

Bellagio

Province of Como · Italy

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bellagio sits at the tip of a hilly promontory in the middle of Lake Como, at the point where the lake splits into its southern branches. The village climbs from a lakefront of arcades and hotels up steep stepped lanes to a Romanesque basilica. Above and around it lie the parks of two famous villas, with views up and down the lake.

Bellagio is the classic base for a first visit to the lake. Ferries run often in season to the villages on the opposite shores, so you can see much of the central lake without a car. It suits a stay of two to four nights, a romantic break, or a calm base for walking and boat trips. Day visitors fill the lanes from late morning, so mornings and evenings are the quietest times.

When to visit

April to June and September to October are the best months. In April and May the azaleas and rhododendrons bloom in the villa gardens. July and August are warm and humid, with afternoon storms and crowded ferries. From November to March many hotels and restaurants close, the villa gardens are shut, and boats run less often.

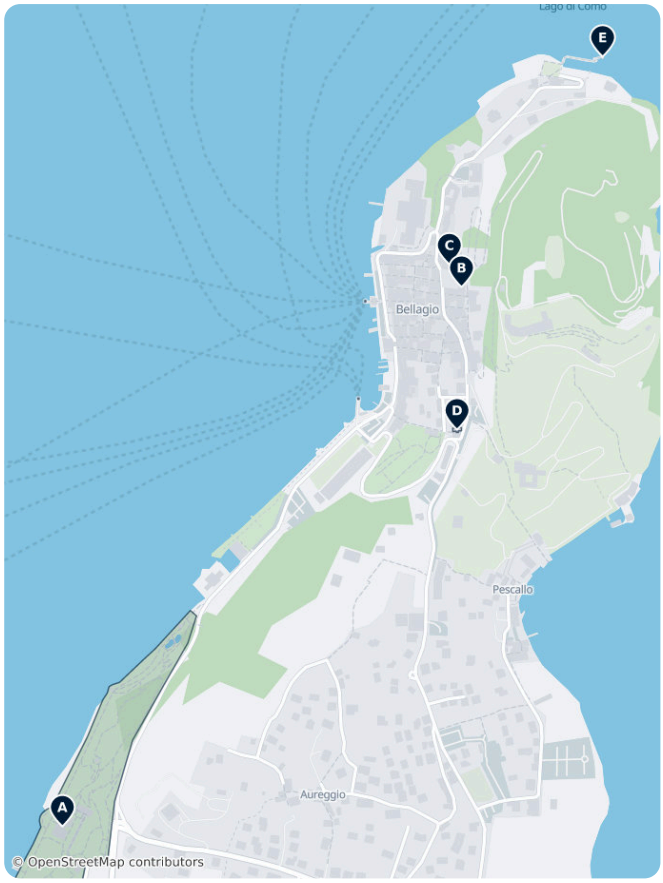
For cycling fans, the Il Lombardia race in October often climbs the Ghisallo pass in the hills above the village, and crowds gather along the road to watch.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 12° Feels like 4°	0° / -8°	Dry air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for cycling	9° / 16° Feels like 6°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds
March	Good Good for hiking	13° / 19°	5° / -2°	Dry air · Calm winds
April	Good Good for hiking	17° / 23°	9° / 3°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
May	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	13° / 8°	17 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 31°	18° / 12°	15 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 31°	19° / 13°	Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	27° / 32°	19° / 14°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 28°	15° / 9°	Calm winds
October	Great Great for sightseeing	19° / 24°	11° / 5°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Good Good for cycling	13° / 19°	6° / -1°	Dry air · Calm winds
December	Fair Fair for cycling	8° / 13° Feels like 5°	1° / -7°	Dry air · Calm winds

Best months: September, October

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Villa Melzi d'Eril Gardens line the lakeshore a 15-minute walk south of the centre. The neoclassical villa was built in 1808–1810, and its English-style park has old trees, statues, a small chapel and a museum. The house itself is private. The gardens are open from late March to autumn.

B Parco di Villa Serbelloni covers the wooded hill above the village. The villa belongs to the Rockefeller Foundation, and you can visit the park only on a guided tour of about two hours. Paths climb to viewpoints over two branches of the lake. Book ahead, and note the walk is steep and not suitable for wheelchairs.

C Basilica di San Giacomo stands at the top of the old village. This Romanesque church dates from the 11th and 12th centuries, and its carved stone apse is the best part.

