



Following Leonardo

A 10 days journey in Lombardy



THE TRIP

2019 marks the anniversary of the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, so in Italy and abroad a whole year will be dedicated to the *Master*. For this occasion we have made a complete program on the footsteps of the genius in Lombardy, to discover all of the many skills, discoveries and inventions in which this eclectic character has tried.

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 and 2 - The scientist

Between Abbiategrasso and Vigevano where Leonardo carried out the first studies of water scales, subsequently used for irrigation and reclamation

Day 3 - The cook

Leonardo demonstrated an innate love for the kitchen – he demonstrated also at the Sforza court applying it in the castle's kitchens

Day 4 - The painter

Leonardo and the Adda backgrounds

Day 5 - The naturalist

Leonardo and the study of the flight of birds

Day 6 - The geologist

Leonardo on the Grigna

Day 7 - La Gioconda

The secret of the most enigmatic smile in the world

Day 8, 9 and 10 - The Genius in Milan

The Last Supper, the Codex Atlanticus, the locks of the Naviglio Grande, and still frescoes, paintings and many, many drawings. Precious are the traces that Leonardo da Vinci, architect, engineer, inventor, scientist, artist, has left in the Ambrosian city

SUMMARY

Destination: Lombardy

Length: 10 days, 9 nights

Period:

From April 25th - to May 4th

What's included

Accommodations in double room including breakfast; all dinners; entry fees as in the program; transfers as in the program; welcome gadget; tour guide for the duration of the stay; one cooking lesson and medieval lunch cooked by the host; Leonardo's ferry; half-day excursion by boat; alpine guide throughout the day on the Grigna mountain; touristic guide in Vigevano and in Milan; ATM tickets for unlimited daily use.

NOT included

transfer to Morimondo and transfer to the station / airport at the end of the tour, lunches except for that prepared with the cooking lesson, drinks, extras of personal character, everything not included in the wording "what's included"

Extras:

Possibility of requesting additional transfers, possibility to extend your stay

Insurance:

Medical and baggage insurance

Pricing:

€ 4.000,00 p.p.

Min. 6 people

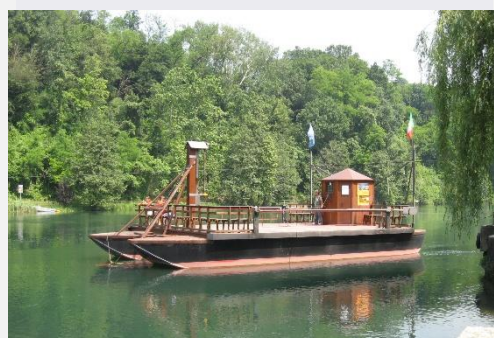
THE PROGRAM

DAY 1: We arrive in **Morimondo**, one of the "*Borghi più belli d'Italia*", an exclusive network that collects the most beautiful Italian villages, where is located a famous Cistercian abbey. From here begins our journey. Check in at the chosen hotel, welcome with a welcome cocktail, dinner and overnight stay.

DAY 2: Visit of **Vigevano**, the "villa of the Sforzesca", a fraction of a kilometer from Vigevano, consists of several monumental complexes born in successive historical moments. The "Colombarone" built in 1486 by *Ludovico il Moro* was used as the residence of the salaried, a nineteenth-century complex of the patronal villa with its park and the church of S. Antonio. The village owes its name to Ludovico Maria Sforza who, in 1486, transformed this possession from "vile gleba" (poor land) into "rich land". Here Leonardo carried out the first studies of water scales, subsequently used for irrigation and reclamation. A beautiful walk in the fertile countryside of Vigevano will lead us to the heart of the city where we will visit the famous *Piazza Ducale* which recalls Leonardo's drawings of the ideal city. After lunch we will visit the Mulino di Mora Bassa the fifteenth-century dwelling, the meeting place between Ludovico il Moro and Cecilia Gallerani (*the Lady with the Ermine*), which today hosts a permanent exhibition on Leonardo's machines. Return to Morimondo, dinner and overnight

DAY 3: After a healthy walk through the **Abbiategrasso** countryside along the towpath and the canal, we reach Cascina Gambarina, where we will do our agricultural spending, km 0 and with fresh and local products. Today's goal is to cook a real medieval lunch! Leonardo Da Vinci demonstrated an innate love for the kitchen that he also demonstrated at the Sforza court by applying it in the kitchens of the castle. The Osteria Cantagrilla will lend itself to this unique experience of "medieval cooking class". Lunch will follow with what we have cooked. In the afternoon guided tour of the city of Abbiategrasso with a stop at the historic Besuschio café, that has been awarded by the Gambero Rosso guide as one of the best pastry shop in Italy. Dinner will take place in Abbiategrasso at the medieval-like Tea room *Tête a Thè*, the first Italian Tea Academy. Return to Morimondo and overnight at the hotel

