

Excursions & Nature.

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Experiences in "plein air". 96 intriguing proposals to discover a landscape full of contrasts.



Lavertozzo, Lake Maggiore and Valleys

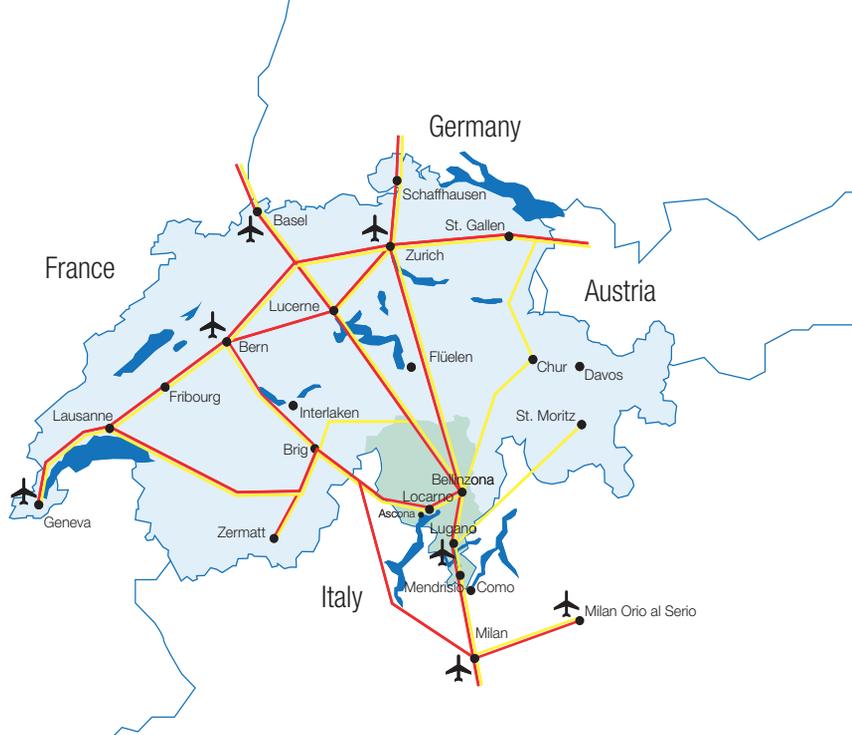
Come and visit us.

from Bellinzona		from Bellinzona	
	Car		Train
Basel	230 km	Basel	2 h 45 min
Bern	246 km	Bern	2 h 50 min
Geneva	405 km	Geneva	4 h 35 min
Locarno	20 km	Locarno	25 min
Lugano	29 km	Lugano	25 min
Malpensa	100 km	Malpensa	2 h 40 min
Milan	105 km	Milan	1 h 45 min
Bergamo	146 km	Stuttgart	4 h 55 min
Zurich	187 km	Zurich	1 h 40 min

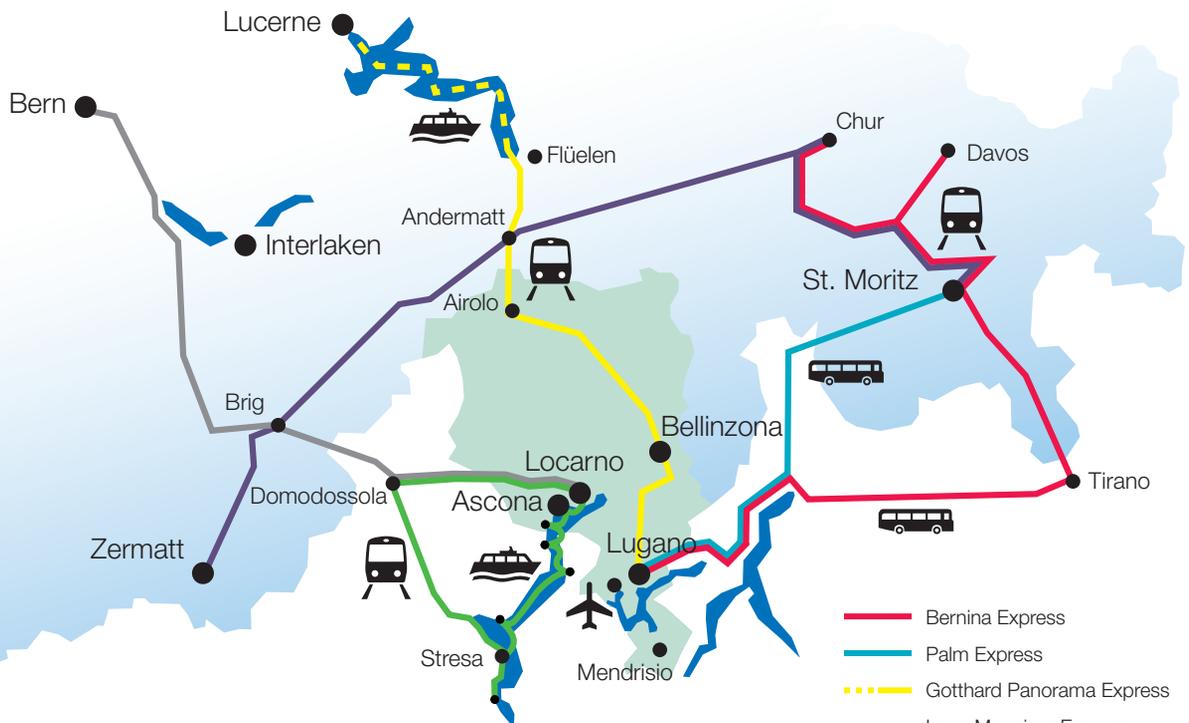


The airport of Lugano-Agno, which is only a few kilometers from the centre of Lugano, can be reached from Zurich, and Geneva. These cities are in connection with several destinations in Europe and all over the world. Additionally, there are the airports Milan Linate, Milan Malpensa and Milan Orio al Serio which are all within one hour's reach of Ticino. Both of them also offer multiple international connections. The airport of Lugano-Agno itself offers a fast and efficient service, thanks to being able to check in up to 20 minutes before departure.

travelinformation.ticino.ch



Panoramic roads.