D Chiesa di San Giorgio is a small Romanesque church near the basilica, from around 1100. Its bell tower stands over the lane.

E Punta di Spartivento is the northern tip of the promontory. Here the lake divides, and you look north towards the high mountains at its far end.

Bellagio – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

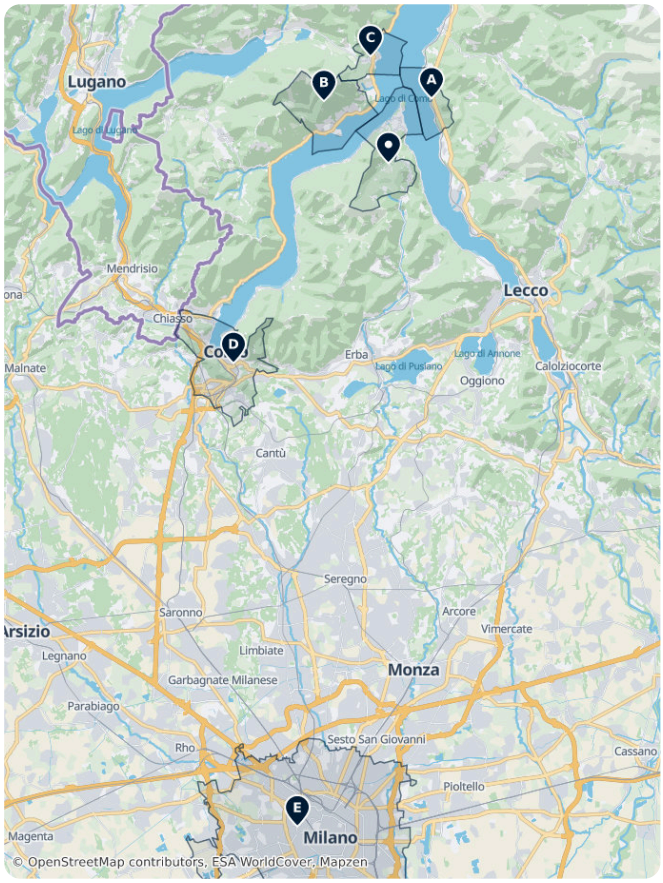
What to experience

Much of a stay in Bellagio happens on the water or on the hills behind it.

- **Hop between villages by ferry**: Cross to Varenna, Menaggio and Cadenabbia in one day, with lunch on a different shore. The short crossings give you the best views of the mountains around the lake.
- **Take a boat out at sunset**: Hire a small motorboat, or book a boat with a driver, from the lakefront. Late afternoon is a good time to go.
- **Ride up to the Ghisallo pass**: Cycle, or drive, the road that famous racers climb to Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo, about 10 km south of the village. This small chapel is dedicated to the patroness of cyclists and is full of jerseys and bicycles left by racers. Next door, Museo del Ciclismo Madonna Del Ghisallo tells the story of Italian cycling.
- **Hike to a summit**: Monte San Primo is the highest peak in the hills between the two branches of the lake. On a clear day you see the Alps and the plain towards Milan. From the trailheads in the hills above Civenna, allow a half day. On foot from the village it is a full-day hike. Go in dry weather.
- **Swim in the lake**: In summer, the Lido di Bellagio, a short walk south of the centre, has a small beach and a lakeside bar.

Day trips

The best day trips start at the ferry pier. The villages on the other shores are only 10–15 minutes away by boat.



- A Varenna — about 15 minutes by ferry. A small village of colourful houses on the east shore, with a lakeside walkway and a ruined castle on the hill above.
- B Tremezzina — about 10 minutes by ferry to Cadenabbia. Visit the gardens and art collection of Villa Carlotta, or take a boat to Villa del Balbianello on its wooded point near Lenno.
- C Menaggio — about 15 minutes by ferry. A town on the west shore with a lakeside promenade, a small old centre and marked paths into the hills above.
- D Como — under an hour by fast boat, or about 2 hours by slow boat with many stops. The city has a fine cathedral, a lakeside centre and a funicular up to Brunate.
- E Milan — about 1 hour 15 minutes by car, or about 2 hours by ferry and train via Varenna. Go for the cathedral, Leonardo's Last Supper (book weeks ahead) and the shops.

