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Como ligger på den vestlige del af Comosøens to grene som vender mod syd. Comosøens omvendte Y, er med Lecco på øst og altså Como på vestsiden. I bil Como er ikke langt fra Milano og i bil kan du Como på under 1 times kørsel. Fra den dansk/tyske grænse har du under 13 timers kørsel til Como. På denne tur skal du naturligvis køre direkte og uden alt for mange stop. Du kan vælge at køre over Brennerpasset eller over Schweiz. Og selvom man skulle tro, at Schweiz er den hurtigste, er det iflg. Google Maps turen over Brenner, som er den hurtigste. Togstationen hedder San Giovanni, og der er fine forbindelser ind til Milano Centrale. Den tur tager ikke meget mere end 40 minutter. Med Como og søens enorme popularitet, er der flere afgange fra Milano Centrale og op til byen. Skal du videre omkring søen, er der tog til de fleste byer, eller i nærheden af dem. Malpensa og Linate lufthavnene ved Milano kan du fra begge komme til Como på under 1 time. De mange Shuttlebusser fra de to lufthavne kører dog ikke til Comosøen. Så her skal du ind omkring Milano Centrale, for at komme videre op til byen. Her på siden kan du købe din togbillet, så du kan gå direkte ombord og fremvise den QR-kode, som du har fået ved køb af billetten. Como tilbyder dig et lækkert klima det meste af året, og har flere kulturelle tilbud dig, som både vil nyde livet ved søen, men også se på de historiske monumenter. Dem, parkerne, villaerne og ikke mindst søen, er med til at gøre Como til noget specielt. Byens størrelse gør, at det er nemt for dig at komme rundt i centrum, og der er ikke langt til det næste du skal se. Mussert fører dig tilbage til de allerførste spor af Como. Fra den forhistoriske tid til den romerske tid, og du kan yderligere se samlinger fra egypterne og grækerne. Museet finder du på Piazza Medaglie d'Oro 1. Museo Storico Giuseppe Garibaldi Risorgimento, Italiens samling og til den nutidige historie. Museet huser adskillige relikvier, som er dedikeret til Risorgimento oprøret i 1848-1849, 1859 og krigene i 1900-tallet. Museet ligger på Piazza Olginati. Pinacoteca Civica Kunst fra middelalderen og til det 20- århundrede. Pinacoteca bevarer byens billede og skulpturværker. Du finder det på Via Diaz 84. Tempio Voltiano Comos egen søn, Alessandro Volta, den verdenskendte fysiker, bliver på dette sted husket. Tempio Voltiano ligger ved bredden ved Comosøen, for enden af Viale Marconi. Stedet blev indviet i 1928, 101 år efter Voltas død. Det tog næsten 400 år at bygge Cattedrale di Como, som blev påbegyndt 1396, og hvis facade er ekstraordinært indenfor sentgotisk stil i Norditalien. Kirken er dedikeret til Santa Maria Assunta. Bemærk den flotte facade, som er bygget mellem 1455 og 1486. Det er nok ikke nødvendigt at skrive, kirken ligger på Piazza Duomo. Basilica di Sant'Abbondio Kirken er er flot eksempel på romansk stil i Como. Kirkens struktur og former blev påbegyndt af Urban II i 1095. Kirken finder du på Via Regina Teodolinda 35. Derudover er det en fornøjelse og anbefaling, at se Chiesa di Sanr'Agostino og Basilica di San Fedele. Villaer ved Como Parker og villaer findes rigtig mange steder langs Comosøen, og naturligvis kan du se nogle af dem i Como, hvor nogle villaer er flottere og større end den anden. Villa Olmo er formentlig den største og mest kendte her i byen. Villaen er et eksempel på neoklassisk arkitektur og er nu hjem for flere udstillinger. Der er gratis adgang. Villa Rotonda er også et kig værd. Bygget mellem 1790 og 1793. Villaen kaldes La Rotondo, da den på facaden ud mod søen, har en rund midterdel. Blot til info, så besøgte Napoleon villaen i 1797. Du kan tage svævebanen op til Brunte, som er en lille skovklædt by og fungerer som en fremragende terrasse over byen. Byen oplevede et kæmpe boom af turisme fra det 17. til det 19. århundrede. Byens høje placering og lille størrelse gjorde, at den kunne trække folk til fra nær og fjern. Funicolare i Como Jeg synes faktisk du skal tage turen op til Brunate. Svævebanen har bundet de to byer sammen siden 1894 og gør det stadig. Banen er tidlig på farten fra tidlig morgen til sen aften. Der er dog ændringer i tidsplanen, om det er vinter eller sommer, hverdag eller weekend. Severdigheter og landemerkerSeverdigheter og landemerker Como-søen er et fantastisk sted, og man bliver helt betaget af vandet, bjergene og naturen, at man nogle gange glemmer, at der er andet og lave. Derfor har vi hjulpet jer til jeres kommende ferie ved Como-søen, og fundet 10 byer, stadig omkring søen så I kan nyde den! Men så I også kan opleve byer, lækker mad, og den stemning og atmosfære som hersker her. Lad os starte ved hovedbyen ved søen, nemlig Como, som er et fantastisk udgangspunkt for at udforske regionen. Byen her byder på en imponerende historisk arkitektur, herunder Como-katedralen og det smukke neoklassiske palads, Villa Olmo. I må også tage jer tiden til at nyde en spadseretur langs de charmerende gader, som Como byder på og huske og udforske de lokale butikker og restauranter.En restaurant vi er blevet anbefalet (men ikke endnu har nået at spise på) er Ristorante Sociale Como. Det er en populær restaurant beliggende i det historiske centrum af Como. Den serverer autentiske norditalienske retter, med fokus på lokale råvarer, og traditionelle opskrifter. Bellagio Bellagio er også kendt som "perlen af Como-søen", og er berømt for sin betagende beliggenhed mellem de tre grene af søen. Bellagio har en fantastisk udsigt over søen og de omkringliggende bjerge. I kan her slentre gennem de smalle snoede gader, og opdage