Six exciting ways of reaching Ticino travelling by public transport through wonderful natural landscapes. Panoramic trains, boats and buses will enable you to appreciate the Ticino landscape and the neighbouring regions.

Buy the tickets while sitting comfortably at home, by visiting the following website www.ticino.ch or by calling the free phone number: 00800 100 200 30.

Info: www.ticino.ch 96086



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Legend:

-  Hiking in Switzerland
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-  Quality levels of Swiss tourism
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-  Family Destination



Come and visit us / Panoramic roads.	2
Summary.	3
Ticino. Above the clouds.	4
Welcome to Ticino.	6
Bellinzona and Upper Ticino.	8
Lake Maggiore and Valleys.	10
Lake Lugano Region.	12
Mendrisiotto Region.	14
Did you know that in Ticino...	17
Hiking.	18
Cycling.	22
Mountain biking.	26
Walking and nordic walking.	30
Parks, gardens and panoramic viewing points.	34
National Parks, nature and rural cottages.	38
Alpine lakes.	42
Mountain huts.	46
Ski lifts and cable cars.	50
Other sports.	54
Golf.	58
Winter.	62

Contacts and partners.	66
------------------------	----

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Ticino. Above the clouds.

excursions.ticino.ch

Discover paradises between heaven and earth.





Al Legn Hut, Lake Maggiore and Valleys

Welcome to Ticino.



Diamond-like glaciers and golden sun, warm sapphire-blue nights, emerald green forests and deep blue waters. Canton Ticino is a land of extraordinary and fascinating natural contrasts. Within a few kilometres the visitor experiences the transition from the imposing Saint Gotthard massif giving way to the gentle vineyards on the Mendrisiotto hills, or the juxtaposition of year-round snow and wild alpine valleys with green hills of olive trees and grape vines. And to expand the palette of European habitats, you can find luxurious subtropical vegetation in an incredible botanical park in the middle of a lake!

The austere alpine landscapes to the north contrast with valleys deeply etched by waterways flowing down to the central region of the lakes. Much of the canton is covered in forests, which provide glorious walks through great stands of beech, chestnut and walnut trees. Though the rail and road links through Leventina are periodically shouldered by industry, it is easy to find





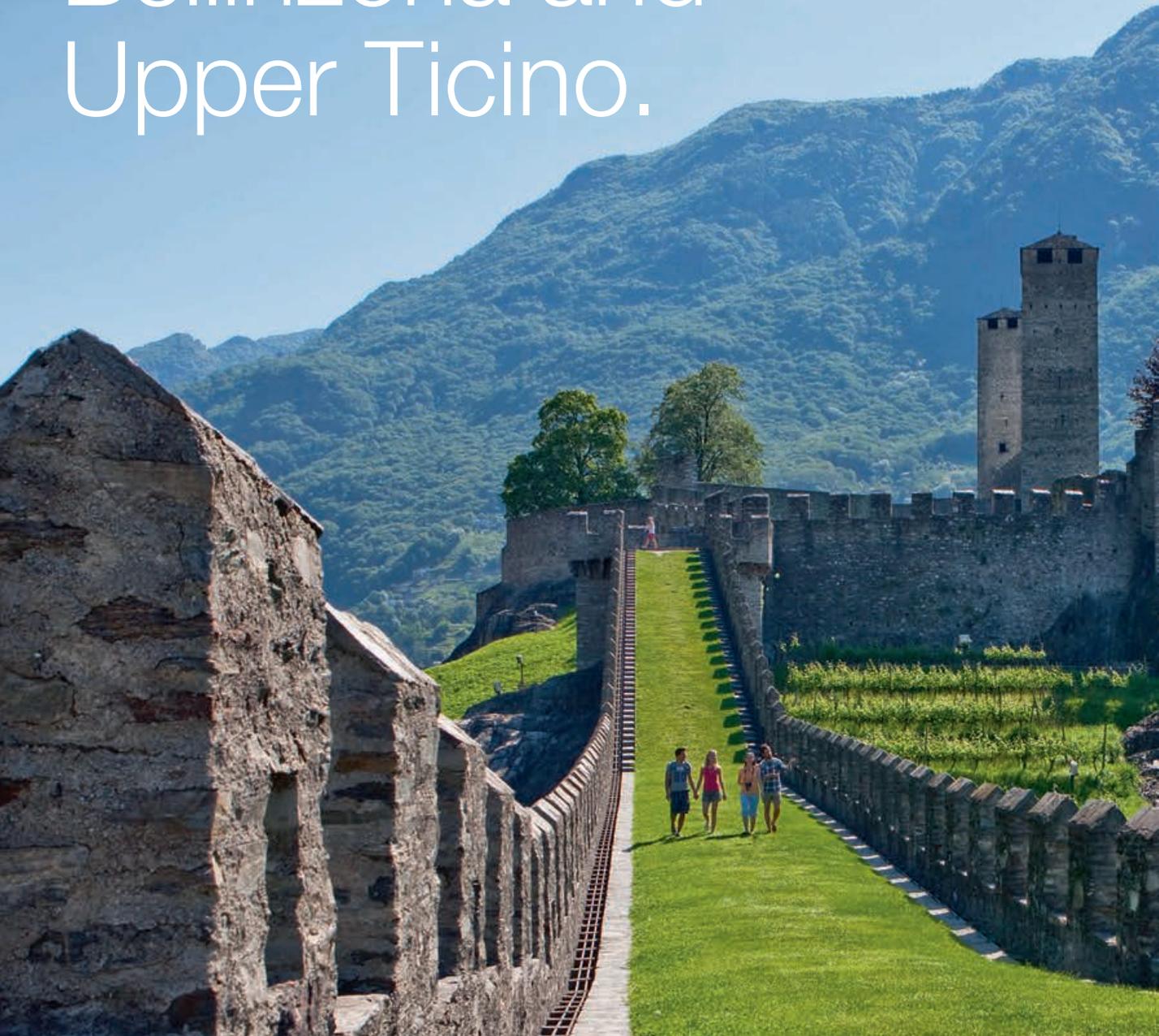
places up the valley slopes that feel far removed from the 21st century, such as the Bedretto Valley or some of the hamlets around Chironico. At the southern end of Lake Maggiore you can discover the tranquillity of the remoter parts of the area known as Switzerland's "Tuscany", Mendrisiotto.