Where to explore

Lake Como has its own guide, covering the whole lake and all its shores.

Across the water, Varenna, Menaggio and Tremezzina are each a short ferry ride away. Towards the southern end of the lake are Laglio, Cernobbio and Como, with Brunate on the hill above the city. Milan is the nearest big city.

Getting there

- **By air**: Milan Linate Airport (LIN) is the closest, about 1 hour 15 minutes by car. Milan Malpensa (MXP) and Milan Bergamo (BGY) are each about 1 hour 20 minutes to 1 hour 30 minutes by car. By public transport from Malpensa, take the Malpensa Express or a train to Milano Centrale, then a regional train to Varenna and the ferry, about 2.5–3 hours in total.
- **By train**: Bellagio has no station. The easiest route is a regional train from Milano Centrale to Varenna-Esino, about 1 hour on the Milan–Lecco–Tirano line. Walk down to the pier in Varenna and take the ferry, 15 minutes. You can also take a train to Como and continue by boat or bus. Trenord
- **By boat**: Public boats link Bellagio with Como, Varenna, Menaggio, Cadenabbia and other lake villages all year. From Como, the fast boat takes under an hour and the slow boat about 2 hours. A car ferry crosses between Bellagio, Cadenabbia, Menaggio and Varenna. Navigazione Laghi
- **By bus**: ASF line C30 runs between Como and Bellagio along the lake road in just over an hour. You can tap a contactless bank card or phone on the validator when you board. ASF Autolinee
- **By car**: The roads from Como and from Lecco are narrow and winding along the shore. Allow extra time in summer, and see the driving section for parking.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is small, but it is built on a slope. Steep stepped lanes link the lakefront with the upper street and the basilica. Villa Melzi d'Eril Gardens are a 15-minute walk south along the lake road, partly without a pavement.
- **Ferries**: Boats are the best way to visit the other shores. Buy tickets at the ticket office by the pier before you board, because buying on board can cost more. In summer, arrive early, as queues for the popular ferries can be long. Navigazione Laghi
- **Bus**: Line C30 stops in the village and in some hamlets on the way to Como. Tap a contactless card on board.
- **Cycling**: The hills behind the village are steep. The famous climb to the Ghisallo pass is popular with road cyclists, and e-bikes make it easier for everyone else.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is compact and car-free in its upper lanes, but it is built on a slope with many steep steps, and the lake road has stretches without a pavement.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Low

The roads are narrow, steep and busy; cycling is for fit road riders or e-bikes, not for getting around the village.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for a stay in Bellagio itself. The ferries and buses reach the main lake villages, and the narrow, busy shore roads are slow in summer. A car helps only for the hills behind the village.
- **Parking**: Spaces are few and paid. Use the pay car parks on the edge of the centre, and expect them to be full by mid-morning on summer weekends. Ask your hotel about parking before you arrive.
- **Car ferry**: To cross the lake with a car, use the car ferry to Cadenabbia, Menaggio or Varenna instead of driving around the shore.
- **Restrictions**: The lanes of the old village are steps and are closed to cars.

Food & drink

Look for fish from the lake. Typical dishes are risotto with perch fillets (risotto con filetti di pesce persico), grilled whitefish (lavarello), and missoltini, which are salted and dried shad, served with polenta. In the hills you also find mountain cheeses and hearty polenta dishes.

The lakefront and the stepped lanes are full of restaurants, and prices are high in the busiest spots. For a quieter meal, walk 10 minutes over the promontory to the small fishing hamlet of Pescallo, or eat in the hamlets on the road to the Ghisallo pass. Book a table for dinner in summer.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Pizza Margherita
Thin-crust pizza topped with tomato, mozzarella, and basil, invented in Naples and still best there.

DINNER

Spaghetti alla Carbonara
Pasta with egg, cured pork cheek (guanciale), pecorino cheese, and black pepper, a Roman classic.

Risotto alla Milanese
Creamy saffron-infused rice dish from Milan, often served alongside braised veal shank.

Lasagna · Lasagne al Forno
Layered baked pasta with ragu, bechamel, and cheese, a staple of Emilia-Romagna cooking.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Prosciutto and Cheese · Prosciutto e Formaggio
Cured ham paired with regional cheeses, a common antipasto plate found nationwide.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Gelato
Dense, slow-churned Italian ice cream, traditionally lower in fat and air than American-style ice cream.