DAY 4: After breakfast we'll transfer to **Trezzo sull'Adda** where we'll begin an easy walk. The stretch of the river Adda that goes from Imbersago to Trezzo can be defined without a doubt an open-air museum, and, actually, it is an *Ecomuseum* dedicated to Leonardo da Vinci, who was a frequent visitor to these places. Enchanted, this inspired him to create one of his most famous paintings, "The Virgin of the Rocks". We begin our walk, on an easy and comfortable cycle path, you can meet three hydroelectric plants of the late nineteenth century, as well as locks, dams, villas, castles, churches and protected natural oases. We will have a picnic break along the way, in the afternoon we will be near the embarkation in Imbersago. Of all the ferries that connected the two banks of the Adda in the past centuries, what connects Imbersago to Villa d'Adda is the only one still active today. Its operation is simple and brilliant, as was Leonardo, and it is the same of his time. Around 5 pm departure by bus to **Varenna on Lake Como**. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

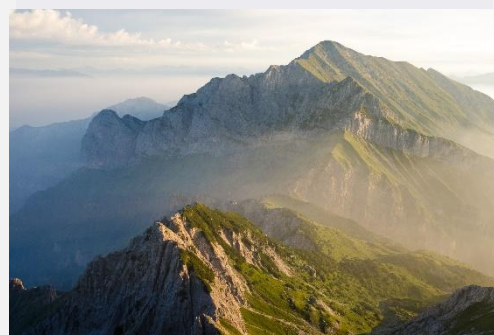
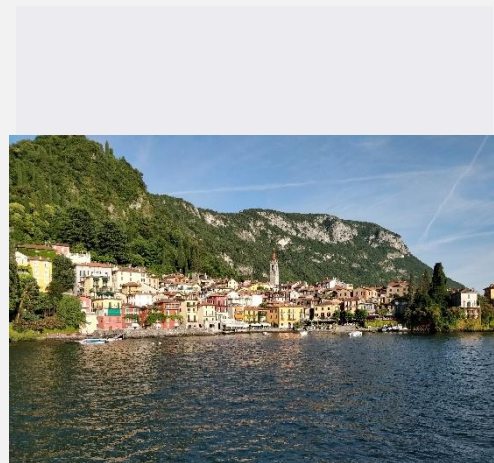


THE PROGRAM

DAY 5: The **Vezio Castle**, in the middle of Lake Como, on the promontory overlooking Varenna is an ancient military outpost of low medieval origin erected to defend and control the lake and surrounding villages from the *Longobard queen Teodolinda*. Immersed in the greenery of one of the most northerly olive groves in the world, thanks to the thermoregulation effect of the waters of the Lake, the Castle hosts exhibitions of works of art inside the tower and an exposition on the *Lariosaurus*. Here we will see a falconry show that was highly inspirational for Leonardo. With a short walk from the Castle we reach *Fiumelatte*. The famous karstic spring called Fiumelatte, to which Leonardo da Vinci was also interested, who mentioned it in a note of his Code; it is also known for the fact that its course is so short that it has earned its title as the shortest torrent in Italy. In the afternoon we will enjoy a relaxing boat trip on Lake Como, stop at **Bellagio** and free time at leisure. Return to Varenna. Dinner and overnight at the hotel

DAY 6: With our mountain guide we will explore the **Northern Grigna**, also known as *Grignone*. We will leave from the Cainallo refuge to get to the Bogani Refuge, which is nestled in a larch forest on the north western side. The path is very interesting because it winds along the slopes of the mountain, offering ever-changing environments that characterize the regional park of the Northern Grigna. The mountain houses more than 600 caves, up to 2370 meters. We will stop at the most famous, the *Moncodeno* Icehouse. The ice caves are natural cavities that contain perennial ice deposits. The historical and cultural importance of these caves is testified both by the peoples who inhabit the mountain areas and by the writings of famous authors of the caliber of Leonardo da Vinci, Steno and the abbot Antonio Stoppani. We will have lunch at the Bogani refuge. Return in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