de farverige huse, hyggelige caféer og fine butikker. En dag i Bellagio er en fornøjelse for øjnene, og et minde der skal fotograferes. Når turen går forbi Bellagio og sulten melder sig, så er vi blevet anbefalet restauranten Trattoria San Giacomo. Det skulle eftersigende være en charmerende restaurant beliggende i hjertet af Bellagio. Den serverer lokale specialiteter, herunder fiskeretter og pasta, samt et bredt udvalg af lokale vine. Så selvom I ikke er sultne, kunne et glas lokal vin måske være dejligt her? Varenna er en af de mest maleriske byer ved Como-søen. Den har charmerende middelalderlige arkitektur, smalle gyder og romantiske promenade, som er med til at gøre den til et ideelt rejsemål for par. Når I besøger Verenna, kan I bl.a. besøge det imponerende Castello di Vezio, udforske Villa Monastero og ikke mindst beundre den betagende udsigt over søen. Når sulten nærmer sig kan I altid smutte forbi Cavallino Trattoria. Det er en familiedrevet trattoria, som ligger med en fantastisk beliggenhed ved søbredden i Varenna. Den serverer traditionelle italienske retter, herunder friske fiskeretter og hjemmelavet pasta. Menaggio Menaggio er en livlig ferieby med en smuk promenade langs søen. Byen byder på en bred vifte af udendørsaktiviteter, herunder vandreture, cykling og bådtur på søen – så hvis I er til en aktiv ferie kunne det være en ide at ligge turen forbi byen her. I kan også besøge de velplejede haver ved Villa Carlotta og nyde en afslappende dag ved en af de offentlige strande. I Menaggio er det Osteria il Pozzo når maven begynder at rumle. Det er også et sted, som vi har fået anbefalet – det er en hyggelig osteria beliggende i Menaggio med en autentisk atmosfære (ligesom vi kan lide det ved Local Living.) Stedet serverer traditionelle Lombardiske retter, herunder risotto, polenta og lokale oste og pølser. Tremezzo er hjemsted for en af de mest imponerende villaer ved Como-søen – Villa Carlotta. Denne renæssancevilla byder på betagende kunstværker og en smuk have fyldt med eksotiske planter og blomster. I kan også udforske byens charmerende gader og nyde den spektakulære udsigt over søen, når I er færdige med at kigge på villaen. Er I sultne? Så er vi her blevet anbefalet restauranten La Darsena. Det er også en charmerende restaurant med udsigt over søen i Tremezzo. Den serverer lokale specialiteter som brasato (simret oksekød), fiskeretter og hjemmelavet gelato. Colico Colico er beliggende på den nordøstlige spids af Como-søen, og er en charmerende by med en historisk midte og malerisk placeret for foden af de omkringliggende bjerge. Colico er beriget med en middelalderborg, Forte di Fuentes, som kan dateres tilbage til det 16. århundrede og skal besøges for sin betagende udsigt over søen. I selve byen er der smalle gader og kirken Chiesa di Santa Marie del Tiglio. Er I til vandsport, så er byen bestemt et besøg værd, da den er et populært sted for sejlads og windsurfing. Melder sulten sig mens I går rundt i byen skal I besøge Ristorante Pizzeria Riva. Den ligger ved bredden til Como-Søen. Her får I traditionellen italienske retter og frisk fisk fanget i søen. Der er også pasta, pizza og kødretter, så her er noget for en hver smag. Beliggende ved den østlige ende af Como-søen finder I byen Lecco, som byder på en fantastisk naturlig skønhed og udendørsaktiviteter. Byen er omgivet af imponerende bjerge, og I kan vandre på de omkringliggende stier eller nyde vandsport som sejlads eller windsurfing på søen. Hvis I føler jer sultne er vi blevet anbefalet Trattoria Pizzeria Vecchia Lecco. Det er en populær trattoria og pizzeria i Lecco. Restauranten serverer traditionelle italienske retter, herunder pizza, pasta og lokale specialiteter som Missoltini (tørret og røget fisk). Argegno Argegno er en charmerende lille by med en malerisk beliggenhed ved søen. Her er en gammel bydel med brostensbelagte gader og traditionelle huse, som skaber en autentisk atmosfære. Argegno er også kendt for sin søpromenade, hvor I kan nyde en afslappet gåtur langs vandet og besøge lokale restauranter og caféer. Byen er et populært udgangspunkt for udflugter og aktiviteter såsom bådture på søen og vandreture i de omkringliggende bakker og skove. Her skal I tage et smut forbi Ristorante La Piazzetta – En hyggelig restaurant beliggende på torvet i Argegno. Den serverer lokale retter som ravioli, grillet kød og regionale oste. Husk og tjekke åbningstider og reservere bord på forhånd, da nogle af disse restauranter kan være meget populære blandt både lokale og turister. Alle restauranterne er nogle, som vi har fået anbefalet – og vi har derfor ikke selv haft nået at besøge dem (endnu). Der er mange drømme, når farieplaner går i gang og har dette blogindlæg fået jer til at drømme yderligere om Comosøen eller måske bare om Norditalien? Så kan I læse mere om det skønne område inde på Local Livings hjemmeside lige her. Er I vilde med Norditalien, så kan jeg uden tvivl også anbefale Piemonte området. Jeg har fundet 10 byer i Piemonte, som er et must at besøge, for Piemonte er meget mere end vin om sommeren og sne om vinteren. Læs mere om de 10 byer lige her. I er blevet helt afklaret omkring, hvor ferien skal gå hen denne gang? Så hop ind på hjemmesiden og søg jeres kommende feriebolig frem lige her. Ønsker I hjælp til søgningen, så kan I også benytte jer af "Få 3 tilbud" som er ganske gratis og uforpligtende, I kan sende forespørgslen lige her. Visiting Lake Como in Italy, and wondering what there is to see and do in Como city itself? In this guide, you can read about the top places to see and the main landmarks of