

# Italy's

## Magnificent Lake District



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**EXPLORERS**  
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association  
October 7-15, 2025

# EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

## Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us for a spectacular journey to Italy's Magnificent Lake District, a region celebrated for its natural beauty, sumptuous cuisine and captivating ambience. Stay in lovely Stresa, nestled near the shores of Lake Maggiore, and enjoy tranquil days bathed in golden sunlight. It's an adventure to remember!

For eight days, visit picture-perfect islands, follow romantic cobblestones, marvel at opulent villas and walk through gardens and timeless villages, all while embracing the region's history, art and architecture. Along the way, discover Milan's chic panache and hone new cooking skills during a hands-on cooking demonstration. Come to Italy and indulge in the intimate grandeur of lakeside life!

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

**844-414-0369**

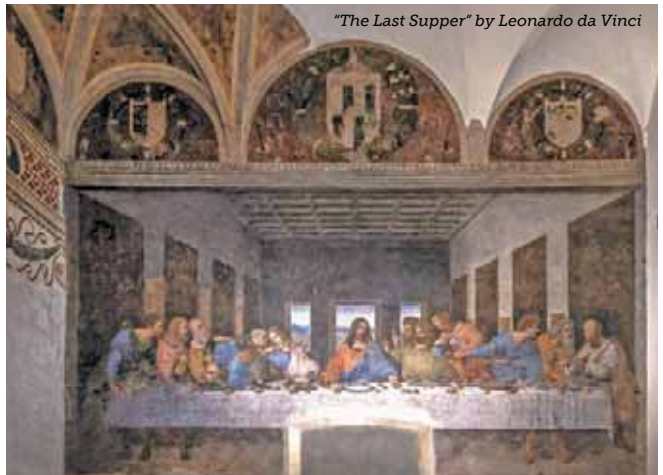
**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

### UNESCO World Heritage

Church and Dominican Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci



Santa Maria delle Grazie



"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci



# A World of Discovery



Italy awaits to delight you! From pretty Isola Bella to Lake Orta, charming Stresa to the clear blue waters of Lake Maggiore, this lauded district is a feast for the senses. Here, the shores are fringed with medieval churches, romantic villages and elegant villas. Spend your days uncovering the wonders of Italy's most magical destinations while also savoring celebrated cuisine, art and culture.

*Top: Aerial view of Bellagio, Lake Como*

*Above: Gardens of Isola Bella, Borromean Islands*

*Cover: Aerial view of the Borromean Islands, Lake Maggiore*

*Mail panel: Lake Como | Stresa*

## Inspiring Moments



- Indulge in cobalt lakes, snowcapped mountains and opulent villas while cruising on **Italy's spectacular lakes**.
- Glide along tranquil **Lake Orta** and visit the enchanting **Isola San Giulio**.
- Admire the **Borromean Islands** and enjoy a private reception on **Isola Bella**.
- Learn from local chefs during a **private farm-to-table cooking class**.
- **Savor lunch in Bellagio** and enjoy a stroll in this terraced lakeside village known for its beautiful silk.
- Sip Prosecco, chat with locals and admire views from your **hotel's rooftop lounge**.
- Gaze in wonder at **"The Last Supper,"** da Vinci's brilliant mural painting.

ALUMNI CAMPUS  
ABROAD®





Orta San Giulio

### Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Milan, Italy. 🚗

### Day 2 | Milan, Italy | Stresa

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to Stresa and check in to the Hotel La Palma. Take time to enjoy the town's old-world ambience and dramatic vistas. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

### Day 3 | Stresa | Lake Orta

**Enrichment: *The Development of the Lake District.*** After breakfast, join a local expert to learn about Italy's lovely lake district.

**Lake Orta.** Enjoy a scenic drive to Orta San Giulio, built on a promontory that juts into the lake. During a walking tour, see the central piazza dotted with rainbow-hued umbrellas. Cruise to Isola San Giulio, a sweet oasis with pedestrian-friendly roads, historic buildings and an ancient basilica.

**Free Time:** Craft your own path in San Giulio. Follow narrow lanes, pausing to marvel at the village's colorful houses and small chapels. Dig into a delicious Italian dinner. Popular local dishes include stuffed pastas, seafoods and locally grown vegetables. Buon appetito!

### Day 4 | Borromean Islands

**Enrichment: *The Gardens of Lake Maggiore.*** Learn about the Borromeo family and how they transformed the islands into splendid retreats.

**Free Time:** Set off to explore lovely Stresa.

**Enrichment: *Golden Age of the Renaissance.*** Delve into the true genius of Michelangelo and

Leonardo da Vinci while tracing their profound influences on sculpture and painting.