DAY 7: Starting from **Pescarenico** we head towards the *Azzone Visconti* Bridge, along the route, following the cycle path, we will meet places, people and things of great interest. The fourteenth-century bridge Azzone Visconti, with its unmistakable arcades, the Monte Barro and the Adda river flows into Lake Garlate while the San Martino stands on the left, framing the most famous and enigmatic smile in the history of art – that of the **Mona Lisa**. Not the Val d'Arno or the profile of the hills of Montefeltro but Lombardy, the mountains of **Lecco** and the ancient bridge at the entrance to the capital as the fifth of the masterpiece of the great artist. Our intense walk will lead us to Garlate where we will have lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the *Abegg Silk Museum*, along the cycle path, on the banks of the river Adda, which in this spot takes the name of Lake Olginate. The Museum has been recently renovated and offers the visitor a new way to discover the past linked to the breeding of the insects and consequent processing of silk. After the visit, departure for **Milan**, dinner in a typical restaurant and overnight at the hotel.



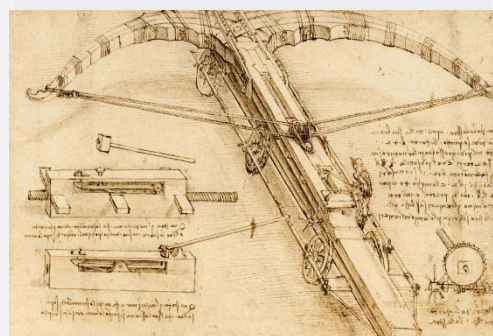
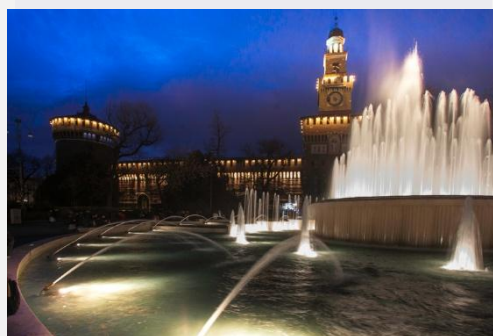
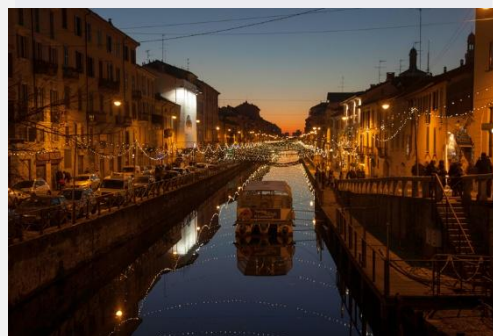
THE PROGRAM

DAY 8: The Last Supper, the Atlantic Codex, the locks of the Naviglio Grande, and still frescoes, paintings and many, many drawings. Precious are the traces that Leonardo da Vinci, architect, engineer, inventor, scientist, artist, has left in the *Ambrosian city* during his twenty years of stay. We will spend our first morning in Milan taking a guided tour through some of the places and works of Leonardo da Vinci preserved in the city. We'll start from one of the city landmark, the *Castello Sforzesco*, house of Ludovico il Moro, patron of Leonardo during his first stay in Milan. Not far from the castle a must see visit is *Palazzo Atellani* where it is located the **Leonardo's Vineyard**, whose ownership Ludovico granted to the *Master* in 1498 after having commissioned the painting of the *Last Supper*. Leonardo loved this place very much and left it, as heritage after his death, to one of his most important pupil, the so-called **Salai**. Free lunch and afternoon available for shopping or for deepening the route, with admission to museums or exhibitions. Dinner and return to the hotel for overnight.

OPTION: It is possible to visit the **Last Supper** fresco at *Santa Maria delle Grazie* church, prior availability of the tickets and slots of entrance.

DAY 9: Let's proceed in the discovery of Milan facing the new architectural frontiers: Piazza Gae Aulenti. Inaugurated in 2012, the Milanese square is part of one of the largest and most important urban redevelopment projects in Europe: the new smart district of Porta Nuova that extends between the Porta Garibaldi train station and the Isola district. Gae Aulenti is not only an example of the success of the plan, but also of the attempt to restore the original function of the squares as places of social aggregation. We will also visit CityLife Shopping District, immersed in the second public park of the city of Milan and included in the great contemporary architecture of the Tre Torri. Leonardo's dinner and return to the hotel for overnight

DAY 10: After breakfast, check out and possible transfer to the airport or train station



CONTACTS

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Mon-Fri

from **9.30** to **13.00** and

from **14.00** to **18.00**