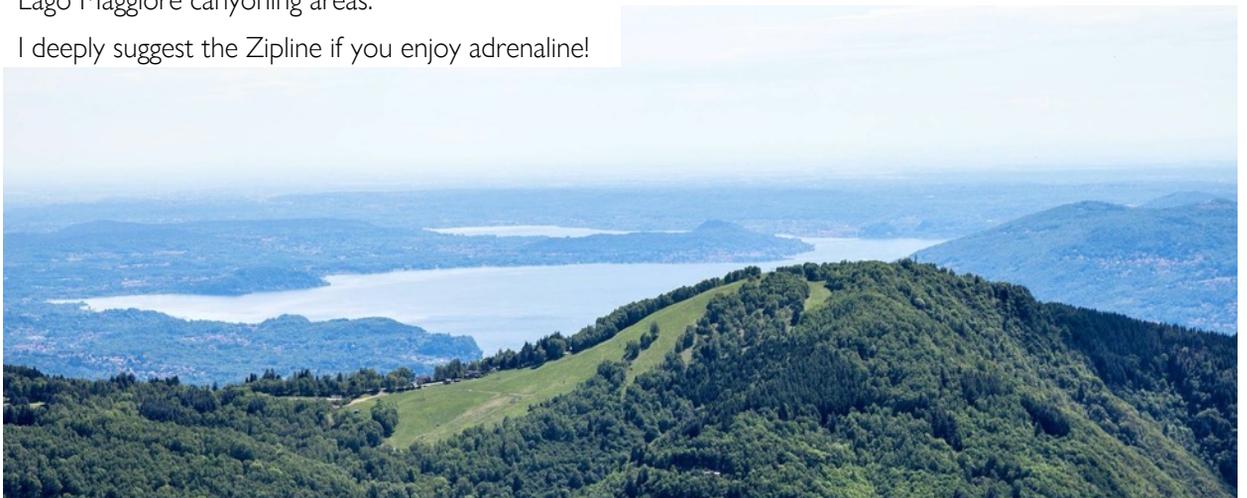
Lago
Maggiore
ZIPLINE

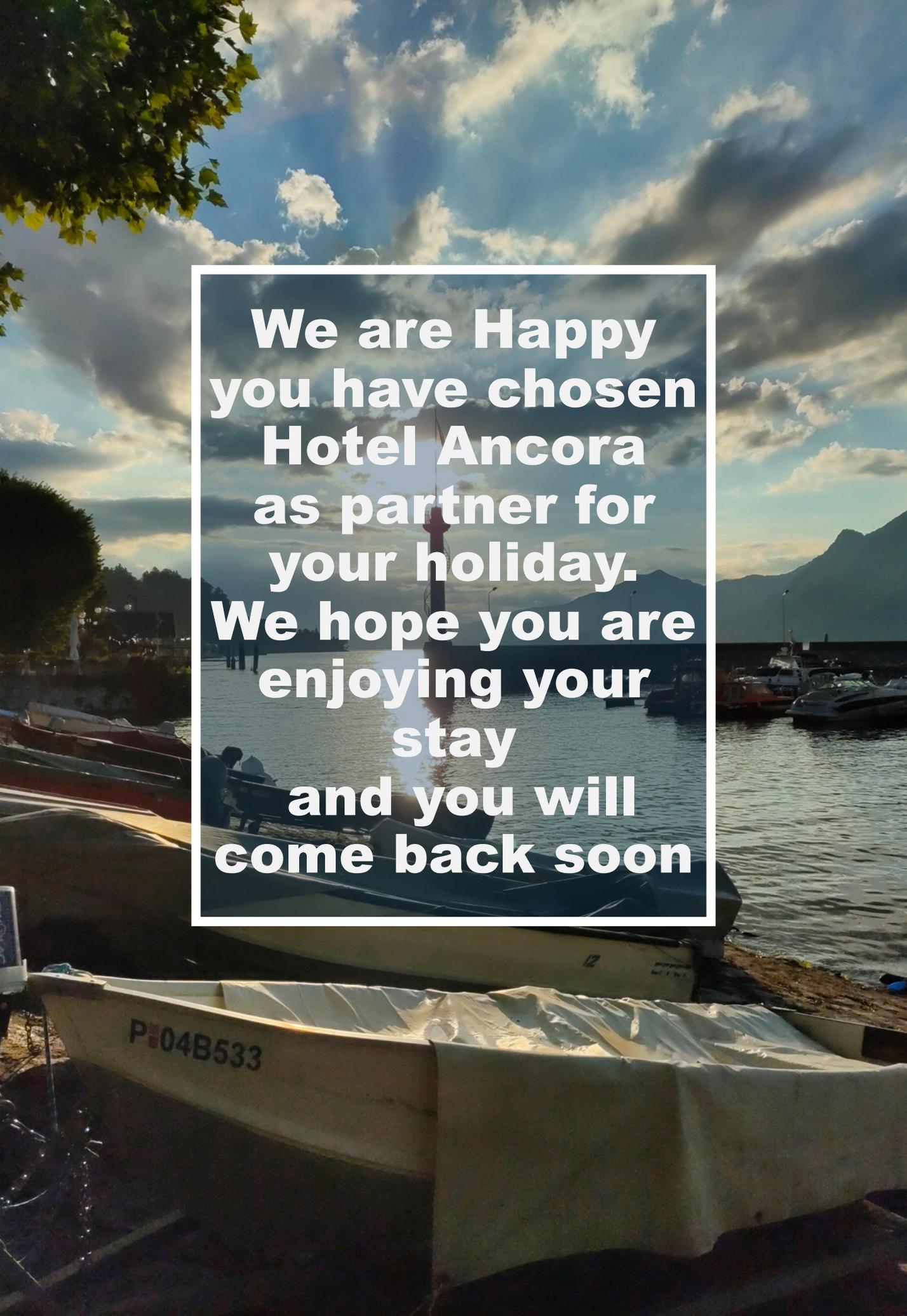
F L Y 4 F U N



EAT&DRINK LIKE A LOCAL

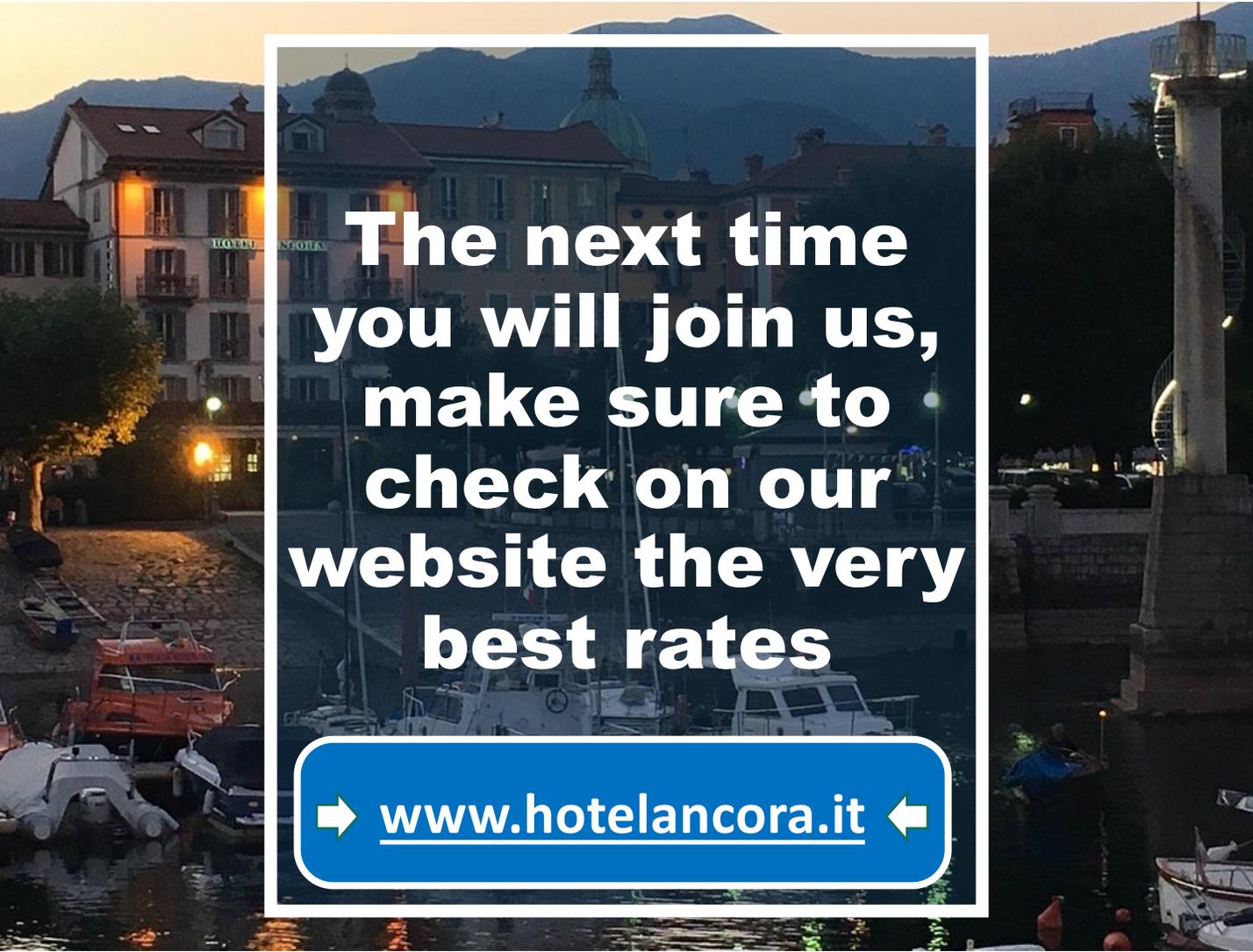
- At the last beach in Suna you can enjoy watersport and have a light lunch or a cool beer!





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enjoying your
stay
and you will
come back soon**

We hope you are living
unforgettable moments
and will come back soon!

A scenic view of a harbor at dusk. In the foreground, several boats are docked along a stone pier. In the background, there are multi-story buildings with lit windows, and a large dome is visible. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and inviting.

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