Como town. Find out! Scenically located on the Italian/Swiss border at the southern end of Lake Como, Como is a charming destination that welcomes visitors all year round. Its elegant old town – enclosed by 12th-century fortress walls – is steeped in history and abundant in medieval architecture. The many flowerbeds and blossoming trees lend color to the streets whilst the city's atmosphere is laid-back, with plenty of cozy cafes where you can sit and enjoy a slice of local life. With its wide, flat streets, Como is far easier to explore than many of the small, neighboring towns and villages. Plus, it is well-connected in terms of transport, making it a popular choice as a base from which to explore all the nicest places on Lake Como. In this guide, we share recommendations for the VERY BEST things to see and do in Como town and just nearby (all within walking distance). We also created a map indicating all the places mentioned in this guide. At the end of this guide, you'll find some practical information and tips for your visit to Como. We also included a section on where to stay in Como, how much time you need, and how to plan your visit. Take a look! TIP: If you want to explore the Como area, but are not sure where to start, consider this highly-rated guided tour. It includes several of the best things to do in Como (funicular, boat ride, etc.) and a few local experiences that will make your trip more special and memorable. You can easily combine this with some sightseeing time in the town itself. Como city aerial view from Brunate. Here are the best things to do in Como: One of the best things to do in Como is to simply explore its old town on foot. With cobbled streets and cozy squares lined with historic buildings, shops, and restaurants, the historic city center of Como is really cozy. The nicest part of the old town is located between the lake and the remains of the old city wall, Porta Torre. It's in this area that you will find most shops, restaurants, quite a few churches, and several museums. Good to know: Further below, we list some of the most prominent landmarks to see in Como's historic city center. Some of them – such as the Cathedral or Porta Torre – deserve a special mention and are not to be missed. Many others are nice to see if you have a bit more time, but are not a must if you only have a few hours in Como. You will find those additional 'nice to see' places mentioned at the very end of this article. So if you are short on time, concentrate on the main sights and attractions in Como mentioned in the top 10 of this list. Como old town. Cathedral Square in Como. Como old town. Como's cathedral (Cattedrale di Santa Maria Assunta – Duomo di Como) is its most important religious building and the third largest in the whole of Lombardy region. Construction began in 1396 but wasn't completed until late in the 18th century. The result is a wonderful blend of architectural styles, including a Gothic facade, a Romanesque bell tower, and a Baroque dome. Indeed, Duomo di Como is considered to be one of northern Italy's most beautiful monuments. The western facade is especially impressive, with high columns of statues on either side of the entrance and a rose window. You can also see two statues beside the door depicting Pliny the Elder and his nephew Pliny the Younger. These were influential Roman dignitaries who lived in Como town. Dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the cathedral is laid out in a typical 'cross' style, with a nave and side aisles leading to a transept beneath the dome. The dome is quite beautiful and has a top lantern with many windows to flood the cathedral with light. On either side of the nave, you can see nine 16th-century tapestries and paintings by Gaudenzio Ferrari and Bernardino Luini (who worked with Leonardo da Vinci). Good to know: You can visit the cathedral on weekdays between 10.30 am and 5.00 pm. In any case, if you are in Como, you'll want to come here anyway, so just see if it's open when you're there. TIP: If you get the chance, go back to see the cathedral at night when it is illuminated and looks absolutely stunning! If you're lucky enough to be visiting in late November – December, you'll be able to see the beautiful extra lighting that is added for Christmas. Como Cathedral. The interior of Como Cathedral. Como's spectacular lakeside promenade is the best in the entire Lake Como region. Extending to almost 6 kilometers in length, its crescent-shaped path is almost completely paved and perfect for a leisurely stroll. You couldn't ask for better views, with homes built into the hillside on one side of you and boats going back and forth on the other. Start at Piazza Cavour, a beautiful little square located where the old town meets the lake. This is a popular meeting point with locals, packed with terraced cafes and bars. It's hard to believe that the area was just marshland in medieval times and wasn't transformed into an urban square until late in the 19th century. The atmosphere here is vibrant and there always seems to be something cool to see, from street performers and concerts to craft markets and artisan fairs. On the east side of the bay, you can visit Villa Geno, a small lido with lovely views of the villas on the west. There is a large grassy area here for sunbathing and a pool for children. You can also hire bikes should you want to cycle along the promenade instead. Next to Villa Geno is the famous Como fountain (Fontana di Villa Geno) which features an impressive 30-meter-high jet of water. To the west, your