

# Cycling Europe

**THE LEGENDARY LAKES OF ITALY 2020**  
**LAKES GARDA, COMO & MAGGIORE**  
**SELF-GUIDED CYCLE TOUR 280 kms: 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS**



© Roberto Maggioni



**One of Italy's largest regions, Lombardy lies in the north of the country sharing a border with Switzerland. Stretching from the Alps to the lowlands of the Po Valley, it is home to a wide variety of stunning landscapes, including the breathtaking mountain chain that boasts the Valchiavenna, Valtellina and Camonica Valleys. The legendary beauty of these great lakes draws visitors to Sirmione and other well-known destinations dotted along the west side of Lake Garda, while Lake Como and Lake Maggiore are surrounded by stately**

**homes, wild woodlands, picturesque park, chic towns and sleepy villages. The region is also characterised by the great flat tracts of the Po Valley lowlands with its shimmering mirrors of water. This is a destination that is varied, challenging and beautiful - perfect for a cycling tour.**

## ITINERARY

### Day1: Arrival into Peschiera del Garda

Peschiera del Garda is located at the southern end of Lake Garda, in Italy's Veneto region. The town's sixteenth-century island fortress and walls are visible today, a reminder of a time when Austria controlled the region. After discovering Peschiera's history, relax with a glass of Lugana, a local white wine.

### Day 2: Peschiera del Garda – Brescia

#### Cycling 45 or 70 km

From the harbour-fortress of Peschiera on Lake Garda, we descend upon the Mincio River and arrive at Monzambano, a town with a landmark castle above it. The peaceful rolling morainic hills accompany us to the enchantment of Castellarò Lagusello, surrounded by a medieval wall. The first castle in Pozzolengo was erected over a thousand years ago to defend against the Hungarian raids. In the church of San Zeno in Rivoltella there are ancient worn frescoes. After Desenzano, a short climb takes us to hilltops overlooking Lake Garda. Then following fragments of an ancient Roman road, we traverse the morainic hills from the abbey of Maguzzano. Facing the plain we come to the Romanesque Parish of Pontenove at the side of which there is a romantic 1700s bridge. Many of Brescia's monuments were constructed in marble from the nearby hills which was used also in other places such as the Altar of the Homeland in Rome.

- It is well worth considering the detour to Sirmione on the shores of Lake Garda.

### Day 3: Brescia - Sarnico / Lake Iseo Cycling 35km

Before the year 1000AD, the Hungarians also raided Franciacorta. Defense was made by constructing "rural" castles.

Lake Iseo heralds the Torbiere (peat moss) of Sebino, a natural reserve which is overlooked by the impressive monastery of San Pietro in Lamosa. The Oglio River passes by Sarnico where we enter the Bergamo region.

### Day 4: Sarnico / Lake Iseo – Bergamo Cycling 35km

The route from Sarnico follows along the Oglio River bank. The flat country of Bergamo brings to mind, with its towers and castles that rise above the emerging hills, the real splendour of the feudal ages. From the lower town of Bergamo you will see the ancient structures and bell towers that silhouette the upper city. \* Optional excursion to Ricci Curbastro Winery en route.



### Day 5: Bergamo- Garlate/Lecco surroundings | Cycling 40km

Leaving Bergamo, we cross the Brembo River and approach Mount Cavo and the village where Pope Giovanni XXIII was born. We pass over some hilltops and descend towards the Adda River, which is an emissary of the eastern leg of Lake Como. This river course provides particularly beautiful landscape here and further south. For quite a long way we pedal along the Adda, the waters of which near the lake form caves that reflect the green of flourishing nature.

### Day 6: Garlate/Lecco & surroundings- Como | Cycling 40km

We pass through Brianza, between the lakes of Annone, Pusiano and Alserio. The meadows, however, have retained an almost Alpine colour and freshness. Next to the church of Oggiono there is a beautiful Romanesque monastery constructed with squared stones. The shores of Lake Alserio have been well maintained. We ride along an unpaved road in a forest then travel through a large hilly area studded with noble residences. At last, we descend to Lake Como. The splendour of Broletto and the cathedral testify to the ancient grandness of this city, made lively by the pedestrian streets in the centre and in Piazza Cavour facing the lake.

### Day 7: Como – Ranco (Lake Maggiore - location depends on availability) Cycling 60km

Discover the wonderfully preserved treasures of these towns, such as the Romanesque Oratory of San Martino in Albiolo. From Varese it's a quick descent to the lake. Further on you come to Lake Monate and a little after that a panoramic view of Lake Maggiore, and in the distance, you can see the Alpine peaks. Overnight in Ranco on the shores of Lake Maggiore.

### Day 8: Ranco, Lake Maggiore

Arrangements end after breakfast.



