

Attractions you can visit between Laveno and Angera

Here are the top attractions
of Lake Maggiore,
things to do in a day or more,
on the southeastern shore
between Laveno and Angera.

- 1) The magic of the woods
- 2) Hermitage by the Lake
- 3) A fortress
- 4) Romantic trail
- 5) 360° viewpoint
- 6) A villa from the 1700s
- 7) Stalls in the square



 All the
itineraries are
handcrafted by us
after having visited
each destination!

The wooden sculptures in the Forest at Cerro



The wooden sculptures in the Enchanted Forest created by the skilled hands of Sergio Terni, a local artist.

The sculpture trail starts from Cerro, a tiny village above Caldana.

You can park your car in the parking area near the church.

From here, you can take Via Castaneto on foot and after 100 meters, follow the signs for the trail.

It's a flat path of about 1 kilometer located within the beech forest, an easy hike suitable for families with children.

The sculptures are carved from chestnut wood, true works of art! Inside the forest, all the paths are marked, with the possibility, for example, of reaching Forte Orino.



Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso in Leggiuno



To visit the Hermitage of Santa Caterina in Leggiuno, the best means of transportation is by car.

The complex has a large parking area, and parking is free.

After leaving the car, you walk for about a hundred meters to reach the entrance square and the refreshment area.

The Hermitage of Santa Caterina del Sasso is of extraordinary beauty and undoubtedly one of the most historically rich religious architectures.

Info opening hours and prices:
eremosantacaterina.it/

You reach it by descending a very panoramic and suggestive path made up of 268 steps, wearing comfortable shoes, of course.

The Hermitage, nestled in the rock overlooking the lake, can be reached by everyone, including the elderly and differently-abled individuals, with a convenient elevator that leads to the entrance of the Hermitage in just a few minutes.

Considering the elevation change, the journey can be made, for example, by descending on foot and ascending by elevator.



How to reach Rocca d'Angera and visit



For a visit to Rocca d'Angera, here are directions on where it is located and how to reach it. The Borromea Fortress of Angera is located on the southeastern shore of Lake Maggiore, north of Sesto Calende, easily accessible by car. Perched on a rocky outcrop, it had extraordinary importance from both a commercial and military standpoint since the Middle Ages. The fortress changed hands over time, and today it belongs to the Borromeo family. Among its rooms, there is the Justice Room with its frescoes painted by the anonymous "Master of Angera." It also hosts a collection of dolls and toys, surrounded by a medieval garden. A large free parking lot welcomes visitors.

It is open to the public from March to November. Always check the website isoleborromeo.it for information on opening hours.



The historical halls

The stunning Rocca di Angera surprises with its size and grandeur. Fantastic and enormous rooms where large canvases, portraits, furnishings, and the wonderful colors of the frescoes bring to mind times long gone, giving the visitor a glimpse of its ancient splendor!



Doll and Toy Museum

A magnificent collection of vintage dolls is housed in the Rocca, founded in 1988 by Princess Bona Borromeo Arese. The collection stands out for its rarity, being the largest of its kind in Europe. With over 1000 dolls dating from the 18th century to the present day, all adorned with precious outfits. An immense display of toys and models leaves visitors speechless. It's definitely worth a visit!

The Medieval Garden

Created in 2008, the medieval garden is organized into different areas. Holm oaks and cypresses line a small stream, the pond containing goldfish and water irises, a pergola with its fountain where water flows in harmony with the surroundings. Many species of flowers color the garden throughout the year, vegetables and aromatic herbs are cultivated in planters, fruit trees frame the scene. A true paradise in the greenery!



Ispra: the “Walk of Love”



This scenic and evocative “Walk of Love” is located in Ispra, near Varese. Here’s what to see in about two hours.

On hot summer days, it would be preferable to take the walk early in the morning.



It’s a trail to be taken with comfortable shoes and carrying a water bottle, as there are no refreshment points.