Tiramisu · Tiramisù
Layered dessert of coffee-soaked ladyfingers and mascarpone cream, dusted with cocoa.

DRINKS

Espresso · Caffè
A short, strong shot of coffee drunk quickly, usually standing at a bar counter.

Wine · Vino
Italy is one of the world's largest wine producers, with regional styles from Piedmont's Barolo to Tuscany's Chianti.

Aperol Spritz
A bittersweet orange aperitif mixed with prosecco and soda water, a staple of the early-evening aperitivo.

Bellagio – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Bellagio is very safe. Watch for pickpockets in the crowds at the ferry pier and on busy boats in summer.

The stepped lanes are steep and can be slippery after rain, so wear good shoes. The lake road has narrow sections without a pavement, so walk carefully and keep to the side. On the roads in the hills, expect many cyclists on fast descents. The lake water is cold even in summer, and the bed drops quickly near the shore, so swim in a lido or another supervised spot.

History

The Bellagio promontory has been settled since Roman times. The Roman writer *Pliny the Younger* owned a villa on the lake, and tradition places one of his homes on the hill that is now Parco di Villa Serbelloni. In the Middle Ages Bellagio was a fortified village, and its two Romanesque churches, Basilica di San Giacomo and Chiesa di San Giorgio, date from around 1100.

The castle on the hill was destroyed in 1375, and a villa was later built on the site. Rich families from Milan made the promontory their summer home. *Francesco Melzi d'Eril*, a leading politician in Napoleon's Italy, built his villa on the shore in 1808–1810. Today Villa Melzi d'Eril Gardens are open to visitors. Writers, composers and travellers followed, and grand hotels opened along the lakefront.

In 1959 Villa Serbelloni passed to the Rockefeller Foundation, which runs a centre for scholars and artists there. In 2014 Bellagio merged with the hill village of Civenna, so the town now reaches up towards the Ghisallo pass.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Italy at a glance:

CURRENCY
EUR €

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

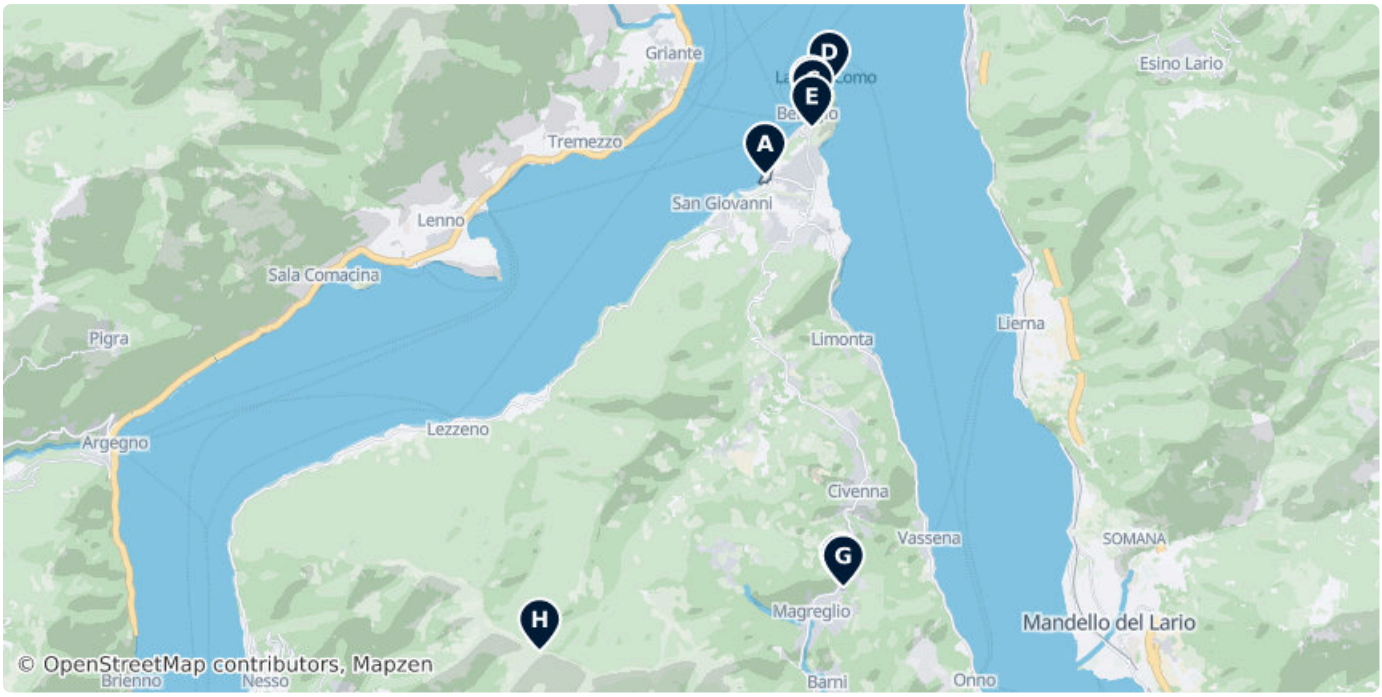
Type C / Type F / Type L
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Italian

