

## Argegno – cable car ride (temporarily closed)

What about a ride on one of the most steepest cable cars of Europe? In 4 minutes the cable car takes you from Argegno from an altitude of 200 m to the village Pigna at an altitude of 850 m. Argegno can be reached by bus line C10 – there is a bus stop right in front of the cable car station in Italian called funivia. There is a ride every 30 minutes. Refreshment available at Pigna.

## Lake Piano – Rescia Caverns

The little Lake of Piano is situated in the valley between Lake Como and Lake Lugano and is a natural protected oasis. Along the lake runs an easy cycle – footpath, ideal for a walk or a bicycle ride. Follow the road in the direction of Lugano. You pass through Croce, Grandola and Uniti and just past Piano Porlezza, on the left, stop at the Casa della Riserva (near the restaurant Laghetto Bianco) with its small eco-museum and lovely view of the lake. There are also some pic-nic tables. At the Casa della Riserva (not always open) you can hire out rowing boats tel. +39 0344 74961. In order to reach the **caves of Rescia**, from Lake Piano continue in the direction of Lugano and at the traffic lights at Porlezza turn left in the direction of Claino con Osteno. Coast the lake of Lugano for about 5 km and opposite the Campsite of Rescia you will find the natural tufa caves with stalactites. You will see the impressive waterfall of Santa Giulia from one of the caves. Book your tickets on line [www.grottedirescia.it](http://www.grottedirescia.it)

## RAINY DAY?

### Splash&Spa

via Campagnole Ch-6802 Rivera-Monteceneri

Open daily from 10.00 to 22.00

Swimming pool with waves, breath taking slides, water splashes and warm external pool and spa [www.splashespa.ch](http://www.splashespa.ch)

### Schokoland Museum—Via Rompada 36—Caslano—Lugano

From Monday till Friday from 9.00 till 17.30

Saturday and Sunday from 9.00 till 16.30

The Alprose museum presents the world of chocolate from the origins to this day.

### Museum of the toy horses—Via Tornese, 10 Grandate

Monday 15.00-18.00

Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30 till 12.30 and from 15.00 till 18.30

The museum displays 530 toy horses of all materials coming from all countries and the Lehman Collection of tin spring loaded toys.

[www.museodelcavallogiocatolo.it](http://www.museodelcavallogiocatolo.it)

# itineraries with kids



## Menaggio puzzle tour and mini golf

At the tourist office of Menaggio ask for the historic itinerary through the town together with the puzzle tour for children. This small walk is a nice way to get to know Menaggio. Bring the answer sheet back to the tourist office – there is little surprise for the children. We then suggest a game of crazy golf at the end of the lake side promenade. After the mini golf it's time for a walk to Nobiallo (about 30 minutes) just follow the side walk out of town towards the north (the itinerary is described in the historic itinerary of Menaggio and its villages). On the side of the tunnel you might be able to see some climbers on the rock climbing face. At Nobiallo follow the Antica Strada Regina, a very ancient road built by the Romans past the leaning bell tower of S Nicola and follow it as far as the Sanctuary of S. Anna. From here walk back on the lake side and have some fun on the play ground of Nobiallo.

## Val Sanagra Park

Just above Menaggio lies the Parco Val Sanagra, a large area rich with flora and fauna and antique rural settlements. There are lots of old connection trails in the Val Sanagra Area. An easy walk, ideal with children, is the one starting from **Piamuro** (2 km from the centre of Menaggio) along the river Sanagra to the trout farm, the “Vecchia Chioderia” The walk takes about 40 minutes .

**Piamuro can be reached by car.** From Menaggio take the road to Lugano, then, after 3 bends, take the first right to Loveno. After 500 m turn left direction Centro Sportivo, Villa Vigoni. At the church of Loveno turn left and after 300 m you reach Piamuro where you can park the car.

**If you do not have a car take the bus line C13** to Loveno and get off at the bus stop in Via N Sauro. Continue in Via Sauro which enters the village Loveno and ends in via Garovaglio. Pass the church San Lorenzo and the sport centre end after a final steep stretch you reach Piamuro, a big pasture. (20 minutes from the bus stop).

From Piamuro follow the trail n°4 of the Parco Val Sanagra in the direction of Mulino della Valle. Do not cross the bridge, but follow the path on the right side of the river, past the ancient brick-furnace Galli, to La Chioderia, once a factory where nails were made, now a trout farm with a typical inn. You can observe the trout that swim around in their basins and if you happen to have a fishing rod you can catch your own trout!