The mild climate around the lakes facilitates a wide choice of sporting activities throughout the year. Cable cars whisk you to glorious upland walks, perhaps taking in a night at one of the warm mountain huts, perfect for watching spectacular sunsets and dawns. Or you can take it easy and walk along lakefronts while admiring the mountains. Ticino nourishes the body and the spirit through the discovery of nature in all its forms – there are distinctive geographical features which

astonish even seasoned geographers. Whether you are in search of strenuous activities and challenging adventures or looking for somewhere to unwind in pampered ease, you will find the right place in Ticino.

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Bellinzona and Upper Ticino.



The canton's political capital of Bellinzona enjoys a strategic position on the Swiss north-south European transit route, making it very easy to reach. The route was guarded by Bellinzona's three castles, now protected by UNESCO, but today it is the ideal departure point for many of the opportunities which the region offers. The picturesque valleys to the north are characterised by tall peaks, wooded hills and villages which appear to be painted on the sides of the slopes. Moving higher, the chestnut woods gradually give way to pine trees and these, in turn, peter out to leave glorious alpine pastures, rich in aromatic herbs, rare and intensely coloured flowers, moon-like rocks and sublime views. Paradise for walkers.

For those in search of hikes in the high mountains, the choice is endless. Barely changed in millennia, the alpine lakes sometimes appear in continual succession and encourage the walker to discover the next stretch of water



**Bellinzonese
e Alto Ticino**
4 authentic living



and its unique qualities. The footpaths are superbly marked and maintained, the mountain “bergwegs” (hiking boots required!) taking you into terrain where timid marmots and majestic chamois peep out against a background of alpine flora. Various passes can be reached from the Bedretto Valley to the west of Airolo, leading into adjacent cantons or even countries: the Nufenen into the Valais, or the San Giacomo into Italy’s Toggia Valley. History is part of the walk through the narrow defile of the Dazio Grande, for the customs house that once stood guard at the entrance is now a small museum about the former importance of the trade route.

It is impossible not to feel a sense of profound respect and

reverence once the summit of the Föisc has been reached, above Ambri-Piotta, revealing a spectacular panorama of the Leventina district with the valleys at your feet and a sky that somehow feels closer.

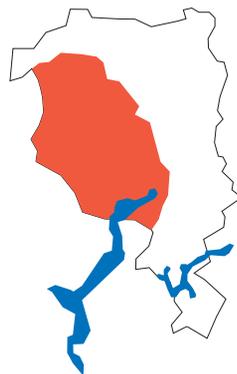
bellinzonaregion.ticino.ch

Lake Maggiore and Valleys.



Wild lake shores, majestic green valleys studded with villages built of stone, snow-covered peaks reflected in lake waters, the charm and atmosphere of a tiny mountain church, winding paths through chestnut woods, fresh fragrant air - just some of the pleasures of walking around Lake Maggiore. All this is close to Locarno, Ascona and Brissago and their rich cultural life, to be enjoyed after a day amongst nature. The mild climate has allowed the area's botanical gardens to grow subtropical plants; at the Brissago Islands, the botanical park on San Pancrazio has various zones displaying plants from central America and South Africa as well as the Mediterranean, while the smaller Isola Piccola has been left to nature.

The region's fecundity is sustained by the mildest and sunniest climate in Switzerland, with an early spring and a late autumn of vibrant colours. It encourages a more open-air lifestyle and every kind of activity or sport, from



 **ASCONA
LOCARNO**



the extreme disciplines to complete relaxation. Whether walking or mountain biking or climbing, the valleys of the region are magnets for locals and visitors alike. The Verzasca Valley is probably the most visited, some to see the dam used by Pierce Brosnan for his bungee jump in GoldenEye, others to see frescoes from about 1200 in the church at Vogorno, and many just to admire the 2,864 m peak of the valley's tallest mountain, Pizzo Barone. The more populous Maggia Valley and its side valleys have even more attractions, from enchanting landscapes extending to peaks 3,000 m high, peaceful larch forests, fascinating museums such as the Vallemaggia Museum in Cevio, and a host of features to delight geologists.