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bellagio Essentials

The essentials of Bellagio: the neoclassical gardens of Villa Melzi on the lakeshore, the wooded park of Villa Serbelloni on the hill above the village, the Romanesque Basilica of San Giacomo and the point of Punta Spartivento, where the lake divides. In the hills behind the village, the Ghisallo pass is a pilgrimage site for cyclists, with a small sanctuary and a cycling museum, and Monte San Primo is the highest summit of the peninsula.





A Villa Melzi d'Eril Gardens

Neoclassical villa built in 1808–1810 for Francesco Melzi d'Eril, with lakeside English-style gardens, statues, a chapel and a small museum. Open to visitors in the warmer months.

Via Lungolario Manzoni, 22021 Bellagio, Italy (45.97906, 9.25320)

Mo–Su 10:00–19:00

giardinidivillamelzi.it



B Basilica of San Giacomo

Romanesque basilica from the 11th–12th centuries at the top of the old village, with a carved stone apse and a bell tower that was once part of the town walls.

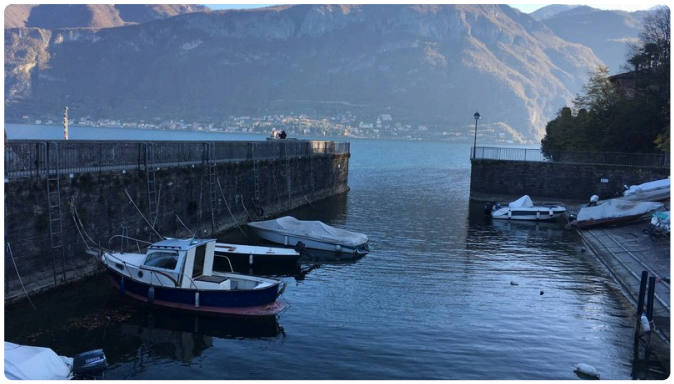
Salita Serbelloni, 45, 22021 Bellagio, Italy (45.98798, 9.26203)



C Parco di Villa Serbelloni

Wooded park on the promontory above the village, owned by the Rockefeller Foundation. Visits are by guided tour only, climbing to viewpoints over two branches of the lake.

Piazza della Chiesa, 22021 Bellagio CO, Italy (45.98762, 9.26230)



D Punta di Spartivento

The northern tip of the Bellagio promontory, where the lake divides into the Como and Lecco branches. A quiet spot for views up the lake to the mountains.

28c Via Enrico Vitali, 22021, Italy (45.99128, 9.26553)



E San Giorgio Church

Small Romanesque church from around 1100 next to the town hall, with a bell tower set over the lane.

1 Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, Bellagio 22021, Italy (45.98536, 9.26220)



F Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo

Hilltop chapel on the Ghisallo pass, dedicated to the patroness of cyclists and filled with jerseys and bicycles left by racers.

Via Adua, 22030, Italy (45.92426, 9.26776)

triangololariano.it/it/chiesa-della-madonna-del-ghisallo-...