## **The Orrido of Bellano**

Bellano is situated on the eastern shore of the lake, around the mouth of the river Pioverna, at the beginning of the Valsassina valley. The Orrido, a site not to miss, is a deep gorge formed by the river Pioverna and can be visited thanks to stairways and foot bridges hewn in the rocks that allow to admire the power of the water from close-by. In the piazza in the historical centre stands the parish church of SS. Nazaro, Celso and Giorgio. On the side of the parish church you will find the pathway leading up to the gorge (10 min). Every Thursday morning there is a market in the town.

## **Circular walk to San Domenico – playground at Breglia**

From Breglia (7 km above Menaggio) you can do the easy circular walk to S. Domenica from where you get a stunning view of the lake. The whole circular walk takes about 1 hour. After the walk the children can play at the playground of Breglia. There is also a bar restaurant in the village.

**Breglia can be reached by car:** Follow the road from Menaggio in the direction of Lugano. After a few bends at the first intersection you turn right to Loveno-Plesio and follow it as far as Breglia where there is a parking near the church.

### **Breglia can also be reached by bus line C13**

From the bus stop in Breglia continue straight on to the big parking lot on the right side of the church. A wide mule-track starts off from here to the right, which leads first level and then slightly uphill through the woods to the chapel of San Domenico. From the chapel you follow the cart track through the woods, which ends up at a big pasture. Cross the pasture on a track to the left and then follow the easy lane back to the centre of Breglia. Time to go and play at the playground (take a ball along—there is a soccer field)

## **Varenna and the Castle of Vezio**

The boat trip from Menaggio to Varenna gives you one of the most spectacular views of Lake Como as the boat crosses the middle of the lake, right there where its three 3 branches meet. The peaceful town with its colourful houses is graciously woven into the mountain landscape dominated by the ruins of the Castello di Vezio. The castle of Vezio, built in the 13th century, can be reached by foot (steeply uphill) in approx. 40 min. from the ferry dock. It is open to the public see [www.castellodivezio.it](http://www.castellodivezio.it)

## **Beaches and cycle footpath between and Crema Musso**

The lovely lake side walks between Crema and Musso and between Gravedona and Dongo are ideal for a leisurely stroll (also with strollers) and for young cyclers. The promenades lead along some lovely beaches from where you can enjoy a splendid view of the northern lake area.

Drive from Menaggio direction Colico as far as Crema. You can park the car at S. Vito just above the restaurant la Baia. There is also a bus stop of the C10 bus line. The walk from Crema to Musso takes about 50 minutes one way. Benches and pic-nic tables along the way.

## **Beaches and cycle footpath between Dongo and Gravedona**

Drive as far as Dongo, just past the church of the Madonna delle Lacrime turn right onto Viale Mons. Bellesini lined with rows of conifers, which leads to the parish church of S. Stefano. Park the car here. The walk starts behind the church. The walk from Dongo to Gravedona takes about 50 minutes. Dongo can also be reached by bus line C10 At the lido of Dongo and at the lido of Gravedona refreshments are available and there is even a swimming pool at the lido of Gravedona.

## **Drive up to the high alpine pastures**

You want to take the children to the high alpine pastures where cows and goats roam? and maybe buy some cheese at the local farm houses? Follow this stunning car - route of about one hour through the Val d'Intelvi. Follow the road from Menaggio in the direction of Como and at Argegno (15 km from Menaggio) turn right in the direction of Val d'Intelvi. When you reach the town S. Fedele (779 m), turn right in the direction of Pigra. You pass the village Blessagno and once at Pigra follow the indication for Rifugio Boffalora” The narrow mountain road ascends steeply to the pastures of Alpe di Colonna 1322 m. You then reach Alpe Boffalora 1.252 m with its beautiful grassy slopes where the same named rifugio stands tel. 0344 56486. From here continue 100 m and you arrive at a fork. You continue straight on in the direction of Rifugio Venini (left is the road to Ponna). You pass Alpe di Ossuccio and Alpe di Lenno and soon you arrive at Rifugio Venini 1.575 m . Tel. +39 0344 56671. You can have lunch at one of the rifugi.

## **Lake Como Adventure Park at S. Anna di Germasino**

Lake Como Adventure Park is an adventure and amusement park built in the trees, a skill path hung in the air with shifts of logs and wooden walkways, from Tibetan bridges to lianas connecting one tree to the next. The park is made up of four paths with different difficulty levels for children and adults. The park is situated in the valley above Dongo. From Dongo you pick up the Sp 5 direction Garzeno from where you follow the indication for S. Anna. The park is not connected with public transport. For prices and opening times visit the site [www.lakecomoadventurepark.com](http://www.lakecomoadventurepark.com) for information tel. +39 0344 536589