promenade walk will take you past Como's Monument to the Fallen – a memorial honoring soldiers who lost their lives in World War One. If you continue along the promenade, you can walk all the way to the popular Villa Olmo. The Tempio Voltiano museum sits on the waterfront, too, along with many scenic gardens where you can simply sit and soak up the views. You can read more about these places further below. Views from the lakeside promenade. Como Fountain. Porta Torre is one of the oldest landmarks in Como, and well worth a short walk to see it. This ancient gateway on Piazza Vittoria dates back to the 12th century when the city's medieval walls were constructed. It is an excellent example of Romanesque military architecture – huge in scale, impossible to breach, and with four rows of arches on the inner wall. 40 meters high, Porta Torre was originally part of the city wall itself but is now free-standing. Be sure to include it as part of your stroll through the city and you can also see the statue of Giuseppe Garibaldi that stands nearby. Porta Torre in the old town. Porta Torre. Alessandro Volta – the Italian physicist who invented the electric battery – may be Como's most famous son. The Volta Temple (Tempio Voltiano) was built in his honor in 1927; 100 years after his death. This imposing building was donated to the city by Francesco Somaini, the owner of a cotton mill in Como. It now houses a museum dedicated to Volta's life and work, containing personal memorabilia, an excellent collection of scientific instruments, and an early version of the electric battery. Sitting right on the shore of Lake Como, the building truly looks like an old Roman temple. The interior of the building is architecturally beautiful, with stunning tiling and elaborate carvings. You can't really miss the adjacent gardens, Giardini del Tempio Voltiano. This is a lovely place to sit for a while and admire the museum's neoclassical architecture. For practical information about visiting the museum, see the official website. Volta Temple. Villa Olmo is one of Como's most popular attractions and one of the most beautiful villas of Lake Como. This splendid villa is located on the lakeshore in the northwestern part of the city. It was originally built for the Marquis Innocenzo Odescalchi towards the end of the 18th century and named after an elm that stood in the center of the garden at that time. Host to many illustrious visitors over the years – including Napoleon, Austrian Emperor Ferdinand I, and the last Holy Roman Emperor Francis II – the villa later fell into a state of neglect. It has since been restored to its former splendor and has been maintained by the municipality of Como since 1925. There is no charge to walk through the main house and admire its contents, which include a variety of incredible frescoes, paintings, and statues. You can also see the theater, a later addition to the property. After pausing to admire the neoclassical features of the building's exterior – particularly the magnificent colonnade decorated with tondos – you can stroll through the tranquil English-style gardens. Now a community park, the gardens are also free to enter. Good to know: The park is open every day but you can only see the interior of the villa from Tuesday to Sunday. The building is sometimes closed for events and exhibitions. You can find more practical information on their website (at the moment, only in Italian), but we recommend coming here anyway – even if just to see the gardens and the exterior of the villa. READ ALSO: Most Beautiful Villas of Lake Como Villa Olmo. While Brunate is a separate village and not part of the city of Como, going there by funicular is one of the most popular attractions in the area. So no list of the best things to do in Como (and no visit to the city!) would be complete without including Brunate! This hilltop village sitting just above the city of Como is described by locals as a 'balcony in the Alps' – and what a fitting description that is! At an altitude of around 800 meters, Brunate offers glorious panoramic views over Como and the lake. One of the most exciting parts of visiting Brunate is the journey to reach it! For this, you will use the funicular railway from Como. It dates back to the late 19th century and is one of the most popular attractions in the region. The journey only takes 7 minutes but it is hard to put into words quite how beautiful the scenery is as you ascend. Good to know: The Como-Brunate funicular runs between 6 am and 10.30 pm, every 15-30 minutes. During Saturdays and in the summer season it runs until midnight. You can find more info on their website (in Italian), but it's not really something you have to plan in advance. Just go there, get the tickets, and that's it. When boarding the funicular, try to get into the carriage that's facing downhill. That way, you can enjoy some nice views during your journey too. Brunate village itself is quite small, with several Art Nouveau-style villas to admire. The main reason to come here is the reward: amazing views of Lake Como (check out several viewpoints). In addition, Brunate has several attractive churches, in particular, the pretty and peaceful Chiesa di Sant'Andrea Apostolo. But there is one more reason to come here, and that's the Volta Lighthouse – see below. Views from Brunate. Brunate funicular. Brunate funicular station in Como. Located about 1.5 km from the top station of the Brunate funicular, the Volta Lighthouse (Faro Voltiano) is another popular place to see in Como. This hilltop lighthouse and memorial