Once used by man as a means of transport, the River Maggia has eroded and modelled the landscape over the centuries, creating oxbow lakes, wells, sandy beaches and splendid waterfalls. The Walser village of Bosco Gurin is located between the Maggia Valley and the Rovana Valley and is set like a jewel in a marvellous mosaic; the village is situated at an altitude of 1,506 m and is the highest inhabited village in Ticino. Lastly, the Lavizzara Valley with its white marble and Mario Botta's stupendous church at Mogno, and the Bavona Valley, dominated by the Basodino peak with its magnificent glacier.

lakemaggiore.ticino.ch

Lake Lugano Region.



Lugano is the centre of the canton, and a place where opposites attract: fashionable trends and tradition; the town that almost emerges from its countryside; lake waters that lap against mountains; business life leavened by relaxation. The lake offers sporting and recreational activities, but it's easy to find oases of peace and quiet close to the town. The wooded hills and valleys around the town offer easy hikes, in the Capriasca or Valcolla valleys, for example, or Malcantone; its rather off-putting name should not deter you – it actually means “area of hammer mills” because of the water-powered ironworks for which it was once famous. Today it is better known for the botanical garden at Cademario (with Switzerland’s finest collection of cacti) and the lovely walks beside the Magliasina river. Around Lugano there are lots of easy routes by foot or by mountain bike, to enjoy fantastic panoramas. The Tamaro-Lema ridge walk has been awarded



LUGANO 
swiss mediterranean style



the “Hiking Oscar” in Germany for its exceptional beauty. Much closer to Lugano, and easier to reach thanks to a funicular, is the chapel of San Salvatore; the view from the church-tower roof is the best place to decipher the complex shape of Lake Lugano. After lunch or a coffee in Ristorante Vetta at the summit, soaking in the panorama, you can walk down to Carona to admire the large collection of azaleas, rhododendrons and heathers at the San Grato Botanical Park, which is a riot of colour and heady perfume in April and May.

Another popular excursion, best done by boat, is to the gardens of Scherrer Park at the idyllic lakeside village of Morcote; even the Aga Khan described it as “paradise”. Its

creator, Arthur Scherrer, built an eclectic mix of buildings to complement the exotic species he had collected during his travels. Among the lush vegetation are a Greek temple, a Siamese tea-house and the temple of Nefertiti, as well as numerous sculptures ranging from Carrara marble lions to the sacred cow of Mysore.

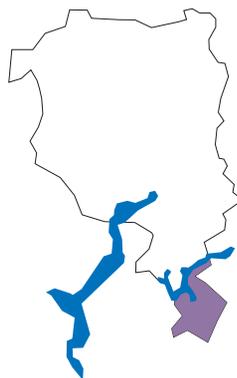
lakelugano.ticino.ch

Mendrisiotto Region.



To the south of Lake Lugano is Mendrisiotto, a region one could easily spend a week getting to know. It would take days to walk all the paths that thread the woods and slopes of Monte Generoso, one of the area's most popular excursions. Its summit and mountain-top restaurant are easily reached by a rack railway from the station of Capolago-Riva San Vitale on the main line between Lugano and Milan. Take the path from the summit towards Scudelate and Muggio and you will pass picturesque places that evoke the rural economy of a century ago – mills, wash-houses, bird-hunting towers and water troughs. The ever-dependable PostBus will take you back to Chiasso station after a day to remember.

The “capital” of Mendrisiotto is Mendrisio, affectionately known as the “magnifico borgo” (magnificent town) because of its charming alleyways, typical houses with internal courtyards and terracotta roofs, and medieval and



 MENDRISIOTTO
E BASSO CERESIO



baroque churches. Admirers of the modern architect Mario Botta, who was born in Mendrisio, will admire the town's piazza created by him, Piazzale alla Valle. Mendrisio is the starting point for the wine road of Mendrisiotta, which perfectly combines nature and exploring with the region's historic wine-making traditions. The route links more than half a dozen wineries, starting with three in Mendrisio itself. Near the ancient Santa Maria dei Miracoli sanctuary is Cormano, a wine company that offers some fruity Merlots, the route continuing towards Chiasso and ending in Ligornetto and the innovative new building of the Vinattieri company. For those wanting an energetic excursion through natural surroundings, there is the opportunity

to cycle the region under the e-bike Park initiative, using comfortable e-bikes. You can choose from different routes using some of the partner hotels and experience memorable aspects of the region that few tourists discover.

mendrisioregion.ticino.ch

Ticino. Land of cycling.

cyclingparadise.ticino.ch

Discover a cycling paradise in the Southern Alps.



Did you know that in Ticino...