It’s not suitable for everyone as some points are challenging, with steep stairs and slightly difficult passages.

There are parking spots scattered everywhere, some paid, some with time disks, and some free.

Once you’ve parked your car, walk along Lungolago Amerigo Vespucci, where the trail begins right after the Infopoint.

On the wall to the right, you’ll see colorful tiles displaying the winning love poems from the literary contest held over the years.



Continue a few meters and descend to the left, where the walk partly runs along the lakeshore. A staircase on the right leads to a viewpoint overlooking Lake Maggiore and its surroundings. A stretch of road, initially paved and then gravelly, runs alongside some villas where you can catch a glimpse of a kiln inside. Shortly after, a path on the right leads to the wooden staircase immersed in the forest, where you'll reach the disused Salvalada kiln (1), as well as others along the route.



Continue straight ahead until reaching the intersection, then turn left, reaching the turnaround square. Here, a challenging staircase descends towards the lakeshore, where you'll find the Punta Kiln (2), ideal for a break.



The path then leads to the Pinett Kiln (3) with its very characteristic footbridge. Shortly after, you'll find yourself back at the Salvalada Kiln (1). Descend the wooden staircase again and continue straight ahead on the road, reaching the center of Ispra in front of the Church of San Martino. Just before the church, treat yourself to a well-deserved ice cream break at the gelateria on the right.



from Laveno to Mount Sasso del Ferro



How to reach on foot, following the path from Laveno to Mount Sasso del Ferro and how to return by cable car.

The route for this hike is quite challenging, not suitable for everyone as the approximately 3-hour ascent proves to be steep right from the start.

Wear hiking boots and appropriate clothing, with a spare shirt to avoid being soaked in sweat once you reach the summit.

Also, bring water bottles since there are no fountains along the way.



Leave your car in the cable car parking lot in Laveno Mombello or on Via della Repubblica, both of which are free of charge.



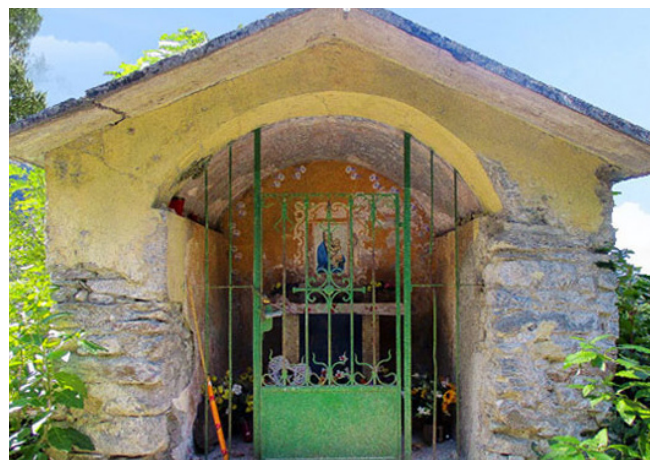
Let's head towards Via Vararo in the direction of the hamlets of Brena and Casere. Here, the ascent is along an asphalt road, reaching Monteggia where there are stunning views of Lake Maggiore and the surrounding area.



A barrier separates the second section of the path on the mountain, the old mule track restored to its former glory after considerable work carried out with great skill.



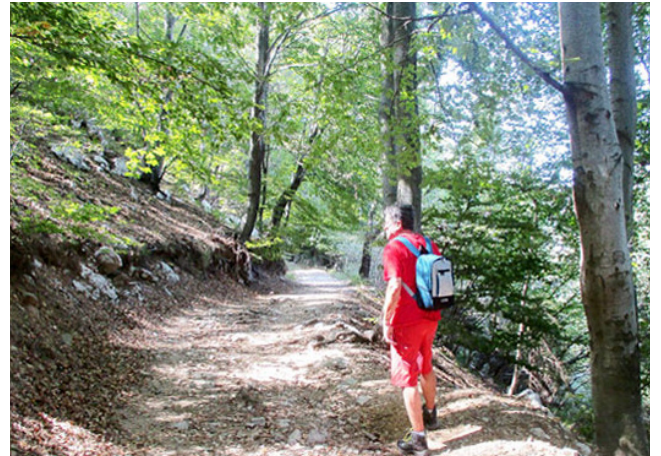
Passing by a chapel, continue until you reach the Gigliola restaurant.