to Alessandro Volta sits yet much higher than the village, offering stunning views of Lake Como and the surroundings. In addition to the views from the hill, you can also climb the spiral staircase (143 steps) to the top of the lighthouse itself. If you're feeling energetic, you should definitely visit the Volta Lighthouse when in Brunate. However, keep in mind that the walk to get there involves a steep 30-minute climb up a cobblestone road. But you are well rewarded for your hard work – the views across the Alps and the lowlands surrounding them are simply spectacular. Good to know: In high season and on certain weekends, there is often a shuttle bus between Brunate funicular station and the lighthouse. Sometimes, you will also have locals offering rides to the top. There is a small fee to enter the lighthouse. In the high season (mid-April to end-October), it's normally open daily except Wednesdays, from 10.30 am to 6.30 pm. Volta Lighthouse. Volta Lighthouse staircase. Taking a scenic boat trip on Lake Como is a great way to see the city and the surrounding areas from an entirely different perspective. It's also the best way to admire the stunning scenery along the shores of Lake Como. A variety of ferries and high-speed hydrofoils leave from Como's pier on a regular basis, taking you to other towns around the lake and moving at a pace that allows you to soak up the scenery. However, those trips are meant to get you from point A to point B, and not so much to show you the nicest places. For that, you can opt for a private tour on a speedboat. Obviously, longer trips will cover more ground, but it's worth it either way. Here are a few of the most popular options for Lake Como scenic boat trips departing from Como city: A boat trip on Lake Como is something not to be missed when visiting the area! The production of silk may have originated in China but you may be surprised to know that Como is one of the most important players in the worldwide silk industry. Indeed, more than 23,000 Comaschi (people from Como) now work in the silk business. Silkworms were originally imported into Italy in the 6th century A.D. In 1400 the Duke of Milan – Ludovico Sforza – decided to plant mulberry trees around Lake Como to feed them. At that point, the Como silk industry was born, although production methods at the time were laboriously slow. Gradually, the process was refined and factories were established, leading to huge economic growth in the region. High-quality silk from Lake Como became more and more popular until – by 1972 – the area was producing more silk than China or Japan! Interesting to know: These days, Como produces about 70% of Europe's silk. Many of the world's most famous fashion designers get their silk from Como. These include the top fashion houses like Armani, Valentino, Versace, Hermes, Chanel, Yves St Laurent, and many others. TIP: You can learn all about this interesting facet of the city by visiting The Lake Como Silk Museum (Museo della Seta di Como), with demonstrations showing how it was originally produced. Plus, of course, there are many places throughout Como and the entire Lake Como district where you can buy gorgeous silk clothing and scarves to take home. So even if you have no time for the museum, you can always see the famous Como silk in the local boutiques. That's a good excuse to convince your travel companions to do some (window) shopping in Como! Como silk. In a country famous for its churches, you can probably imagine that there are many more churches to see in Como than just the main cathedral. Indeed, there are numerous churches in Como city where you can admire the beautiful architecture and religious artwork. Here are a few other notable churches you may want to check out when visiting Como (we also indicated them on our map, so that you can decide which ones are worth passing by): Basilica di San Fedele located in the middle of the old town dates back to the 11th century and may have been Como's first cathedral. Chiesa di San Giacomo is a little church located just next to the cathedral. This 12th-century church has a very unique exterior and looks more like a manor or a palace rather than a church. It's also worth a quick look inside if it's open. Just outside the city walls under Mount Croce, you'll find the Basilica di Sant'Abbondio. This is an excellent example of Romanesque architecture dedicated to the former bishop of Como. Some people would even argue that this is the most beautiful church in Como… Also worth seeing is the splendid Chiesa di Santa Cecilia which was built in the mid-1300s. It's located in the old town, just next to Porta Torre, so you'll likely pass here anyway. One of the most unusual churches in Como is the Tempio Sacrario Sport Nautici (Nautic Sports Shrine Temple). Completed in the 1960s, this reinforced concrete structure is shaped like a ship and dedicated to Our Lady of the Miracle, the protector of mariners in distress. Good to know: Many smaller churches might have limited opening times. So be sure to double-check before you decide to visit, especially if it's located a bit further away from other Como attractions and requires a detour. READ ALSO: Most Iconic Churches & Cathedrals in Italy San Giacomo church in Como. Como has quite a few museums. In addition to the earlier-mentioned Tempio Voltiano and the Silk Museum, you might want to check out the Archaeological museum at Palazzo Giovio (Museo Archeologico Paolo Giovio, aka Museo Civico), the Pinacoteca Civica (art gallery), or the Museo Garibaldi (aka Civic Museum of the