

# LAKE COMO VS LAKE GARDA

## By Ways of the World

(all underlined text will direct you to the related link)

### LAKE COMO

#### General Info:

- Milan is the nearest major airport. The driving distance from Milan to the most accessible town (Como) is 32 miles (50 km); est. 1.5 - 2 hrs. There are also trains to Como, Lecco & Varenna.
- Bellagio, Varenna, Tremezzo, Bellano, Menaggio and Como are the most popular towns for different reasons, and they're mostly well connected by ferries or trains.
- Lake Como has more high-end accommodations, though more affordable options can be found if you book in advance.
- Exploring gorgeous villas and cruising around the lake on one of Como's iconic speedboats is one of the most popular things to do. Click here to learn more 😎
- More popular with American tourists than Europeans.

#### Pros:

- Easier to explore various towns by ferry due to its smaller size.
- More romantic and luxurious vibes than Garda.
- Opulent villas and manicured gardens are unique to Como.
- More high-end shopping options, especially in Bellagio.
- Idyllic scenery no matter where you stay.

#### Cons:

- Fewer beaches, colder and (generally considered) more polluted water.
- Not many water sports (besides for boat rentals).
- Fewer kid-friendly activities than Garda.
- It's more expensive and the vibes are more posh.
- More likely to run into tourist traps at restaurants in the most popular towns.
- Quiet, with little nightlife options.

### LAKE GARDA

#### General Info:

- Venice is the nearest major airport. The driving distance from Venice to the most accessible town (Peschiera) is 87 miles (140 km); 1.5 - 2.5 hrs.
- It's also easy to reach from Verona and Milan.
- The lake is long and it's served by buses on both shores, which are in a lot of cases faster than the boats.
- Malcesine, Limone sul Garda, Riva del Garda and Gargnano are gorgeous town to visit in the mountainous north, while Desenzano, Sirmione and Garda are good home-base options in the southern part of the lake.
- Garda is more popular with European visitors, including those visiting on large organized tours.
- It is possible to visit Lake Garda on a daytrip from Verona.

#### Pros:

- More beaches, hiking options and bike trails make it easier to have an active vacation.
- Due to its size, it simply has more lodging options, including affordable camping and apartment-style accommodations.
- More kid-friendly activities like Gardaland amusement park and water-sports.
- Bigger towns in the south have more nightlife.

#### Cons:

- More difficult to reach the most idyllic spots in the north.
- Getting around will take a larger part of your day due to its massive size.
- Popularity with tour groups and families may make it less appealing for a couples trip.
- Luxury shopping is not what you are going to find, here.

#### General Things To Keep In Mind (for either lake)

- Hotel prices can vary drastically depending on the season and town you're staying at.
- Both lakes get EXTREMELY busy from June to early September. Make sure to book your accommodation in advance to make sure you find the best place for you.
- The ferries are a great way to get around, but they can fill up fast, even if you purchase your tickets ahead of time. Try to be in line 30 mins before departure. Click here to check schedules & buy tickets.
- While driving is a decent way to get around, traffic and limited parking may make it less enjoyable.



#### Which Lake Is Best For You?



It is ultimately up to you to decide where to go on your vacation! We hope you've found this quick guide useful! Just a friendly reminder, we do have 2 Premium PDFs available :) We include maps, activities, travel tips and so much more!

- Lake Como Premium PDF (\$6.97) - we will email you when it's ready.
- Lake Garda Premium PDF (\$6.97) - we will email you when it's ready.