- you can enjoy more than 2,170 hours of sun per year? It's one of the sunniest regions of Switzerland!
- clouds are not welcome, even in winter? Between November and February the sun shines on average for 553 hours, compared to 256 hours in Zürich.
- lake shores extend over 160 km? You decide where to dive into the lake!
- you can always keep fit? There are no less than 4,000 km of hiking trails and a number of cycling paths!
- there are 2 sites registered in the UNESCO World Heritage? These refer to the Bellinzona Castles and Monte San Giorgio!
- you can make your own cheese using milk from the Ticino Alps and have it delivered directly to your door once it has matured? At the Caseificio del Gottardo Airolo dairy, in Valle Leventina!
- the famous writer Hermann Hesse resided for many years in the museum dedicated to him which is now one of the most popular in Ticino? You can visit it in Montagnola, just a few minutes away from the centre of Lugano!
- the third most important financial market in Switzerland is found here? Located in Lugano, nicknamed the "little Rio de Janeiro" thanks to its Monte San Salvatore that is reminiscent of the famous "Sugar Loaf Mountain"
- you can find the town that boasts the mildest climate in Switzerland? That very attractive and sunny town is Locarno!
- you can visit all Switzerland in less than 2 hours? At the Swissminiatur in Melide!
- you can find the world's longest and deepest rail tunnel? Through the Gotthard Base Tunnel, which is 57 km long, trains reach peak speeds of up to 250 km/h!
- you can suffer from vertigo? The Ritom cable railway is one of the steepest in the world with a maximum gradient of 87,8%!
- Lake Cadagno is actually made up of 2 lakes one on top of the other? It contains 2 different types of water which never mix!
- you can also speak German? In the Walser village in Bosco Gurin, the highest village in Ticino, situated at 1,506 m!
- you can play the part of James Bond? Practice bungee jumping from the Verzasca dam, where the famous GoldenEye 007 film was set! You can jump off from a height of 220 m: the wildest bungee jump in the world!
- Lugano-Agno airport is the fifth most important in Switzerland, but also the quickest? You can check-in just 20 minutes before your flight!
- you can visit the San Gottardo Museum, the highest in Switzerland? At 2,088 metres above sea level!
- there are over 130 Alpine lakes? Don't forget your swimming costume and fishing rod!
- you can stay at the best camping site in Switzerland? In fact, various European guides have assessed the Campofelice camping site at Tenero as being the best!
- you can go shopping in one of the best outlet centres in the world? Forbes included FoxTown in Mendrisio in its international top ten for factory outlet centres in the world!

Hiking.



Walking is an instinctive and natural action that we all perform, but some do less and less, with unfortunate results. Walking is the most basic and accessible of fitness activities, a source of enormous pleasure to millions of people who feel better, look younger and dissipate the stresses and strains of day-to-day life. All you need are good shoes or boots. Ticino is a paradise for walkers, with over 4,000 km of well-maintained and marked footpaths, sometimes with average walking times shown on signs. It is easy to plan circular walks, or linear walks using train or PostBus back to your accommodation, thanks to the finest public transport system in the world—a byword for efficiency and reliability. The milder climate of Ticino makes walking possible for

most of the year, practically during twelve months in the lower parts. Walking maps showing the exceptional network of paths reveal how much choice there is in a relatively small area.

For more challenging mountain hikes, there is a network of mountain huts, or cabins, to open up new possibilities for staying at high altitudes. The alpine footpaths may require a great deal of effort and some experience, but they offer great rewards in the breathtaking panoramas, and there are sometimes ridge paths that allow walkers to stay above 2,300 m.

Some routes have been specially devised to balance sport and culture as a way to discover the numerous traces left



by the evolution of rural life in the mountains and valleys, such as the path from the Saint Gotthard Pass towards Lake Sella. Or the route from Olivone, better known as Rivöii, to ascend the 2,221 m peak of Sosto in Blenio Valley, a vast wedge of rock jammed like an arrowhead into the centre of the valley. There are also routes that give you the chance to follow paths used by smugglers, with all the dangers and emotions of a life of fraud lived among landscapes that would be viewed very differently from today's visitors in search of beauty.

Around Locarno there are footpaths that hardly give you a chance to warm up before they climb almost immediately from the magnificent Lake Narèt towards the Bedretto Valley,

passing through woods and beside small lakes with views of surrounding peaks as a reward.

More to the south, in the Lugano area, the Tamaro – Lema hike has to be experienced; on a clear day, walking with your head in the heaven rather than in the clouds, the views are indescribably beautiful.

hike.ticino.ch



Alpine Passes Trail.

Blenio Valley – Leventina Valley – Bedretto Valley

The Alpine Passes Trail is a national itinerary between Chur and Saint Gingolph, and combines, in one trail, several of the most attractive and picturesque passes of the Alps: this is one of the most exciting and demanding alpine excursions. The Ticino section crosses the Greina plateau passing close to Lake Ritom, through the Bedretto Valley and lastly over the Corno pass.

The itinerary can be booked online at the following website:

www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 96947



Trans Swiss Trail.

Saint Gotthard Pass – Lugano (Mendrisio)

The Trans Swiss Trail between Porrentruy and Mendrisio is one of the national routes also found in Ticino. This route covers the entire length of the Leventina Valley High Road and passes along the left side of the valley, between Airolo and Biasca. This is a special trail that enables the hiker to observe evidence of the hard pains of mountain rural life. The route continues down to Mendrisio.

The itinerary can be booked online at the following website:

www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 96949



ViaGottardo.

ViaStoria: Airolo – Bellinzona

The economic importance and the elevation to a vital arterial road of an independent Switzerland renders the ViaGottardo an engrossing journey through the country's history and legend. This road hosts a wealth of traditions and preserves many hidden naturalistic and cultural treasures, waiting to be discovered, alongside the well-known attractions, such as "ponte del Diavolo" (Devil's Bridge), "strada della Tremola" (Tremola Road), "gola del Piottino" (Piottino Gorge) and the Bellinzona castles. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 97173



Four Headwaters Trail.

Gotthard Region

The Four Headwaters Trail is a hike that offer the possibility of discovering four major rivers which run through four different countries: Rhine, Reuss, Ticino and Rhone. This four-day excursion dedicates one day to each source and benefits from good public transport links at the start and finish points. Thanks to the excellent accommodation available in the area, this tour can also be spread over five days. Book the itinerary on www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 138382



Sentiero Cristallina.