### SCHEDULE 2020:

**Start any Saturday** from 28 March to 26 September (minimum 2 people).

Other dates available for a group of 4 people or more

### COST 2020 PER PERSON IN DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM:

Double/Twin €1015

Single Supplement €255

21 Speed Bike € 95 (with pannier bag and tool kit)

E-Bike n/a

Helmet € 5

### EXTRA NIGHTS PER PERSON – BREAKFAST INCLUDED

Peschiera 3\* Double/twin €70

Single room supplement €28

Ranco (Lake Maggiore) 3\* Double/twin €88

Single room supplement €40

## 2020 COST INCLUDES

- 7 nights in 3\* and 4\* hotels
- Breakfast daily
- Luggage transport (1 piece per person)
- Road book, maps, tourist information (1 set per room)
- GPS tracks available to download to your own device
- Hotline telephone number while on tour

## COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Transport to tour start and finish
- Beverages and meals not specified above
- Additional sightseeing and entrance fees
- Personal expenses
- Local hotel taxes (approx €2-4) payable direct



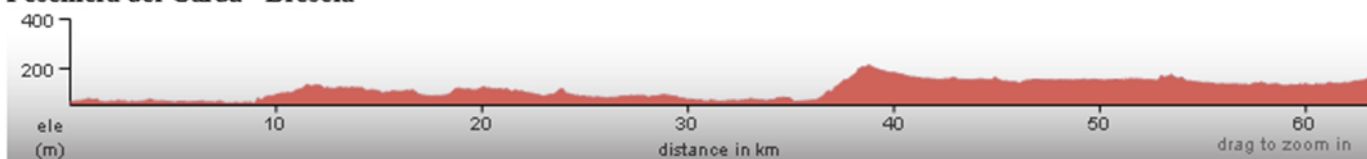
## GRADE/ TERRAIN

The route is in the hilly areas in the Lombard region. Terrain is mostly flat with some inclines each day. You will ride on a few main roads, low density country roads and cycle paths with an average distance of 50km per day. There is traffic on main roads and around villages. GPS tracks are recommended. Recommended for experienced riders. Grade rating: Medium

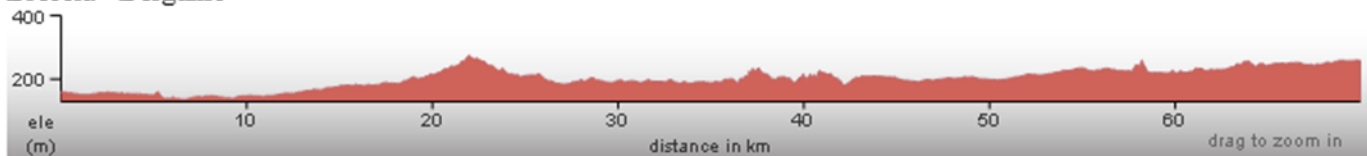


## DAILY ELEVATION PROFILE

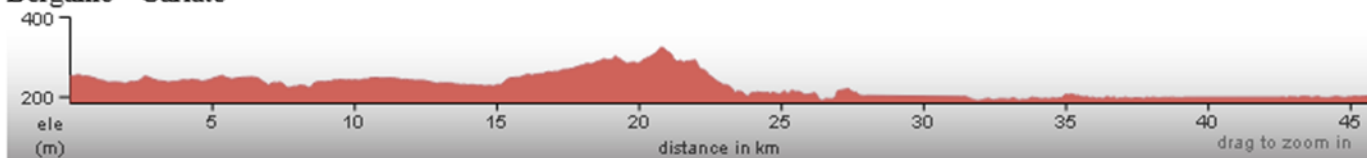
Peschiera del Garda - Brescia



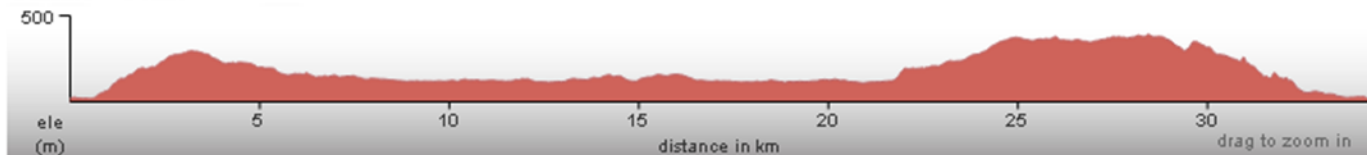
Brescia - Bergamo



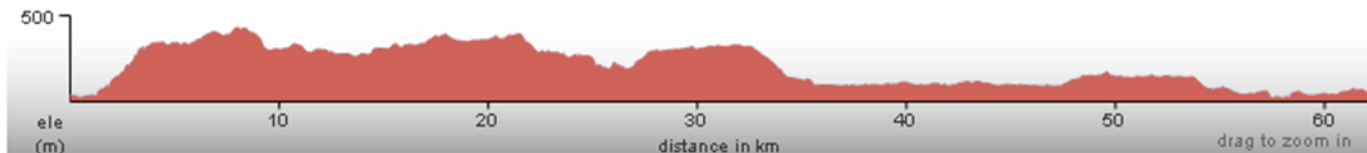
Bergamo - Garlate



Garlate - Como



Como - Ranco



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