**Borromean Islands.** Cruise on Lake Maggiore to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromean Islands, and take a guided tour of the lush English-style botanical gardens. Next, embrace the charms of Isola dei Pescatori, which offers a glimpse into Lake Maggiore's storied fishing tradition. Continue to Isola Bella, "The Beautiful Island," and enjoy an exclusive tour. These stunning grounds feature a palatial palace and awe-inspiring gardens filled with fragrant citrus trees, water-wheel towers, statues and peacocks. Cap off your excursion with a private reception in the island's terraced hanging gardens. Savor some tasty aperitifs while appreciating this slice of Italian paradise!

### Day 5 | Milan

**A Cultural Visit to Milan.** Fast-paced, chic Milan is Italy's economic powerhouse. From

Lake Como





*Duomo, Milan*

superb architecture and art to world-class museums, Milan is host to a wealth of cultural heritage. Begin at the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie to stand before Leonardo's remarkable "The Last Supper." This powerful painting is hailed as one of the greatest in the world. The masterpiece took more than two years to complete and da Vinci used models from the streets of Milan for his depictions of Christ and his followers. Continue to the museum at La Scala. See the 14th-century Duomo, a flamboyant architectural wonder with 2,244 marble saints and nearly 100 scowling gargoyles.

**Free Time:** Spend time at leisure having lunch and getting to know cosmopolitan Milan. Perhaps browse prestigious boutiques along Milan's elegant shopping streets.

#### **Day 6 | Stresa**

**Free Time:** There are endless opportunities

*Cooking lesson*



to pursue your own interests during a day at leisure. Settle in for an aperitivo on your hotel's rooftop bar or relax in the comforting breezes along Stresa's lakefront promenade.

#### **Day 7 | Bellagio | Como**

**Bellagio.** Journey by coach and boat to charming Bellagio. This lakeside retreat feels like a storybook. In fact, writers from around the world have found inspiration here, including Longfellow and Mark Twain. Delight in the town's promenade lined with lime trees and flower boxes, and see the quaint city center with cobblestone streets and homes painted in rich reds and butterscotch yellows. During a stroll, pass by silk shops and gelato stores before sitting down to a satisfying lunch at a lakeside restaurant.

**Free Time:** Discover the magic of Bellagio on your own during leisure time.

**Cruising Lake Como.** Your scenic cruise by private boat unveils the region's natural

*Historic center of Como*







splendor. As you glide along, celebrate vistas of azure waters bathed in sunlight. Let your gaze travel to the shore, where elegant villas and brightly painted villages peek from gardens, woodlands and pebbled shorelines. Breathe in the fresh air, sit back and let the vistas captivate your senses.

Upon arrival in Como, join your group for a walking tour beginning in Piazza Cavour.

### Day 8 | Stresa

**Enrichment: Contemporary Italy.** Join a local expert to discuss Italy’s economy, politics and role in the European Union.

**AHI Connects | Flavors of Italy.** Learn the secrets of northern Italian cuisine during an interactive cooking lesson at a restaurant overlooking Lake Maggiore.

**Free Time:** Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Soak up a sunset by the harbor or settle in at a local café for a snack or cocktail. Raise a toast to your Italian adventure during a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

### Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the Milan airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

#### Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

## Included Features



### Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **7 nights** in Stresa, Italy, at the first-class Hotel La Palma.

### Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects | Local immersion.**
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:**  
We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

View of Isola San Giulio, Lake Orta



## Accommodations



### Hotel La Palma | Stresa



The Hotel La Palma is centrally located on the banks of Lake Maggiore. This lovely property offers a stylish restaurant, a stunning rooftop lounge, a private beach and a lakeside pool with splendid views. After a day of exploring, relax in the sauna or whirlpool, enjoy a workout in the fitness room, or simply soak up the scenery from the terrace. Wifi is complimentary.



*Peacock, Isola Madre, Borromean Islands*



# Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,  
please call our AHI Travel Experts  
at **844-414-0369** or  
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

## Program Dates

### Travel dates ✈

**October 7-15, 2025**

✈ Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

### Tour dates\*

**October 8-15, 2025**

\* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

## Land Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Early Booking Special Price*
Village View	\$4,740	<b>\$3,990</b>
Lake View	\$5,040	<b>\$4,290</b>

**Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.**

\*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single prices are available upon request (limited availability).

**Please note:** Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://colora.ahitravel.com/destinations/1868A?schoold=36>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

## AHI FlexAir

### Let us arrange your flights

**Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:**

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

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Bellagio

## AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

### *Before you go:*

**Travel Consultants** stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

**Travel Information** provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

### *Once you arrive:*

**Your Travel Director**, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

**Handpicked Expert Guides** offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

**Knowledgeable Lecturers** deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Orta San Giulio

# EXPLORERS ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

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**844-414-0369**  
**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**



**Experience the magic of Italy's Lake District!**

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