

itineraries with kids



Argegno – cable car ride

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 Pigra 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. Mind that the cable car does not run during lunch hours. Refreshment available at Pigra.

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. 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. The caves are open from 1 April till 15 June and from 15 Sepetember till 15 October every Sunday from 14.00 til 17.30 / from 16 June till 14 September daily from 14.00 till 17.30. If it's a hot day try the Acquafun swimmingpool at campsite International at Porlezza.

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

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

Menaggio puzzle tour and crazy 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 crazy 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 Nicoland 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 where lots of walks can be done. 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 that hosts a variety of animals. The walk takes about 40 minutes and is quite flat.

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 (Palo). 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. Apart from the trout that swim around in their basins many other animals live at the farm such as donkeys, sheep, geese, goats, chicken.

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. It is open from the 1st of April till the end of September daily from 10.00 till 13.00 and from 14.30 till 19.00; from the 1st of October till the 31st of March on Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 till 12.30 and from 14.00 till 17.00. 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 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 Laveno-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 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. 30 min. from the ferry dock. It is open to the public from 1 March till 1 November from 10 till sunset, closed in case of bad weather. The castle host a falconry ; ask for times of the flight exhibitions www.castellodivezio.it they are mostly in the afternoon.

Beaches and cycle footpath between Dongo and Gravedona and Cremia Musso

The lovely lake side walks between Cremia and Musso and between Gravedona and Dongo are ideal for a leisurely stroll (also with strollers) and for young cyclists. 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 Cremia. 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 Cremia to Musso takes about 50 minutes one way. Benches and pic-nic tables along the way.

For the other walk you drive as far as Dongo, just past the church of the Madonna delle Lacrime pick up 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. At the piazza of the town S. Fedele (779 m), turn right and at the roundabout left and then right to Pigra. From Pigra follow the indication for "Rifugio Boffalora". The narrow 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 . 0344 56671.

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 Tibetane 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 for information tel. 0344 536589