Bignasco – Airolo

The Sentiero Cristallina links Bignasco in the Valle Maggia to Airolo in the Leventina Valley, winding its way past steep mountains, a waterfall just outside Foroglio, crystalline rocks, alpine lakes and basins, idyllic mountain pastures and remote villages. This ridgeway path on the sunny side of Val Bedretto travels through a landscape of peat bogs, offering stunning views over the Gotthard.



Info: www.ticino.ch 124832



Sentiero Verzasca.

Locarno – Tenero/Gordola – Sonogno

This is one of the 12 most enchanting trails in Switzerland! The "Sentierone" makes its way across the entire Verzasca Valley, initially passing through rich woodland and then running alongside the river from Lavertezzo (a village renowned for its famous Ponte dei Salti). The route is easy and almost flat. The walk ends in Sonogno, home to the "Museo di Val Verzasca" and the "Casa della Lana" with its craft shop, run by Pro Verzasca.



Info: www.ticino.ch 138529



Sentiero Lago di Lugano.

Lugano (Magliaso) – Mendrisio

A route with a mediterranean character divided into nine stages to discover Sottoceneri. From the pre-alpine mountains to the lake areas with their exotic climate, where the characteristic Mendrisiotto grottos and vineyards are to be found. The trail extends from Magliaso to Monte Ceneri, passing Monte San Salvatore up to Morcote, reaching Monte Generoso and lastly Mendrisio. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 97168



Itineraries through vineyards.

Mendrisio

The Mendrisiotto region offers three thematic itineraries among the vineyards. 30 information boards have been realised for the centenary of the Merlot grape; they are interesting for wine lovers as well as for beginners; these boards explain the local wine growing and producing activity.



Info: www.ticino.ch 95883



Cycling.



The growing passion for cycling is in step with our times and concerns about the environment. But it is also a great way to explore while keeping fit and banishing worries about gaining weight on holiday—regular cyclists have a physiological age of someone ten years younger. The popularity of cycling in Switzerland translates into excellent facilities, with dedicated cycle paths, plenty of bike-hire facilities and lots of off-road tracks or quiet roads that are perfect for families with young children.

Of course the pleasant Mediterranean climate completes the favourable scenario: cycling is enjoyed in Ticino all year round, because the thermometer in November can read 14 – 15°C in the lower Lugano area—the perfect temperature

for cycling, making spring and autumn ideal seasons for biking. Cycling is deeply rooted in the canton, and one of the most recent developments which has gained enormous popularity is the “timed climb”.

Periodically, we play host to major cycling events. It was back in 1971 that the Belgian Eddy Merckx, nicknamed “the cannibal”, triumphed in the world championships in Mendrisio by beating another major cyclist of the period, the Italian Felice Gimondi. With this victory he was rightly included in the elite of cycling immortals. History repeated itself 38 years later, and 2009 will be remembered in the official chronologies as the year in which Mendrisio hosted the cycling race once again. The event was long awaited



by every cyclist and represented the highlight of the cycling season. The fascinating routes taken by the professionals are then cycled by passionate amateurs who want to compare themselves and their times with the best on the heroes' circuit.

But Ticino has itineraries that will appeal just as much to the leisurely cyclist wanting to discover the canton's sights at a gentle pace as to the seasoned wearer of toe-clips. The growing popularity of cycling holidays, as well as levels of ordinary cycle hire, confirm this. Whether tackling the demanding north-south route over the Alps to reach the mild climate of Lake Maggiore, or pottering along the old road from Airolo along the west side of the valley, stopping to

admire the Romanesque churches, there is a complete range of alternative routes for everyone. But whatever route you choose, you will all share those beautiful chestnut woods, terraced hills and peaceful meadows.

cyclingparadise.ticino.ch



Lucomagno – Blenio Route.

Disentis – Biasca

This regional itinerary crosses the sunny Blenio Valley from the Lucomagno Pass down to Biasca. The route runs close to the edge of extensive chestnut woods and cultivated terracing. The gurgling sound of the water and cowbells will accompany you along the entire route. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 97170



North-South Route.

Airolo – Chiasso

The North-South Route is a national itinerary between Basel and Chiasso and follows the major communication routes across the landscape regions of Basel, Jura and central Switzerland passing over the Alps to the mild climate of Lake Maggiore. Ticino is reached via the Saint Gotthard Pass and after the Saint Gotthard Inn (Ospizio) the route descends towards Airolo along the Tremola road with its characteristic hairpin bends. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 96951



Pedemontano Route.

Piano di Magadino

This trail is ideal for a relaxing bicycle ride across the Magadino plain on quiet country roads. It is suitable for all kinds of bicycles. After leaving Bellinzona and its castles, it heads towards the Lake Maggiore, following the road that runs alongside the River Ticino and crosses the entire Magadino plain.



Info: www.ticino.ch 93923



Bike sharing Locarno.

Locarno

Introduced in 2016 and supported by the town of Locarno the project bikesharing-system Velospot offers 100 rental bikes at 15 docking stations distributed across the town. This service is ideal for those wishing to get around town quick and easy. Annual subscriptions or day passes are available to persons aged 16 years and over.

Info: www.ticino.ch 139645



Lake Maggiore Bike Emotions.

Lake Maggiore and Valleys

A selection of 20 proposals for cycling routes. In this huge, highly varied area, you can go for a gentle ride along the shores of Lake Maggiore and the banks of the rivers, or climb the sides of the valleys. No matter where you plan to go for some satisfying exercise on two wheels, the region will provide a marvellous backdrop for your efforts!

Info: www.ticino.ch 83866
Search



Vallemaggia Route.

