



# Italy & Switzerland Lake District Hiking

8 Days



*The Adventure Company* | EST. 1969

**MT+SOBEK**<sup>TM</sup>  
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# Italy & Switzerland Lake District Hiking

Experience the extravagant beauty of Italy and Switzerland's Lake District on this idyllic hiking adventure. Starting at Lake Orta, tucked in the foothills of the alpine chain, visit tiny San Giulio Island before heading to the top of Monte Mottarone (4,895'). Follow scenic paths through forests and meadows above Lake Maggiore and Lake Lugano, and take the pretty Wayfarer's Trail around Lake Como. Along the way, discover picturesque islands and the Mediterranean charm of such lakeside towns as Bellagio, Varenna, and Orta San Giulio with its narrow cobblestone streets and pastel-washed houses. Savor hearty local gastronomy and sleep in the comfort of elegant 4-star hotels with stunning lake views.

## Details

Arrive:	Milan, Italy
Depart:	Bellagio, Italy
Duration:	8 Days
Group Size:	4-14 Guests
Minimum Age:	18 Years Old
Activity Level:	

## Testimonials

*"Mt Sobek is a great company, which has hand picked great destinations. There are many details that are handpicked by the company and the guides. I have recommended them many time already. Also a place to meet great people."*

Brooke B.

*"We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek."*

Dennis G.

**GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.**

 1-800-974-0300

 [info@mtsobek.com](mailto:info@mtsobek.com)

## Why Take This Trip With Us?

### REASON #01

This perfectly paced weeklong adventure includes stunning lakeside hikes and exploration of quintessential Italian lake towns, getting you to the heart of the Lake District.

### REASON #02

MT Sobek has been operating hiking in adventures in Italy for over 40 years and works with the best local guides in the business.

### REASON #03

We seek out top experiences, from the best trails to the best 4-star hotels, so you can enjoy every moment.

## What to Expect



### ACTIVITIES

Moderately strenuous hiking for 3-4 hours per day on gently rolling paths and steeper mountain terrain, all with incredible lake views. Easy strolls in beautiful lakeside towns.



### LODGING

Elegant 4-star hotels, including a former monastery on Lake Orta, a secluded retreat in Locarno and a lakefront boutique hotel in Bellagio. All accommodations have comfortable en-suite



### CLIMATE

The weather in the Italian Lake District is warm and mild April to October, with an average daily high temperature of 75°F.

## Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Anna Bezzola was born in northern Italy, raised in Switzerland, and has been hiking in the Alps since childhood. She has been an MT Sobek guide for more than 15 years. In addition to being multilingual, Anna truly enjoys people, and her passion and love for nature and her country are contagious. She is extremely knowledgeable about the flora, fauna, history, and customs of the area, and currently lives in Bellinzona, the capital of Ticino (the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland). Anna leads several departures in Italy and Switzerland, and has even led The Chomolhari Trek in Bhutan, as well as trips in the Arctic and Antarctic.

**Anna Bezzola**

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN MILAN & TRANSFER TO LAKE ORTA

Meet your guide at Milan Malpensa International Airport in the morning and transfer to serene Lake Orta. Enjoy lunch in the village of Pella, before visiting picturesque San Giulio Island with its monumental Romanesque Basilica. Next, take a short boat ride to the pretty town of Orta San Giulio, your base for two nights. If time allows, walk up to Sacro Monte, where 20 chapels beautifully depict the life of Saint Francis of Assisi. It's also a perfect vantage point, with great views of the town, lake, and surrounding mountains. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon before meeting up again for a trip orientation and welcome dinner.

**Accommodation:** Hotel San Rocco, Orta San Giulio

**Meals:** L, D

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## DAY 2

### HIKE FROM MONTE FALO TO MOTTARONE

Follow trails through chestnut and beech forests to the quaint village of Coiromonte, known for its fresh air and lovely views. From here, an easy path takes you to the slopes of Monte Falò where you'll get superb vistas of the snow-capped Alps to Lakes Maggiore, Varese, Comabbio, and Monate. Retrace your footsteps through beautiful pastures to the summit of Mottarone (4,895'), an adventure-lover's paradise straddled between Lake Orta and Lake Maggiore. Eat a picnic lunch with panoramic views, before returning to Orta San Giulio. Explore town on your own this afternoon or take a swim in the sparkling lake.

