



**LAKE GARDA**  
to the north



*itinerary of approximately 67 km altogether*

### Places to visit:

- ⇒ MALCESINE
- ⇒ MARNIGA - CAMPO
- ⇒ TORRI DEL BENACO
- ⇒ ALBISANO
- ⇒ SAN ZENO DI MONTAGNA

[Malcesine](#) is one of the most elegant localities on Lake Garda, with its charming historical centre enhanced by narrow stone-paved alleys climbing towards the castle, dotted with tiny enchanting squares now enlivened by shops and bars.

You absolutely must visit the [Scaligeri Castle](#). Probably built by the Longobards, this splendid manor is situated in a magnificent position on a rocky outcrop overlooking the lake. First a Scaligeri residence in 1277, it then passed into the hands of the Viscontis, then the Serenissima (Venetian Republic), and later the French, followed by the Austrians.

It was declared a national monument on 22 August 1902.

Now open to the public, the castle offers a walk along the ramparts, the long stairs towards the lookout towers and up to the keep from where you can enjoy an aerial view of the lake and the historical centre.



Exhibition rooms have been set up inside to illustrate the various themes of Monte Baldo flora and fauna, as well as a collection of black and white photographs showing local life in the past. In memory of Goethe, who visited the castle in 1786 during one of his journeys through Italy, a special room is dedicated to a collection of his drawings of the castle and the lake. (*open from 01/04 through 31/10, h. 9.30-19.00; during the winter: h. 11.00-17.00; closed on Mondays; for information call 0457400837*)

Malcesine lies at the foot of the imposing heights of [Monte Baldo](#), the “Botanical garden of Europe”. A [cableway](#) takes you to the top in only a

few minutes, to Tratto Spino, at 1778 metres above sea level. You can follow a number of easy footpaths to discover the surroundings.

Following the lake southward, you can make a stop in the small town of [Marniga](#), where we recommend a short walk to [Campo](#), a tiny medieval village that can only be reached by mule track. Starting from the main square in Marniga, the path leads under a vault then through olive groves before starting the slope towards Campo (*about twenty minutes*).



This ancient "contrada" takes you back to the past, walking through the tiny alleys, stone vaults and arches: the houses, some of which are unfortunately in a state of decay, have been abandoned although a small number of people have decided to return. You can view the castle ruins, the Romanesque church (with

XIII-century frescos), the fountain and the ancient grinder used for crushing olives. The countryside, immersed in absolute quiet, is dominated by olive groves.

Next stop is [Torri del Benaco](#), a town of extraordinary charm, enhanced by pretty houses painted in various pastel colours, their balconies decorated with flowers, and the splendid harbour protecting the fishermen's brightly painted boats which rock gently on the rippling water.



It only takes a few minutes to visit the historical centre by following the central alley and returning along the lakeside.

But Torri has another treasure to show you: the grandiose [Scaligeri Castle](#) rising close to the harbour and housing one of the most interesting museums on Lake Garda.

The castle dates from 1383 and was commissioned by Antonio Della Scala, last of the Scaligeris, to control commercial traffic on the lake. Transformed into a museum, there are several rooms where you can discover the various realities of Lake Garda, its history and economy



with which it still has strong links. You can visit the rooms dedicated to the cultivation of olives and fishing, two ancient activities still flourishing today, the lemon glasshouse, and walk up the two towers that offer a fantastic panorama of the lake. Also of great interest, the exhibition of moulds of the original rock carvings found just outside Torri.

*(open: from 01/04 to 31/05 and from 01/10 to 31/10, h. 9.30-12.30/14.30-18.00; from 01/06 to 30/09, h. 9.30-13.00/16.30-19.30; for information call 045 6296111)*

From Torri we suggest a journey inland up to nearby [Albisano](#). Here you can stand on the panoramic terrace and enjoy a spectacular view of the lake with the stupendous backdrop of the Gulf of Salò and the Rock of Manerba, with an astounding outline of the mountains which you will recognise in the legendary *Naso di Napoleone* (*Nose of Napoleon*).

If you wish, you can go on to [San Zeno di Montagna](#), another balcony overlooking the lake, for an evening meal accompanied by a relaxing breeze.

**Ristorante "LA CASA DEGLI SPIRITI"**

Via Monte Baldo, 28 - COSTERMANO / tel. 045 6200766

(tasters' menu, wine excluded: from € 57.00 to € 83.00; closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, open every day from Easter to September)

Along the road for San Zeno, in a position offering an exceptional panorama, you will find this elegant restaurant where you can enjoy traditional cuisine from typical mountain fare to lake dishes. There are four tasters' menus to choose from, offering lake fish or sea fish, traditional dishes or based on home grown vegetables.

The well-furnished wine list includes some of the best wines from all over the world.

**Ristorante GARDESANA**

piazza Calderini, 20 - TORRI DEL BENACO / tel. 045 7225411

(average cost, excluding wines: € 40.00; closed on Tuesdays, except from May to September)

Occupying a XV-century building, in the ancient square at Torri and facing the harbour, this is a famous restaurant, not only for its refined elegance, but also - and especially - for the gastronomical wonders that it offers. Included in the best gourmet guides, the menu includes exclusive specialities that valorise local products such as fish, olive oil, wines and truffles. Fish dishes include: *lavaret fillet in sweet and sour marinade*, *chub rolls in butter and thyme sauce*, trout carpaccio in citrus fruit marinade, bigoli (pasta) with tench and rugola sauce; among meat dishes: fillet Chateaubriand, fillet Rossini, breast of duck, saddle of lamb. Finally, home made desserts, the cheese trolley, and a choice of more than 270 Italian and foreign wines.

You can choose between a typical Garda menu with 4 courses (€ 30.0), a seasonal menu with 5 courses (€ 40.00) and a tasters' menu with 6 courses (€50.00), as well as single dishes from the à la carte menu.



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