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## From Epic Hikes to Delicious Cuisine, How to Let the Lake Como Region Delight All Your Senses

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*Beyond its well-earned reputation for elegance, there's a lot more to love among the postcard-perfect mountains and streams of this Northern Italian province.*



Gravedona ed Uniti is but one of the Lake Como region's many unforgettable villages. Valentina Selva/Italy Tourism

At the foot of the Italian Alps in the Northern Italian region of Lombardy, [Lake Como](#) and its surrounds has been renowned for centuries as a playground for VIPs, with its bounty of exclusive boutiques, yacht clubs, and villas set against innumerable fairytale villages. Yet it's also been a source of inspiration for countless artists and intellectuals dating back to ancient times, from Pliny the Elder to Leonardo da Vinci, thanks to its diverse cuisine, natural beauty, and an ever-evolving, international cultural heritage. Here among Lake Como, Lake Lugano, and the area's many hidden villages, discover centuries-old vineyards, enchanted woodland waterfalls, and pockets of ancient and modern history like few other places can claim.

## The culture of Como

Between Lake Como and Lake Lugano, near Menaggio in the heart of Valsanagra Park, the [Sanagra Valley Nature and Ethnography Museum](#) (open the last Sunday of each month) provides context for the region's traditions, while in nearby Valsolda, overlooking Lake Lugano, you can pre-book tours of [Villa Fogazzaro Roi](#), an immaculately preserved example of 19th-century aristocratic life. For an even closer look, close out the evening at Menaggio's five-star [Grand Hotel Victoria](#), among the most ornate hotels in the area.

Finally, for those who value modern history, on the western shore of Upper Lake, the town of Dongo is a must. Here, on April 27, 1945, at Palazzo Manzi, the Resistance apprehended and detained Mussolini and his senior operatives, signaling the end of World War II. The site is of utmost importance to the Resistance's legacy, and the [End of the War Museum](#), open throughout the summer or with reservations, helps bring that history to life.

There's something special about the air up here. The mountains and valleys, lakes and rivers, villages and preserves have proven inspiration for centuries, giving way to cultural and culinary heritage like few other places on earth. Learn more about this destination by visiting [Italy Tourism](#) and start planning your trip today.