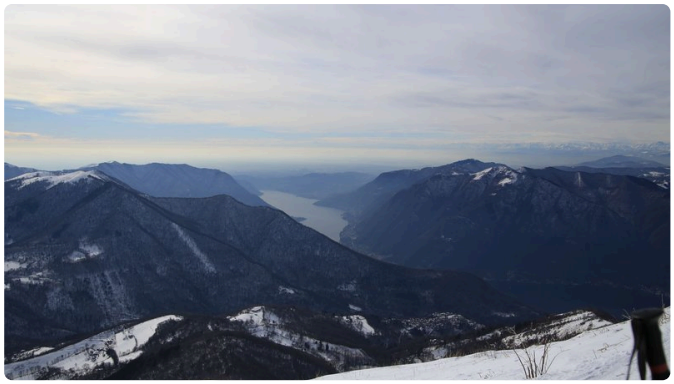
G Museo del Ciclismo Madonna del Ghisallo

Cycling museum beside the Ghisallo chapel, with bicycles, pink jerseys and memorabilia of Italian racing champions.

Via Gino Bartali 4, 22030 Magreglio (45.92397, 9.26823)

Mo–Su 09:30–17:30

museodelghisallo.it/it/, +39 031 965885



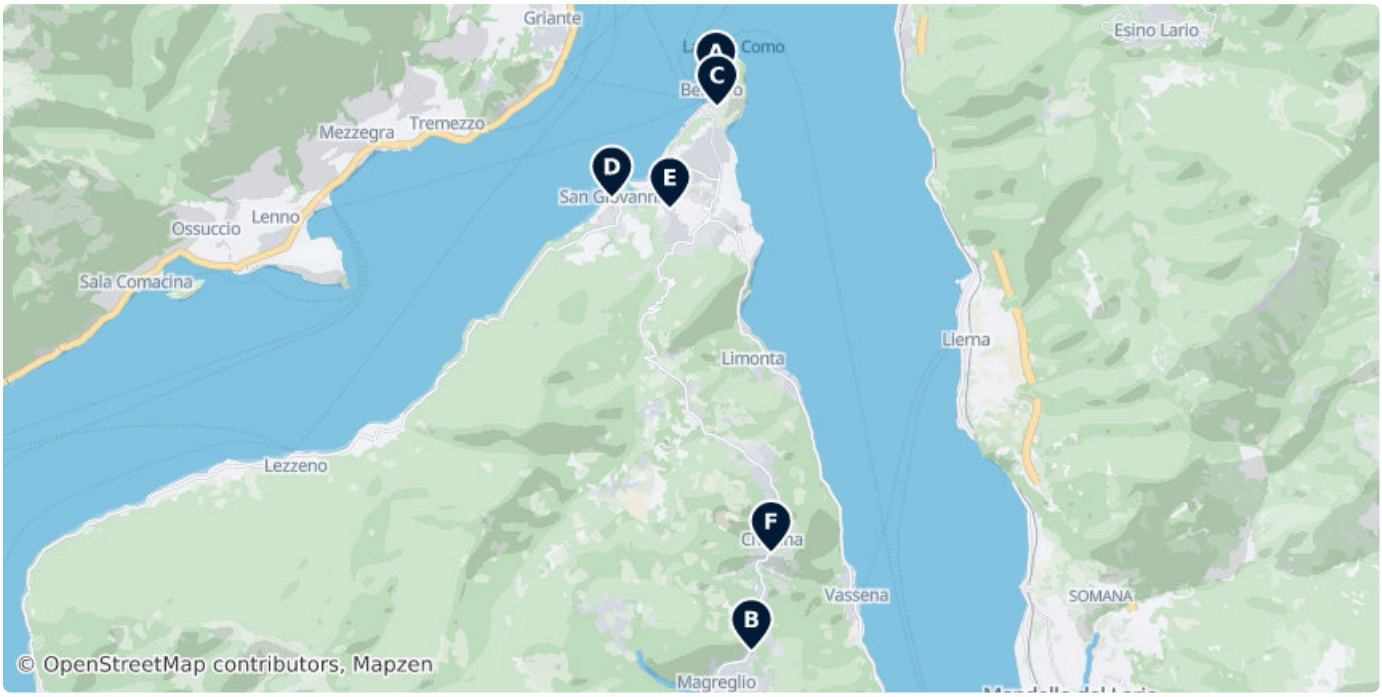
H Monte San Primo

At 1,682 metres the highest peak of the land between the two southern branches of the lake, with wide views from its grassy summit.

22020, Italy (45.91544, 9.20984)

Historic Churches and Sanctuaries

Bellagio's churches range from Romanesque buildings of around 1100 in the old village to Baroque parish churches in the hamlets on the hillside. Above them, on the Ghisallo pass, a small sanctuary dedicated to the patroness of cyclists draws riders from all over the world.