Risorgimento) – a historical museum celebrating Como's past. You can find more info about these museums on the official website of the city. Plus, there are a couple of private museums in Como too. These include the educational science museum Museo delle scienze Casartelli and the MuRAC Museo Rifugi Antiarei. This is a former air raid shelter that now contains an interesting exhibition about aviation and air defense systems. It also has a room dedicated to the Italian Red Cross. Please note that most Como museums are really small, so don't expect world-class galleries like in Florence, Venice, Rome, or Naples. Still, it can be nice to see one or two of them if you have a few hours to spare or are visiting Como in the coldest months of the year or… However, if the weather is nice and your time is limited, there are so many other amazing places to see on Lake Como! So you should really consider your overall itinerary when choosing what to prioritize. See our recommendations further below as well. Museo Archeologico Paolo Giovio in Como. And finally, no list of the best things to do in Como would be complete without mentioning the food. You're in Italy after all… There are lots of really good restaurants in the city where you can try all kinds of regional and local specialties. In addition, you can find some nice food tours and cooking classes, which are really nice to do if you have a few hours to spare in Como. Meeting locals and trying traditional dishes is always a great way to get to know a place better! Slow travel at its best. TIP: If there's one dish you have to try when visiting Lake Como, it's Risotto with Perch (Risotto con filetti di pesce persico). Risotto with perch is one of the most famous regional dishes in Lake Como. I guess it goes without saying, but here it is – there is so much more to see in Lake Como than its main city! So don't just limit your visit to the city of Como and be sure to explore the other areas! There are so many charming little towns dotting the shores of Lake Como, so many historic villas and enchanting gardens, and countless hiking trails for those looking for a more active holiday… As an absolute minimum, don't miss the towns of Bellagio and Varenna – both easily reachable from Como by fast ferry. TIP: You can find more information about all the best places in our Lake Como guides: Villa del Balbianello. As promised, here is a map indicating all the best places to visit in Como city and just nearby. As you can see, the town center is quite compact and you can easily walk everywhere. However, keep in mind that some places – like e.g. Villa Olmo or Volta Lighthouse – will require a longer walk and more time to visit. How to use this map: Use your computer mouse (or fingers) to zoom in or out. Click on the icons to get more information about each place. Click the arrow on the top left corner for the index. Click the star next to the map's title to add it to your Google Maps account. To view the saved map on your smartphone or PC, open Google Maps, click the menu and go to 'Your Places'/'Maps'. If you want to print the map or see it in a bigger window, click on 'View larger map' in the top right corner. As you can see, there is plenty to see and do in Como city so you can easily fill a day in town and its immediate surroundings. But you can also just visit for a few hours or stay for a few days – it really depends on your overall travel itinerary. As a minimum, we recommend half a day in Como. This will give you enough time to explore the old town, visit the Cathedral, and walk along the lakeside promenade. In addition, you could either take a funicular to Brunate or visit Villa Olmo. If you have one full day in Como city, you can see all the main landmarks mentioned in our guide, including Brunate village and Volta Lighthouse. If you want to actually visit a few places inside, take a boat tour, and enjoy some quiet time, we recommend 2-3 days for Como. Plus, you could easily spend an additional 3-4 days exploring the wider surroundings along the shores of Lake Como. Como town as seen from the lake. Many people visit Como on a day trip from Milan. With a direct train between the two cities, it's indeed very easy to do. But if you only have a day, you'll probably want to see more of Lake Como than just Como Town! In that case, start with a few hours in Como, followed by a fast ferry to Bellagio. After visiting Bellagio, take a boat to Varenna. From there, you can take a train back to Milan. TIP: Alternatively, consider joining this highly-rated day tour that visits all these places in the most efficient way. Tours use their own transportation (also boats) saving lots of time and allowing you to make the most out of your day. With its proximity to Milan and Lugano and good transport connections (railway, highway, and ferries), Como can be a good place to stay when exploring the area for a few days. Also, because it's a bigger city with more options, accommodation here tends to be a bit cheaper compared to the smaller prime towns on Lake Como such as Bellagio or Varenna. Still don't expect 'budget' prices in the high season – Lake Como is not a cheap destination. Anyway, here are a few recommended hotels in Como city center for all budgets: €€€€€€+ Vista Palazzo – Small Luxury Hotels of the World€€€€€ Hilton Lake Como (one of the top picks)€€€€ Hotel Metropole Suisse€€€ Albergo Firenze (great value!)