**Accommodation:** Hotel San Rocco, Orta San Giulio

**Activity:** 4 hours/7.5 miles with 2,801' elevation gain

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 3

### FOLLOW TRAILS TO STRESA & BOAT TO THE BORROMEO ISLANDS

Start the day in the enchanting town of Belgirate on the shores of Lake Maggiore. From here, set off on a panoramic hill walk above the lake passing quaint villages along the way. Explore the narrow lanes in Stresa's charming historical center and transfer by boat to Isola dei Pescatori for a light lunch. Then journey to beautiful Isola Bella for a guided tour of its sumptuous palace and elegant gardens, home to famous white peacocks. Return to Stresa and transfer to lively Locarno, situated at the northern end of Lake Maggiore, in Switzerland. Enjoy a two-night stay in Locarno.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Belvedere, Locarno

**Activity:** 2.5 hours/5 miles hiking with 1,158' elevation gain and 1,145' loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 4

### GET A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF LAKE MAGGIORE

Venture high into the mountains above Locarno and Lake Maggiore, starting with an exciting aerial cableway and chairlift ride. At the top you'll be rewarded with epic views spanning the entirety of Lake Maggiore, from the Ticino and Maggia river deltas to the Western Alps. From the viewpoint, follow a well-maintained alpine trail to the summit of Cima della Trosa (6,118') where more astounding 360°-degree vistas await. Descend to a mountain rifugio for a light lunch, then hike back through the woods to the aerial cableway and return to Locarno. Enjoy free time in Locarno this evening.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Belvedere, Locarno

**Activity:** 4 hours/7.5 miles hiking with 1,581' elevation gain and 2,588' loss

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 5

### LAKE LUGANO HIKE FROM MONTE SAN SALVATORE TO MORCOTE

Begin today's hike with a cable car ride to the summit of Monte San Salvatore (2,992'), rising grandly over dreamy Lake Lugano — a favorite destination for centuries of artists, writers, and vacationing aristocrats. Enjoy awe-inspiring views stretching from the lake to the snow-capped Alps as you head to the trailhead. From here, a short, steep descent leads to a charming hamlet and then meanders through enchanting woodland. Admire the architectural beauty of the ancient village of Carona before following a panoramic gravel path to an open pasture. After lunch, descend into the splendid lakeside village of Morcote — voted "Switzerland's most beautiful village!" End the day with a transfer to Bellagio, known as "the pearl of Lake Como."

**Accommodation:** Hotel Du Lac, Bellagio

**Activity:** 3 hours/6.5 miles hiking with 870' elevation gain and 2,907' loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 6

### HIKE THE WAYFARER'S TRAIL & EXPLORE VARENNA

Start the day with an uphill hike through olive groves to the 14th-century Castle of Vezio, where you'll get beautiful views of Lake Como and the rooftops of Varenna. From the castle, follow the Wayfarer's Trail — a beautiful lakeside mule — toward Bellano. Pass through hamlets surrounded by vineyards and forests, and take in spectacular views of the Alps along the way. Stroll through Bellano's historical heart before enjoying a lakeside lunch. Return to Varenna by public transport and explore the town's narrow passageways and exquisite waterfront. This may be a good time for a gelato! Return to Bellagio by public boat and explore the elegant town at your leisure this afternoon.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Du Lac, Bellagio

**Activity:** 3 hours/6 miles hiking with 2,312' elevation gain and loss

**Meals:** B, L

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## DAY 7

### HIKE TO MONTE SAN PRIMO

Set out through the woods and across peaceful pastures, abloom with wildflowers in spring and early summer, to the ridge of Monte San Primo — a wonderful vantage point. Admire the limestone spires of the Grigne mountains on the way and revel in unparalleled views of Lake Como and the Alps from the top. On a very clear day you can even see Milan and the Apennines! Descend to a mountain restaurant for a hearty, traditional meal before returning to Bellagio. Enjoy an afternoon at your leisure.

**Accommodation:** Hotel Du Lac, Bellagio

**Activity:** 3.5 hours/4.5 miles hiking with 1,673' elevation gain and 1,430' loss

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 8

### DEPART FROM BELLAGIO

After breakfast, bid farewell to the group in Bellagio.

**Meals:** B

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## Dates

Sep 10 - 17, 2023

For full terms and conditions please visit [www.mtsobek.com/terms](http://www.mtsobek.com/terms). Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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## Inclusions & Exclusions

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and guide-drivers
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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## ➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

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### **Awards**



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