Bellinzona – Cavigno

Making its way across the Magadino plain, through the lively town of Locarno on Lake Maggiore and the Pedemonte area, this itinerary arrives in the idyllic Vallemaggia. This region of extraordinary beauty extends from Lake Maggiore (Ascona, Locarno) into the Alps. The magical Vallemaggia offers a perfect blend of nature, culture, emotions and flavours. The route consists of two sections suitable for day-long excursions.



Info: www.ticino.ch 124837
Search



Bike Sharing Lugano.

Lugano

Known as the fastest, most economical means of transport in town, PubliBike gives you access with a single card to all bike sharing networks throughout Switzerland. In Lugano there are 13 self-service stations with 119 bikes, available 24/7. With this service, you can rent a bike in one station and give it back in another, when you have reached your destination. For a day or a year, for one network or for all of Switzerland, several types of subscriptions are available.

Info: www.ticino.ch 127274
Search



e-Bike Park Ticino.

Ticino

The e-bike Park provides the perfect way to discover the natural beauty and picturesque landscape of Ticino. The electric motors mean that even those of us who are not in great shape can join in, allowing fitness fanatics and less sporty people to go on a bike ride together. Thanks to the highly flexible system, electric bicycles for individuals and groups can be reserved at any point between Airolo and Chiasso. The start and finish points can also be chosen freely.

e-bike.ticino.ch



Mountain biking.



Hiking boots are not the only way to experience our mountains. You can also discover the magical world of Ticino's nature by mountain bike, stopping, breathing the pure air and drinking in the landscape before setting off again for a technically challenging descent. Places and villages can be reached not only by conventional roads, but riding along safe and well-marked tracks, amongst marvellous flora and fauna.

Ticino offers numerous mountain bike routes, marked to indicate different levels of difficulty, thanks to the diverse terrain. For experienced mountain bikers with a high level of technical skill, there can be few parts of the world to rival Switzerland, and Ticino in particular, for its combination of amazing mountain landscapes, well-thought-out routes, alpine restaurants and inns, and vibrant urban nightlife.

You are spoilt for choice in Ticino. The rides over rocky mountain passes from



canton Uri to Biasca, from the south-easternmost canton of Graubünden and from the Valais all offer the most rewarding sights to those with the energy to reach them. The Saint Gotthard, Lukmanier and Nufenen passes have a tangible atmosphere for those open to a sense of history and the fascinating stories behind their former or current social and economic importance. The passes become even more picturesque when the first snowfalls crown the peaks in an impossibly brilliant white.

Despite the terrain, not all rides demand great skill or exceptional stamina. A 32 km circular ride from Airolo station at the southern end of the Gotthard railway tunnel is a fairly easy tour of the Gotthard massif, using at one point the old

road to the Gotthard Pass and affording spectacular views of the Leventina.

Further south, in the Lugano area, the environment is much gentler, with chestnut trees rather than granite for company on the Malcantone tour. One of the toughest climbs is up Monte Tamaro, starting at the cable car station, but the reward after a 1,700 m ascent is not only the amazing view but the technically demanding descent to Arosio.

Whatever terrain you choose, you will feel in harmony with nature and experience a sense of achievement and pleasure the motorist can only guess at.

mtbike.ticino.ch



Alpi Bedretto Bike.

Bedretto Valley

The MTB-route on the “Strada degli Alpi” can certainly be defined one of the most beautiful of the whole Alto Ticino. This route crosses the Bedretto Valley and follows the footpath with the same name. The excursion is very diversified and passes through grazing land and mountain pastures of sheer beauty. Splendid panoramic glimpses of the Saint Gotthard Pass and green Bedretto Valley can be enjoyed along the “Alps road”. The landscape is especially picturesque when the first snowfall covers the mountain peaks.



Info: www.ticino.ch 127921



Gotthard Bike.

Andermatt – Biasca

A route designed for those wishing to immerse themselves in nature while biking. A land of great contrasts, the most spectacular alpine pass of the Alps, combining wonderful landscapes such as the Tremola, the Ritom Region and the Blenio Valley. So much beauty in an area that is just waiting to be discovered. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 96966



Cross Country Circuit.

Rivera

An invitation to all mountain bike enthusiasts to take advantage of this special, extremely interesting 5 km route, to relive the emotions of the unforgettable World Championship organised in 2003. The route is technically demanding and is advisable for sports enthusiasts able to endure significant exertion. There is an alternative route for those who are less expert.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105911



Lugano Bike.

Lugano – Monte Bar Hut – Lugano

The climb to the Monte Bar Hut is a classic route for mountain bike (MTB) enthusiasts. The route extends along dirt roads and mule tracks and is one of the most attractive MTB routes in Ticino. There is a splendid panorama and an exciting single trail straddling the Valcolla. This is one of the most demanding tours and requires the bikers to have good technical skills and to be in good physical condition. The itinerary can be booked online at the following website: www.swisstrails.ch



Info: www.ticino.ch 97172

Pazzallo-Alpe Vicania.

Lugano

This tour combines nature and culture and is suitable for all cycling abilities. It is impossible not to fall in love with this beautiful area, which includes the Alpe Vicania with its meadows and tempting restaurant and the inviting San Grato Botanical Gardens with their diverse flora, themed paths and restaurant. The characteristic old town centre in Carona is truly unmissable.



Info: www.ticino.ch **105920**
Search



Alta Verzasca Bike.