€€ Ostello Bello Lake Como LEARN MORE: Best towns to stay in Lake Como Historic Como Hotel Metropole Suisse. Como town is quite enchanting, a destination that combines some of the most stunning scenery in the world with compelling art, architecture, and history. I hope this guide helps you get a better idea of what to expect and plan your visit. Enjoy your stay in this unique and romantic lakeside resort! TIP: If you are planning to see more of the Lake Como area than just the city of Como, there are quite a few things and practical aspects that you should know when planning your trip! Via the link below, you can find our top tips for your first visit to Lake Como. Check it out! READ ALSO: Info & Practical Tips for Visiting Lake Como If you found this post helpful, don't forget to bookmark it and share it with your friends. Are you on Pinterest? Pin this image! Photos: personal collection and Depositphotos.com. Additional credits claudiodivizia/Depositphotos.com and sailig/Depositphotos.com. More travel inspiration for Northern Italy: This site contains affiliate links, which means that we may earn a small commission, at no cost to you, for qualifying purchases. More info: Disclosure. Como Land ItaliaRegion LombardiaProvinsProvinsen Como (1861–)Hertugdømmet Milano (–1796)Romersk Italia (42 f.Kr.–476)StatusKommuneInnbyggernavncomaschi, comacini o comensiTilstøtende kommunerBlevio, Brunate, Capiago Intimiano, Casnate con Bernate, Cavallasca, Cernobbio, Chiasso (CH-TI), Grandate, Lipomo, Maslianico, Montano Lucino, San Fermo della Battaglia, Senna Comasco, Tavernerio, Torno, Vacallo (CH-TI)Postnummer22100Retningsnummer031Areal37,12 kvadratkilometer[1]Befolkning83 184[2] (2023) Bef.tetthet2 240,95 innb./kvadratkilometerHøyde o.h.201 meter ISTAT-nummer013075Como45°48′37″N 9°05′10″ØComo på Commons Como er en by med 78 315 innbyggere (2001) i regionen Lombardia i Nord-Italia, ca. 45. km. nord for Milano. Den grenser til kantonen Ticino i Sveits, og er kjent for Comosjøen. Den er hovedstad i provinsen Como. Dens nærhet til Comosjøen og til Alpene har gjort Como til et turistmål, og byen inneholder mange kunstverk, kirker, hager, museer, teatre, parker og palasser. Domkirken i Como, sete for bispedømmet Como; basilikaen Sant'Abbondio, Villa Olmo og byens middelalderske rådhus; og Casa del Fascio fra 1900-tallet. Sacro Monte di Ossuccio er et sted for pilegrimsreiser. Sacro Monte di Ossuccio er med på UNESCOs verdensarvliste. Plinius den eldre Plinius den yngre Pave Innocent XI Alessandro Volta Giuseppe Terragni Domkirken i Como Como-sjøen ^ «Superficie di Comuni Province e Regioni italiane al 9 ottobre 2011». Istituto nazionale di statistica. Besøkt 16. mars 2019. ^ . Offisielt nettsted (en) Como – kategori av bilder, video eller lyd på Commons (en) Como – galleri av bilder, video eller lyd på Commons Hentet fra « There are so many things to do in Lake Como, Italy that it can be hard to narrow down the best ones. I was lucky enough to visit this stunning region three times already and I was absolutely blown away by its beauty and charm every single time. If you're planning a trip here, you're definitely in for a treat! In this article, I'll share my top recommendations for things to do in Lake Como, from exploring charming towns and visiting gorgeous lakeside villas to cruising the lake and indulging in delicious Italian food. *Disclosure: This post contains a few affiliate links, which means I may receive a small commission, at no cost to you, if you make a purchase through my link.* Bellagio is one of my all-time favorite towns in Lake Como. With its picturesque streets, colorful buildings, and stunning views of the lake, it really looks like it came straight from a postcard. There are many fantastic things to do in Bellagio, but strolling along the winding cobbled pathways just never gets old, and I could happily spend hours doing this every time I visit. One of my favorite places is the waterfront promenade which is the perfect place to catch your breath and get some peace. It's especially beautiful when the flowers are in full bloom! The Old Town of Bellagio is the kind of place where you won't be able to put your camera away. Traditional Mediterranean buildings in every shade of pink, orange, and yellow, flower-filled balconies, and cozy cafes line the streets, each more beautiful than the last. This is also where you'll find Salita Serbelloni, a stunning street that you'll instantly recognize as it's among the top things to see in Lake Como. It features in every other picture you'll see from this part of Italy, but there's nothing like seeing it with your own eyes. Salita SerbelloniWaterfront promenade Both Star Wars and James Bond have used Villa del Balbianello as a filming location, which is a testament to how incredible this centuries-old mansion is. Located on the lakefront in the tiny village of Lenno, Villa del Balbianello is oh-so-elegant inside and is home to perfectly maintained gardens, so it's no surprise that it's become a popular wedding venue. You can also visit the inside of the villa if you're interested in history and architecture. But even if you don't go inside, a stroll around its gardens is one of the best things to do in Lake Como. You'll find centuries-old trees, beautiful flowers, and stunning views of the lake from different vantage points. And let's not forget about that famous balcony overlooking the lake, where you can channel your inner Anakin Skywalker or James Bond. It was so unreal to see it in person and I definitely recommend adding this to your Lake Como itinerary. Towns like Varenna almost look too amazing to be real, so much so that I felt like I was living in a dream the entire time I was there. For a town so