



MySecretView

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE ARTISTS

The places loved and portrayed by painters, poets, and
musicians on Lake Como

Walk among art, poetry, and landscapes that have
inspired the world.



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INTRODUCTION

Lake Como is not only a place of natural beauty — it has been a source of inspiration for centuries to artists of every era. Romantic writers, painters, composers, and poets — Italian and foreign alike — have all left indelible traces here, fascinated by the shimmering water, majestic villas, and the suspended silence of the lake.

Through this itinerary, you'll walk where Stendhal and Liszt once walked, see what Turner painted, and hear the echo of Goethe, Shelley, and Twain's words among others



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STOPS ALONG THE ROUTE

(Ideal route over 1, 2, or 3 days — with travel options by boat, car, or bike)

1. Como – The Starting Point

Who: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

What: Visited Como in 1786 during his Italian Journey. He admired the lake landscape and the Cathedral.

📖 “This lake surpasses in beauty everything I have seen so far.”

To see: Piazza Duomo, lakeside promenade, Villa Olmo (which hosted Ugo Foscolo).



2. Cernobbio – Elegance and Contemplation

Who: Franz Liszt, Gioachino Rossini

What: Musicians in search of peace and inspiration. Liszt wrote passionate letters from the lake.

🎵 Liszt and Countess d’Agoult stayed here during their scandalous love affair.

To see: The gardens, architecture, and romantic lake views.



3. Tremezzo – Villa Carlotta

Who: English and German travelers, Romantic artists

What: Its botanical gardens and artworks (Canova, Hayez) were highlights of 19th-century art tours.

✏️ A must-see on the Grand Tour.

To see: Canova's sculptures and the landscapes beloved by British watercolorists.



4. Bellagio – The Pearl of the Lake



Who: Stendhal, Flaubert, Longfellow, Twain

What: All were enchanted by the lush promontory and the villas surrounded by greenery.

📖 “The most beautiful place in the world.” – Stendhal

To see:

- Villa Melzi: visited by Liszt and Byron
- Villa Serbelloni: now home to the Rockefeller Foundation



5. Varenna – Poetic Tranquility

Who: Mary and Percy Shelley, northern European writers and travelers

What: The quiet and contemplative atmosphere of the eastern shore inspired poets and mystics.

📷 Perfect for photography and reflection.

To see: Villa Monastero, the “Walk of Love” lakeside path.

6. Menaggio – Watercolor Landscapes

Who: 19th-century English painters and illustrators

What: A resting place for open-air sketching.

🎨 The alpine scenery and contrast between lake and mountain were favorite subjects.





7. LENNO – VILLA DEL BALBIANELLO

Who: 20th-century explorers and writers

What: Once owned by Guido Monzino, it hosted artists and film directors.

🎬 Filming location for Star Wars and James Bond 007, but loved long before by travelers of past centuries.



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8. Lecco – The City of Manzoni and The Betrothed

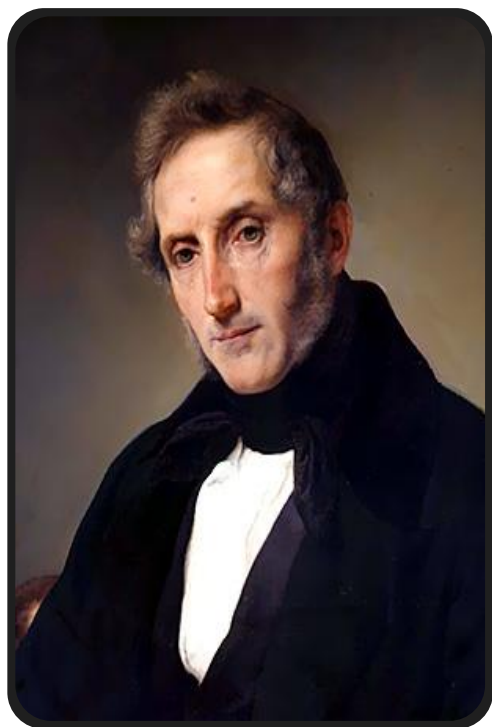
Who: Alessandro Manzoni

What: The author of *I Promessi Sposi* (“The Betrothed”), Italy’s most famous historical novel, lived and was inspired here.

The landscapes of Lecco and its surroundings became the vivid setting for his story of love and faith.

 The “Resegone” mountain, the Azzone Visconti Bridge, and the villages of Pescarenico and Acquate.

To see: Manzoni’s home, the Manzoni Museum, and the itinerary “I Luoghi Manzoniani”.



FAMOUS FIGURES OF THE GRAND TOUR ON LAKE COMO

Name	Origin	Reason for Travel
Goethe	Germany	Nature and contemplation
Stendhal	France	Romanticism and art
Mary Shelley	England	Literary inspiration
Turner	England	Study of light
Mark Twain	USA	Tourism and wit
Liszt	Hungary	Composition and love
Byron	England	Landscapes and reflection

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CONCLUSION & LOCAL TIPS

Following the footsteps of artists on Lake Como is more than a cultural itinerary, it's an emotional journey.

Every stop reveals not only masterpieces and stories, but also the quiet charm that continues to inspire travelers today.

The same light that enchanted Turner still glows on the water; the same silence that moved Manzoni still lingers between the mountains.

- **Local Tips:**
- **Best time to visit:** Spring and early autumn, when the colors are vibrant and the crowds thinner.
- **How to explore:** Combine public ferries ("Navigazione Lago di Como") with short walks to fully enjoy the landscapes that inspired painters and poets.
- **Hidden gems:** Visit Pescarenico in Lecco at sunrise, walk the Lover's Promenade in Varenna at sunset, and stop at a lakeside café in Tremezzo for an espresso with a view.
- **Cultural break:** Many villas (Villa Carlotta, Villa Melzi, Villa Monastero) host art exhibitions and concerts — check their seasonal programs.
- **Don't rush:** Lake Como reveals its beauty slowly. Sit by the shore, listen to the water, and let the same timeless muse speak to you — as it did to Goethe, Shelley, and Manzoni.

👉 Art begins where the lake meets the sky.

Final Notes

Whether you follow the entire route or just a few of its highlights, In the Footsteps of Artists will gift you moments that linger — reflections of beauty, silence, and inspiration you'll never forget.

- [Download your exclusive Lake Como map here](#)
- [Discover Lake Como's Annual Events](#)



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