Here, take the worn-out mule track on the right, which crosses through the beech forest, always in a steep ascent.

A short stretch offers a bit of respite as it's on a slight incline, then it proceeds steeply uphill, reaching the staircase that leads to the cable car at 974 meters.

Behind it, we ascend to the top of Sasso di Ferro at 1062 meters by following the **loop trail clockwise**.



A nearly 360-degree panorama, considered one of the most beautiful panoramic viewpoints overlooking Lake Maggiore.

The mountain is among the most frequented as a launching point for paragliding or hang gliding enthusiasts.

With comfortable two-seater cable cars, open or closed, you descend back to the valley, admiring the nature and the enchanting surrounding scenery in silence.



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Villa Della Porta Bozzolo in Casalzuigno



This extraordinary Villa Della Porta Bozzolo is located in Casalzuigno, open to the public and available for hosting events.

A few kilometers from Varese and Lake Maggiore, in the 16th century, stands the country residence of the Della Porta family.

Originally an agricultural estate with farmhouses, a wine press, and a cellar for wine production, as well as a silk mill for silkworms.

In the 18th century, it became a summer residence and was renovated for the wedding between Giovan Angelo III Della Porta and the Milanese countess Isabella Giulini.



In the 19th century, the villa was saved by Senator Camillo Bozzolo, leaving behind not only family memories but also a rich library.

Throughout its history, Villa Bozzolo has hosted important personalities, including the poet Vittorio Alfieri and the renowned writer Stendhal.

Additionally, the villa was a meeting place for prominent artists and intellectuals of the time, such as the neoclassical painter Andrea Appiani and the poet Ugo Foscolo.



Today, it has rediscovered its ancient splendor thanks to the restoration carried out by the FAI (Italian Environmental Fund).

It's a wonderful opportunity to spend a beautiful day visiting the interior of the villa and its immense park.

The interiors of the villa

The interior spaces are entirely decorated, from the walls to the ceilings, even the doors painted on both sides.

There are halls, sitting rooms, bedrooms with original furnishings, canopy beds, and the gigantic library.



The kitchen corner features old stoves, a fireplace, and a bread oven, with pots and kitchen utensils hanging on the walls. It's a space lacking in modern comforts where the walls tell stories of a lived past.



The park and the rose garden

A spectacular Italian-style park with stone terraces and fountains, traversed by a monumental staircase that leads to the large lawn.



A steep path leads to the top of the belvedere where you can admire the villa and park from afar.

In the garden, there is a true collection of over 500 varieties of roses.

The layout of the garden and orchard reflects the documentation found in the Della Porta family archive.

In spring, the rose garden offers unparalleled blooms and scents.



At the weekly Saturday market in Intra



Sur le lac Majeur de Laveno à Intra avec le ferry pour le marché hebdomadaire du samedi.

It's an ancient market founded in 1393, still well-known and appreciated by tourists today. Accessible by ferry in 20 minutes, allowing oneself to be lulled by the waves of the lake. Intra is a town on the shores of Lake Verbano, ideal for strolling and shopping.

The market starts just a few meters from the boat dock, so you can leave your car parked in Laveno.

Every Saturday from 8 am to 5 pm, the market with its 240 stalls is present in the four squares of the historic center. Products of all kinds from cheeses to cured meats to fresh

lake fish, bread, sweets, fruits, and vegetables. A wide selection of footwear and clothing, leather goods, and household linens. There is absolutely everything, bars, restaurants, and boutiques will satisfy tourists, giving them a splendid day.

