

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

The Lakes and Mountains of Italy and Switzerland

June 14 – 22, 2025

\$5,850 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

*The Alumni Association Travel Program invites you join us as we tour the **Lakes and Mountains of Italy and Switzerland**. Revel in some of Europe's most scenic vistas on this journey combining Italy's glorious Lake District and the beautiful Swiss Alps while we soak up the stunning scenery and natural landscapes of the region.*

Day by Day Itinerary

Saturday, June 14 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled airline service to begin the overnight transatlantic flight to Milan, Italy.

Sunday, June 15 – ZURICH / Milan / CERNOBBIO (I,RD)

As the sun begins to rise on the Italian Alps we arrive in Milan, Italy, where we'll meet our Tour Guide who will accompany us throughout our vacation. Leaving the airport, we'll travel to Italy's Piedmont region. Our destination is beautiful Lake Como and the small city of Cernobbio, nestled between Mount Bisbino and the calm waters of the lake. Cernobbio is an ideal place to stay away from the crowds and features a quaint old town that culminates in a wide lakefront promenade where there are bars, restaurants and even a lido: everything you need to make the most of your stay.

Monday, June 16 – CERNOBBIO (Lake Como) (B)

A leisurely day on tour begins with a drive along the shores of Lake Como to the hamlet of Tremezzo, home to one of the lake's most famous villas, Villa Carlotta. A tour of this exquisite villa will reveal a perfect combination of luxurious interiors and incredible gardens. Afterward, we'll take to the waters of Lake Como and cruise to the resort of Bellagio. Occupying a beautiful site on a promontory dividing Lake Lecco from the southern arm of Lake Como, many consider Bellagio to be the most beautiful town in all of Europe. Narrow cobbled streets, breathtaking views, impeccable homes and glorious villas make it a most enchanting spot to spend an unforgettable afternoon. Leaving Bellagio, it's time to sit back, relax, and take in the scenery as we once again cruise the calm waters of Lake Como past fascinating villages surrounding the lakeshore to arrive in Como. At the heart of Como's Old Town is the impressive Duomo built centuries ago. We'll also see the famous Piazza San Fedele, home to the Cathedral of San Fedele and the nearby nine-hundred-year-old gateway of Porta Vittoria.

Tuesday, June 17 – CERNOBBIO (Milan) (B)

This morning we will journey into Milan, Italy's economic powerhouse, whose wealth of cultural heritage is lavished on superb architecture, splendid art, and prestigious museums. We'll begin our introductory tour of Milan with a visit to the Duomo, a marvel of white marble, colossal and ethereal, bristling with belfries, gables, statues, and standing at one end of a great paved esplanade. Next, we'll make our way to the Piazza della Scala to see the historic La Scala Opera House, and then immerse ourselves in history with a visit

to Castello Sforzesco, a medieval marvel dating back to the 15th century, where Leonardo da Vinci worked under the patronage of Ludovico il Moro. Our tour comes to an end following a visit to Santa Maria delle Grazie to view Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" fresco, a sight not to be missed! Following our tour, free time will be set aside to explore Milan's legendary fashion scene while walking along the streets of Quadrilatero d'Oro, one of the world's most iconic fashion districts.

Wednesday, June 18 – CERNOBBIO (Lake Maggiore) (B,L)

Today we set our sights on Lake Maggiore, the second largest lake in Italy and the largest in southern Switzerland. As we'll learn, the lake and its shoreline are divided between the Italian regions of Piedmont and Lombardy and the Swiss canton of Ticino. At the center of Lake Maggiore are small jewels of natural beauty augmented by artificial grottoes, architectural follies, and landscaped parks. On arrival in the resort of Stresa we'll board a motor launch to the legendary Borromean Island of Isola Bella. Here we'll have an opportunity to explore the "Beautiful Island" with a visit to the Palazzo Borromeo, a palace and gardens that are the epitome of opulence and luxury. Afterward, we'll return to Stresa for time at leisure, or you may prefer to venture off to Isola dei Pescatori and Isola Madre. Despite their Alpine setting, the islands share a pleasant climate, but each offers a very different experience. Isola dei Pescatori, with its village unchanged by time, offers a fascinating simplicity, while the exotic atmosphere of the lush and tranquil Isola Madre can be ascribed to the gardens that cover it. In Stresa, you'll find a picturesque Old Town with its maze of narrow streets, time to stroll along the splendid flower-decked lake promenade all while enjoying one of Italy's most beautiful lake and mountain views.

