

IALCCE'08

First International Symposium on Life-Cycle Civil Engineering

Varenna, Lake Como, Italy – June 10-14, 2008

Tours for Accompanying Persons

June 11th, 2008

Boat Trip to Como, the City of Silk

1. Tour Description

Lake Como, the third largest lake in Italy, attracts visitors from all around the world thanks to the beauty of its environment, so poetically described by Alessandro Manzoni in his masterpiece "I Promessi Sposi" ("The Betrothed"). A unique perspective able to join the picturesque and colorful villages, the magnificent ancient villas and their flowering gardens located on the shores, is assured moving by boat. Starting from Varenna by ferry boat, the tour enables you to admire green hills covered by olive groves and pastures, embellished with towers, churches and shrines. Proceeding toward Como city, the west branch of Lake Como offers the view of its most precious treasures consisting of aristocratic residences like, among others, Villa Carlotta in Tremezzo, Villa Melzi and Villa Serbelloni in Bellagio, Villa Balbianello on the rocky promontory of Lenno, Villa Erba e Villa d'Este in Cernobbio, and Villa Olmo and Villa Geno in Como.



The boat trip finishes by arriving in the city of Como, situated directly on the shores of the lake and encircled by enchanting hills. The city tour consists of visiting the historic centre, located inside the ancient medieval walls, an area of great historical and artistic interest dated back to the centuries from the XII to the XV. At the entrance of the central district the suggestive Cathedral square offers to the visitors its treasures represented by the Civic Tower, realized in ashlar stones, the medieval town hall of Broletto, with its gothic-reinassance facade opened in a double porch, and the beautiful Cathedral with white, grey and red marble belts. Masterpiece of the Comacine Mastres, the Cathedral is a rare example of harmonious fusion of different architectural styles, starting from the late Gothic of the structure up to the Renaissance of the façade, to finally reach the impressive baroque details. The interior of the church offers a rich complex of artistic works, among which unvaluable tapestries of the XVI and XVII century, sixteenth-century paintings, precious wooden altars and baroque stuccoworks, and colorful stained-glass windows. After a pleasant walk along the lively streets of the centre, rich of elegant boutiques and café, and characterized by singular courtyards and flowered gardens, Saint Fedele square, the ancient seat of the market of the grain, offers a



unique view on houses of the XVI century having overhanging porches, wooden and brick structures disposed like fishbone, according to a constructive technique of Nordic origin. The complex of the Saint Fedele church, subject to various rebuildings and restoration works over the centuries, looks on the homonymous square. Following the Roman Cardus, the main North-South street of the ancient Roman settlement, the powerful circle of walls, which Federico Barbarossa raised in the twelfth century to protect the city, appears with the majestic Tower Gate. Outside the



medieval walls, the modern part of the city is taken place. Today Como is a dynamic, business city with an important history in textile manufacturing and trading. Due to its long history of high quality silk production, the city is commonly known as the Silk Capital. One of the most representative firm of Como's silk creative tradition, the Mantero Factory, founded in 1902, offers the opportunity of following the various processing stages of the silk filament enable to transform the natural fibre into fabrics and accessories for the worlds of haute couture and prêt-à-porter. After the guided tour of the Mantero Factory, a visit of the Mantero's Concept Store, called La Tessitura, is scheduled.

2. Tour Scheduling (Tentative)

8,30-10,30	Boat trip along the west branch of Lake Como
10,30-12,30	Visit of the historical center of Como
12,30-14,00	Free time for lunch and shopping
14,00-16,00	Visit of Mantero Silk Factory and Concept Store
16,00-17,30	Return trip to Varenna by speed boat

3. Booking and Payment

The tour is managed by Promoest Agency.

The ticket cost is 45,00 Euros per person. This includes the cost of transfers by ferry boat from/to Varenna and by bus to/from Mantero Silk Factory, the entrance to the visited sites, and the guided visits described in the program.

Lunch is not included in the ticket cost. Accompanying persons registered at the Symposium are entitled to receive a packet lunch at the Hotel Villa Cipressi without additional costs. The packet lunch must be required one day in advance and personally taken before leaving for the tour.

The tour is intended for a minimum of 10 participants. In case this minimum number is not reached, registered participants will be refunded.

To join the tour please complete the registration process at the Promoest website:

<http://www.ialcce08tour.promoest.com>

Deadline for booking is May 30th, 2008. After this date tickets will be subjected to availability.

Should you have any inquiry about this tour please contact Ms. Nicoletta Ceriani at:

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