



Italy's Magnificent Lake District



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August 30 – September 7, 2026

Featuring Professor Robert Gurval
Department of Classics



**Professor
Robert Gurval**

Department of Classics

Robert Gurval is Associate Professor Emeritus in the UCLA Department of Classics. His area of research and teaching concerns ancient Rome and the legacy of its empire in popular culture and cinema. Gurval's publications focus on politics, literature and architecture in the age of Rome's first emperor, Caesar Augustus. Cleopatra and her reception in western culture is a special interest. Gurval has taught at UCLA since 1990, and he received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award known as the Eby Award for the Art of Teaching and the Excellence in Teaching Award for university professors by the Society for Classical Studies. Among his academic honors, he was a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong for General Education.



Dear UCLA Alumni 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.

Regards from Westwood,

Christel Aragon
Director, Alumni Travel

UCLA Alumni Travel is an advantage reserved for UCLA Alumni Association sustaining donors. Sustaining donors include Gold, Life and Blue Members as well as anyone who has made a qualifying donation of \$100 or more to the UCLA Alumni Association Support Fund in the past year.

UNESCO World Heritage

Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie with
"The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci,
Milan

Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, Milan





Discovery begins here



Italy awaits to delight you! From pretty Isola Bella and Lake Orta to charming Stresa and 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 savoring celebrated cuisine, art and culture.

Top: Borromean Islands, Lake Maggiore

Above: Farm-to-table cuisine

Cover: Bellagio, Lake Como | Mail panel: Stresa | Isola San Giulio

Inspiring Moments



- Feast your eyes on opulent villas and snowcapped mountains while **cruising Italy's sparkling, azure 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 a local chef during a **private farm-to-table cooking class.**
- **Savor lunch in Bellagio** and relish a stroll in this terraced lakeside village.
- Sip Prosecco, chat with locals and admire views from your **hotel's rooftop lounge.**
- Gaze in wonder at **"The Last Supper,"** Leonardo da Vinci's brilliant and iconic mural painting.



Historic center of Como

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.

Settle in and take time to soak up Stresa's old-world ambience and dramatic vistas.

This evening, join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel.

Day 3 | Lake Orta

Enrichment: *The Development of the Lake District.* Join a local expert to learn about Italy's lovely, Alpine-framed Lake District.

Lake Orta. Relish a delightful scenic drive to Orta San Giulio, built on a promontory jutting into the lake. On a walking tour, admire the central piazza surrounded by pastel-colored buildings. Cruise to Isola San Giulio, a sweet oasis with pedestrian-friendly roads, historic buildings and an ancient Romanesque basilica.

Free Time: Craft your own path in Orta San Giulio. Enjoy lunch on your own and perhaps indulge in a scoop of gelato. Meander along the narrow lanes, pausing to marvel at the village's colorful houses and small chapels. Return to Stresa, where you'll be treated to a delicious dinner of local flavors at a local restaurant in town. Buon appetito!

Day 4 | Bellagio | Lake Como

Bellagio. Journey by coach and boat to visit charming Bellagio. This lakeside retreat feels like a storybook. In fact, writers from around the world have found inspiration here, including Mary Shelley 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 cafés.

Free Time: Discover the magic of Bellagio and savor lunch and a gelato on your own.

Cruising Lake Como. Your scenic cruise by private boat to Lake Como unveils the region's natural 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. After the cruise, take a guided walking tour of elegant Como.

Day 5 | Stresa | Borromeo Islands

Enrichment: *The Gardens of Lake Maggiore.* Learn how the Borromeo family transformed Lake Maggiore's islands into splendid retreats.

Free Time: Head out to explore inviting Stresa at leisure this morning and early afternoon.



Borromeo Islands. This afternoon, cruise Lake Maggiore to Isola Madre, the largest of the Borromeo Islands, and take a guided tour of the lush, English-style botanical gardens. Next, embrace the charm of Isola dei Pescatori, which offers a glimpse into Lake Maggiore's storied fishing tradition. Continue to Isola Bella, "The Beautiful Island," and relish an exclusive tour. These stunning grounds feature a palatial palace and awe-inspiring gardens brimming with fragrant citrus trees, water-wheel towers, statues and peacocks. Cap off your excursion with a private aperitivo reception in the island's terraced hanging gardens. Sip a glass of wine and savor tasty appetizers while appreciating this color-splashed, lakeside Italian paradise!

Day 6 | Milan

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

fashion capital. From 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 "The Last Supper," the iconic mural by Leonardo da Vinci. 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 city center for a visit to the 14th-century Duomo, a flamboyant architectural wonder with 2,244 marble saints and nearly 100 scowling gargoyles. Continue to the museum at La Scala to gain insight into Milan's world-renowned opera venue.

Free Time: Spend time at leisure, having lunch and getting to know cosmopolitan Milan. You may choose to browse the couture boutiques





along Milan's iconic, elegant shopping streets. Gather for a group dinner back in Stresa.

Day 7 | Stresa

Enrichment: Golden Age of the Renaissance.

Delve into the true genius of Michelangelo and Leonardo, while tracing their profound influences on sculpture and painting.

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

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

Day 8 | Stresa

Free Time: Indulge in a full day at leisure in Stresa! Your Travel Director can suggest shopping and sightseeing excursions.

Raise a toast to your Italian adventure during a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

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.

Activity Level

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.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: boats, ferry and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch 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 24 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **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.

Orta San Giulio





Lively alleys (called Salite) leading to the waterfront in Bellagio



White peacock, Isola Bella



Isola dei Pescatori

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **August 30 – September 7, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **August 31 – September 7, 2026**

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

Land Program

Category	Full Price	Special Savings Price*
Village View	\$4,945	\$4,195
Lake View	\$5,245	\$4,495

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

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.

The Village View single supplement is an additional \$995.

The Lake View single supplement is an additional \$1,295.

There is a limited availability for all single accommodations.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://ucla.ahitravel.com/destinations/1958A?schoollid=170>.

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

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

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

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

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

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

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. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Ceiling fresco in Sacro Monte di Orta, Orta San Giulio



Cooking class



Book your journey today!

310-206-0613

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Explore Italy's Magnificent Lake District!

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to the people, places and cultures
of the world for more than 62 years.



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