A Basilica of San Giacomo

The main church of Bellagio, a Romanesque basilica from the 11th–12th centuries at the top of the stepped lanes.

Salita Serbelloni, 45, 22021 Bellagio, Italy (45.98798, 9.26203)



B Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo

Small sanctuary on the Ghisallo pass, dedicated to the patroness of cyclists, with jerseys and bicycles donated by famous racers.

Via Adua, 22030, Italy (45.92426, 9.26776)

triangololariano.it/it/chiesa-della-madonna-del-ghisallo-...



C San Giorgio Church

Small Romanesque church from around 1100 next to the town hall, with a bell tower that straddles the lane.

1 Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, Bellagio 22021, Italy (45.98536, 9.26220)

D Chiesa di San Giovanni Battista

Parish church of the lakeside hamlet of San Giovanni, south of the village, with a richly decorated Baroque interior.

1 Piazza Pretorio, Bellagio 22021, Italy (45.97511, 9.24521)

triangololariano.it/it/chiesa-di-san-giovanni-battista-san-...

E Chiesa dei Santi Gervasio e Protasio

Parish church of the hamlet of Visgnola on the hillside above the village, dedicated to the martyrs Gervasius and Protasius.

8 Piazza Suira, Bellagio 22021, Italy (45.97388, 9.25458)

triangololariano.it/it/chiesa-dei-santi-gervaso-e-protaso-b...

F Chiesa dei Santi Materno e Ambrogio

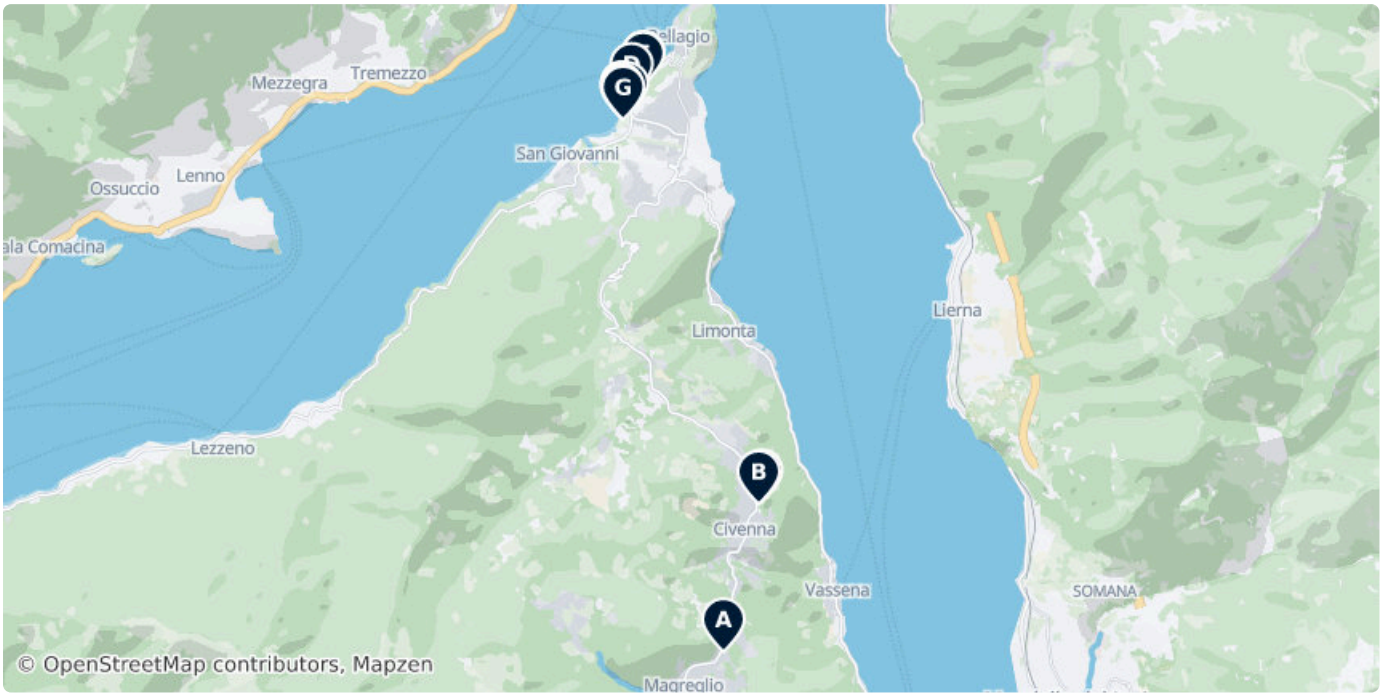
Parish church of Civenna, high on the ridge above the Lecco branch of the lake, with a stucco-decorated interior.