Thursday, June 19 – CERNOBBIO / WEGGIS (B,HD)

This morning we depart Como and travel along the shores of Lake Como before crossing the border into Ticino, the southernmost canton of Switzerland, known for being the sunniest region in the country with a mediterranean climate that creates the perfect conditions for luxuriant gardens and top-class wines. Our journey then takes us up the magnificent St. Gotthard Pass, often referred to as "King of Mountain Passes," where we'll stop for coffee at the Ristorante Prosa and enjoy a spectacular view of the Alps. From here, we'll descend into central Switzerland on our way to the sparkling blue shores of Lake Lucerne. Our destination is the idyllic holiday resort of Weggis on the shore of Lake Lucerne and located at the foot of the renowned Rigi.

Friday, June 20 – WEGGIS (Lucerne) (B)

Our day begins with a cruise on the tranquil waters of Lake Lucerne as we make our way to the city of Lucerne, ideally situated in the historic and scenic heart of what many believe to be the ‘true’ Switzerland. Our introduction to Lucerne will begin as we walk along the Reuss River past the Jesuits’ Church to arrive at the Spreuer Bridge, whose painted gables portray the “Dance of Death” commemorating a plague outbreak in the 17th century. Next, we’ll walk across the famous Chapel Bridge adorned with paintings that depict the history of Lucerne and Switzerland. From here our walk continues into the Altstadt with its charming houses, painted facades and flower-decked fountains. We’ll stop in the Weinmarkt, where Lucerne swore a federal oath with the cantons Schwyz, Uri and Unterwalden in 1332, and take in Hirschenplatz Square, Lucerne’s Town Hall and the painted Pfistern guildhall on Kornmarkt Square. Following our tour, free time will be set aside to explore Lucerne on your own. Enjoy a walk along the promenade between Schweizerhofquai and Nationalquai for views of Mount Pilatus, and view the nearby Lion Monument, hewn out of natural rock in memory of the Swiss Guard.

Saturday, June 21 – WEGGIS (Bernese Oberland) (B,RD)

Today we travel to the Bernese Oberland, one of Switzerland’s most diverse regions, where living traditions and visible customs are found within picturesque landscapes surrounded by countless mountain peaks and more than 800 lakes. Our first stop will take us to the Ballenberg Open-Air Museum to relive bygone days and experience Swiss tradition. Afterward, we’ll be on our way to the scenic Lauterbrunnen Valley where we’ll see the Staubbach Waterfall, the most famous of the 72 waterfalls in the valley. From the idyllic mountain village of Stechelberg we’ll board a cable car to the traffic-free village of Murren, before taking another stunning cable car ride to the famous Schilthorn, home to the world’s first revolving restaurant.



As we’ll soon experience, the Piz Gloria boasts the most amazing views of the Jungfrau region, and for James Bond fans you’ll want to make time to visit Spy World, an interactive exhibition that can transport you back to the world of James Bond and the film ‘*On Her Majesty’s Secret Service*.’ On our return to Weggis, we’ll stop in Interlaken, known as the adventure capital of Switzerland, for an opportunity to stroll along the Hoheweg, a tree lined promenade boasting an abundance of restaurants, boutiques, and flowering gardens. Bordered on one side by the grand hotels and on the other by the lawns and flowerbeds that open to a dazzling view of the Jungfrau summit, the Hoheweg serves as the meeting place for travelers from all over the world.

Sunday, June 22 – WEGGIS / Zurich / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we say “Auf Wiedersehen” to Weggis and travel to Zurich Airport in preparation for the journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Lakes and Mountains of Italy and Switzerland* vacation to last a lifetime and celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way!

*** * * Welcome Home * * ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class airline transportation.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at the airports; gratuities to the Motor Coach Driver, Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC
THE LAKES AND MOUNTAINS OF ITALY AND SWITZERLAND**

TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure.

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase. Travel insurance also may be purchased through other providers.

No Liability: By participating in this Tour, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Tour.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity that provides goods or services for this tour. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "**Tour Operator**") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current tariff and exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Tour are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this tour.

**For more information contact:
The Alumni Association Travel Program at 815-753-1512
or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.**