TUI Lakes and Mountains - Lake Garda

September 2023 *By Fleur Lawrie*

My trip involved a three night stay in beautiful Lake Garda, travelling around the lake and exploring the lovely Italian towns. One of the main points of a hotel on the lake is how easy it was to travel around the lake by ferry. Truly a great way to see some of the stunning scenery. The ferries are very frequent and cheap e.g it only cost €3 from Bardalino to Garda Town.

I stayed at the Hotel La Perla, located in Garda Town. A five minute walk from the middle of town and a two minute walk to the lake. There was a large outdoor pool with plenty of sunbeds around! This hotel only offers half board and while the breakfast was really delicious, I found the evening meal a little disappointing. This gave me the perfect opportunity to make use of the restaurants on the lake and there is a variety of options to choose from.
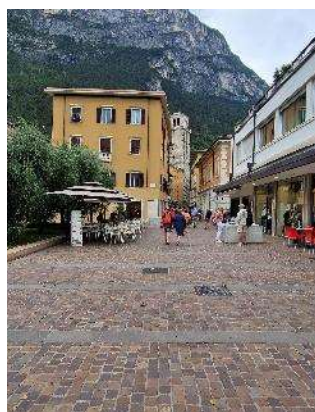

Hotel Pool

Funicular railway

On my first day in Lake Garda, I travelled from Garda Town to Riva Del Garda by bus, which took one hour. Riva was a very pretty town with cobbled streets and traditional hotels. One of my favourite parts of Riva was a restaurant at the top of the mountain called Bastione Lounge & Restaurant which is easily reached by taking the funicular railways which only takes three minutes. Alternatively, there is a pedestrian path with a journey time of
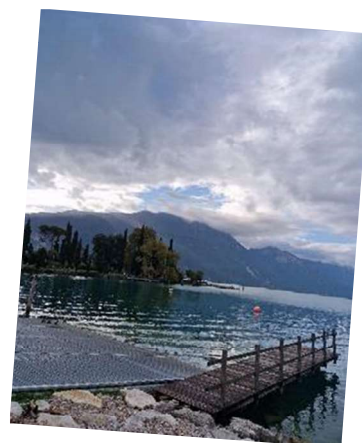

Bastione Restaurant

Seafood Pasta

Riva Del Garda

20 minutes. Once you reach the top, the panoramic view of Riva is absolutely breath-taking. The food and drink at the restaurant were very tasty and their prices were reasonable. This was my favourite part of the trip, and I would definitely recommend going to Bastione as it is a great place to explore and enjoy dinner whilst watching the sunset over the lake!

Malcesine

Once I had finished exploring Riva, I hopped onto the ferry to Malcesine which took one hour. When I arrived in Malcesine I went to visit The Scaliger Castle which costs €6. The castle had a small museum, great views of the lake and a dedicated area for wedding ceremonies. I really enjoyed my visit to Malcesine as I found the town had a great lively atmosphere and there were plenty of traditional restaurants, cafes and shops.

On the morning of my second day, there was a market in Garda Town. I enjoyed walking around exploring the many stalls where you could buy almost anything, including a variety of food stalls (my favourite was the calamari stall).

After the looking round the market, I took a 20-minute walk along the promenade, which was relatively flat, to the next town which was Bardolino. It had a pretty harbour with miles of lakeside promenade that is perfect for cycling or having a stroll with a gelato! Bardolino had more upmarket shops compared to the other towns. The town also has a main square which is filled with cafes and restaurants. After I had lunch and explored town, I took the 10-minute ferry back to Garda Town.

Ferry Trip

Overall, you can spend three nights in Lake Garda and visit all the main areas. Or you could even stay for seven nights and you would be able to explore the lake in more depth. My recommendation would be to have bed and breakfast whilst staying at Lake Garda and make use of the ample bars and restaurants in the area. All the towns are beautiful, but I found Bardolino to be my favourite because it had lots of charm and character.

Bardolino

Lake Garda has amazing places to eat, traditional hotels and great gelato! It is a fantastic holiday destination especially for couples who would like a romantic getaway, but also catering for walkers and cyclists too.

I would like to say a huge thank you to TUI for introducing me to Lake Garda, it was a fantastic trip and I am looking forward to sharing my experience with my customers.