51 Via Provinciale, Civenna 22030, Italy (45.93527, 9.27092)

lombardiabeniculturali.it/architetture/schede/CO250-006...

Art and Sculpture

Bellagio's artistic landscape spans from the cycling heritage of the Ghisallo pass to the neoclassical elegance of the Villa Melzi gardens. This collection features modern memorials dedicated to cyclists, motorcyclists, and the Alpini mountain troops alongside 19th-century sculptures. Highlights include the neoclassical monument to Dante and Beatrice and an eclectic mix of authentic Egyptian artifacts and Greek-inspired herms set against the backdrop of Lake Como.





A Statue to Fallen Cyclist

Located near the Madonna del Ghisallo sanctuary, this monument honors competitive cyclists who lost their lives.

Via Adua, 22030, Italy (45.92430, 9.26798)

B Monumento ai Caduti del motociclismo

A memorial dedicated to fallen motorcyclists, situated at the Ghisallo pass.

(45.93943, 9.27317)

C Monumento agli Alpini

A tribute to Italy's elite mountain infantry, the Alpini.

(45.93957, 9.27354)

D Monumento a Dante e Beatrice

A neoclassical marble sculpture by Giovan Battista Comolli in the Villa Melzi gardens, depicting Dante Alighieri being led by Beatrice.

(45.98119, 9.25441)

E Grotto

A rocaille-style artificial cave located within the historic gardens of Villa Melzi.

(45.98231, 9.25611)

F Statue of Ancient Egyptian Dignitary

An authentic Egyptian artifact brought to Bellagio by Francesco Melzi d'Eril during the Napoleonic era.

(45.97925, 9.25376)

G Herm Of The Goddess Roma

A classical herm sculpture representing the personification of Rome, located in the Villa Melzi gardens.

(45.97883, 9.25315)

H Herm Of Athena

A stone herm depicting the Greek goddess of wisdom within the Villa Melzi garden grounds.

(45.97889, 9.25298)

I Sphinx

An Egyptian-style sphinx sculpture located near the lakefront paths of Villa Melzi.

(45.98244, 9.25619)

J Leoni

Guardian lion sculptures situated within the neoclassical landscape of the Villa Melzi gardens.

(45.97911, 9.25295)

K apollo

A classical statue of the Greek god Apollo, part of the decorative program of the Villa Melzi gardens.

(45.97935, 9.25303)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Villa Melzi d'Eril Gardens — "Villa Melzi (Bellagio) - DSC02786" by Daderot, pd
- Basilica of San Giacomo — "Basilica di San Giacomo (Bellagio) - DSC02594" by Daderot, pd
- Parco di Villa Serbelloni — "Villa Serbelloni (Bellagio)" by Guerinf, cc0
- Punta di Spartivento — "Punta di Spartivento" by Adriana Ocampo, cc-by-4.0
- San Giorgio Church — "Bellagio - Chiesa di San Giorgio - 2023-09-24 09-06-56 001" by Ysogo, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo — "Statua situata nel piazzale del Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo" by Io, DeLo 99, cc-by-sa-3.0
- Museo del Ciclismo Madonna del Ghisallo — "Magreglio - Museo del Ciclismo Madonna del Ghisallo - 2024-09-01 21-02-09 001" by Maurizio Moro5153, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Monte San Primo — "Monte San Primo b" by Bolo77, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Basilica of San Giacomo — "Basilica di San Giacomo (Bellagio) - DSC02594" by Daderot, pd
- Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo — "Statua situata nel piazzale del Santuario della Madonna del Ghisallo" by Io, DeLo 99, cc-by-sa-3.0
- San Giorgio Church — "Bellagio - Chiesa di San Giorgio - 2023-09-24 09-06-56 001" by Ysogo, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Statue to Fallen Cyclist — "Statue to Fallen Cyclist" by Aleksei Medvedev, CC-BY-SA

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 14, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.