small, you can surprisingly still find lots of things to do in Varenna. Villa Monastero is Varenna's biggest claim to fame, but this small village brings so much more to the table. My personal favorite is the Passeggiata degli Innamorati, a short little walkway right along the water's edge that you have to check out. Other spots to explore include the Villa Cipressi and the Church of St. George, and if you're feeling like hitting the great outdoors, you can hike up to the thousand-year-old Castello di Vezio, but I have more on that a little later. Even if you're short on time, a quick visit to the Old Town and lunch on the waterfront is a wonderful way to spend a few hours. My favorite place to get some drinks and appetizers is at Bar Il Molo, which has an amazing terrace overlooking the lake. Passerella Innamorati Sul LagoAncient Port of Varenna The only spot that I think can rival Villa del Balbianello is the regal Villa Carlotta, a huge three-story property with its very own botanical gardens in Tremezzo. Much like Villa del Balbianello, Villa Carlotta has been renovated into a museum filled with sculptures, paintings, and ornate furniture from the last few centuries. But the real draw of Villa Carlotta is its expansive gardens. They're much larger than other villas in Lake Como and have an incredible collection of flowers and plants from around the world. Make sure to stop at the lakeside gates to witness one of the most jaw-dropping views of Lake Como. It's no wonder the original owners chose this location for their summer house! Getting tickets to Villa Carlotta is easy and can be done at the entrance or online. The ticket includes the gardens and the villa, so you can explore at your own pace. One of my favorite memories from my trips to Lake Como is taking a public ferry ride across the lake. It's definitely the best way to see all the different towns and charming villas along the shore. All of the main towns are connected by frequent ferries, so moving from place to place is quite straightforward and usually pretty quick. Not to mention that it's super affordable! Shorter routes like Bellagio to Varenna can cost as little as €5, and even if you're traveling from Como to Bellagio which is almost 2 hours, it'll only set you back around €10. You can check the official Navigazione Laghi website for the schedules and fares, and I also recommend buying your tickets online, especially during the peak season. View of Varenna from the public ferry Menaggio is just as picturesque as the likes of Bellagio and Varenna but is noticeably quieter and has a lovely laidback way of life. It's the perfect place to go if you want to relax and enjoy some peace. The town features a lovely promenade with views of the lake and mountains, perfect for an afternoon walk. You can also find excellent restaurants serving up delicious Italian cuisine in Menaggio. One of my favorite things to do in Menaggio is to sit at one of the cafes along the waterfront, especially around Piazza Guiseppe Garibaldi, and take in the stunning views while sipping on an Aperol Spritz. It's pure bliss! There's not as much to do in Menaggio as in some of the neighboring towns, but that's part of why it's so peaceful and easygoing. Varenna's most popular attraction, Villa Monastero is a must-visit when in Lake Como. This former monastery has been transformed into a museum and botanical garden, making it an ideal spot for history lovers and nature enthusiasts. While the museum is absolutely worth visiting, it was the gardens that really took my breath away. Stretching for almost 2 km (1.25 miles), every corner of the gardens is immaculate, vibrant, and steeped in history. Strolling through the gardens was undoubtedly one of my favorite things to do in Lake Como! Even if you're not usually one for museums, I highly recommend visiting Villa Monastero for its incredible gardens alone. However, if you have the time, I suggest buying the combined ticket to visit both the villa and the gardens for a well-rounded experience. One of the most unique and lesser-known spots in Lake Como is Orrido di Bellano, a natural gorge formed by the Pioverna River. The walk through the gorge is truly breathtaking as you follow a wooden walkway through tunnels, over bridges, and past waterfalls. It's unlike anything else you'll see in Lake Como and definitely worth a visit if you're in the area. What I found remarkable about Orrido di Bellano was how close it is to Bellano town, as it feels like it's tucked away miles from the center. In reality, a 5-minute stroll from the heart of the town will get you right to the entrance. Though Orrido di Bellano is quite well known, many visitors often overlook it, and I can't understand why. It's also just a 5-minute train ride from Varenna, so it's very easy to get to. Although seeing Lake Como from a ferry or the shore is fantastic, nothing beats experiencing it on a private boat tour. It's undoubtedly one of the best ways to take in all the beauty and charm of this stunning lake. You can rent a boat yourself (most boats don't require a license) or hire a driver to take you around. Like most private tours, these tend to be significantly more expensive than classic guided trips, but if you're traveling with a group, it can be quite affordable. Aside from the obvious beauty, one of my favorite things about taking a private boat tour is that you have complete control over your itinerary. You can stop wherever and whenever you want for photos or to take a dip in the crystal-clear waters. There are lots of options, such as this