Brione Verzasca – Sonogno

The fairly flat track leads through the upper part of the Verzasca Valley with the starting point in Brione Verzasca and arrival at Sonogno, both typical mountain villages, with a rich history and immersed in nature. The track, that begins in the locality «Ai Piéé», winds alongside a large stretch of the Verzasca river, famous for its emerald-coloured waters and beside the well-known path «Sentierone» or «Sentiero Verzasca», one of Switzerland's most beautiful hiking tracks.



Info: www.ticino.ch **138299**
Search



Pumptrack.

Mendrisio

Following the cycling World Championships, Mendrisio continues to attract cyclists and bicycle enthusiasts. The Pumptrack is packed with bumps and dips, making it the perfect place to go mountain biking in the heart of the city. The third facility of its kind in Switzerland and one of the biggest in Europe, Mendrisio's Pumptrack is ideal for those who want to perfect their mountain biking technique.

Info: www.ticino.ch **115988**
Search



Laveggio Plain.

Mendrisio

An easy trail offering stunning views over a wealth of different landscapes in and around the Mendrisiotto plain, distinguished by the presence of the lake and vineyards. This undemanding circular route is all on quiet asphalt roads, which are easy to travel by mountain bike. A route suited to the whole family and those who want to combine mountain biking with visits to cultural spots and local produce tasting.



Info: www.ticino.ch **121273**
Search



Walking and nordic walking.



Nordic walking requires the use of poles to help propel you along and was invented for the purpose of training cross-country skiing athletes during the summer period when there is no snow. Of course walkers can go anywhere when there's no snow. The great benefit of the activity is that it is twice as effective as ordinary walking: by using poles upper body muscles are used as well as legs, and yet they make motion feel easier because of the support given by the poles. Also it burns many more calories than ordinary walking. The poles themselves are shorter than cross-country ski poles, and they were first made in Finland in 1997—hence the name. The poles are not planted in front of the walker as one might walking poles, but are placed in a specific way that increases

use of the upper body. It must therefore be learnt correctly to get the most out of this fastest-growing fitness activity. Some hotels in Ticino can provide a qualified instructor. All the nordic walking routes in Ticino are marked with official direction signs; a panel identifies the road at the starting point, confirms that the route has been certified and indicates the year of inspection. The routes are located everywhere: around Locarno, Lugano, Bellinzona, the Riviera and in the valleys. But nordic walking need not be confined to designated routes. The summer-only Acquacalda route in the upper Ticino is particularly interesting, weaving between Campra and the Lukmanier Pass, surrounded by pine trees and stone pines.



Its starting and finishing point is the small church dedicated to Saint Anne, and it winds its way through a very attractive alpine environment. Even the remote village of Bosco Gurin has a 3 km trail for nordic walkers.

The Lugano area has three courses, the shortest of 5 km in Montagnola, a 7 km route at Sonvico and the longest of 9 km in Carona. The route in Montagnola, on Collina d'Oro where Hermann Hesse lived, follows a section of the footpath of the same name and weaves through a lush wood.

Around Locarno the best route is reached by taking the funicular from near the railway station, past Madonna del Sasso, to Orselina. Adjacent to the top of the funicular is a cable car station designed by Mario Botta for the start of

the journey to the mountain resort of Cardada from where a chairlift rises to 1,650 m at Cimetta. There you will find a panorama that encompasses the Gambarogno Riviera, the Islands of Brissago and the summit of Gridone. If you are lucky, you may get a glimpse of a chamois during the walk through the woods.

excursions.ticino.ch



Acquacalda nordic walking.

Bellinzona and Upper Ticino

Acquacalda is situated between Campra and the Lucomagno Pass at an altitude of approximately 1,700 m, near a forest of stone pines. The starting and finishing point is the small church dedicated to Saint Anne. The route proposed here winds its way through an attractive alpine landscape that is only accessible during the summer season; in fact, its geographical position and altitude do not permit the excursion in winter.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105882



Claro nordic walking.

Bellinzona and Upper Ticino

Claro is a village in the Riviera Valley that is distinguished by its white monastery of the Benedictine sisters that dominates the village from above. A significant portion of the footpath runs along the Ticino River and then reaches an attractive area among meadows and houses. The route is varied and is a round circuit accessible in all seasons and recommended for everyone.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105923



Chiodo nordic walking.

Lake Maggiore and Valleys

This is a varied route that crosses an enchanting wood where with a little luck you may come across some roe deer. After the start, which is 200 m from the arrival point of the Cardada cable car, you will find yourselves on a real panoramic balcony with a view extending from the Gambarogno Riviera to the Brissago Islands and to Gridone.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105833



Locarno nordic walking.

Lake Maggiore and Valleys

This beautiful scenic route runs along the shores of Lake Maggiore, starting from the harbour in Minusio and following the Muralto and Locarno lakeside promenade, until arriving in the Piazza Grande in Locarno. It is a flat route on asphalt roads, offering various detours and places to stop.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105851



Orselina nordic walking.

Lake Maggiore and Valleys

Pleasant circular walk along a mixed paved and natural soil trail with moderate elevation change, winding through the villages and the forests on the hillside above Locarno, from where there is a beautiful view onto Lake Maggiore, the Magadino plain and the Gambarogno mountains. Ideal for walks all year round due to the sunny location.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105855

 Search



Montagnola nordic walking.

Lake Lugano Region

This unusual route circumscribes Monte della Croce on the "Collina d'Oro" (Golden Hill) where Hermann Hesse lived a good part of his life. The route follows a portion of the "Hesse footpath" that enters an attractive wood. There are many panoramic views along the route, from Lake Lugano to the highest peaks of the Lugano and Bellinzona areas.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105905

 Search



Sonvico nordic walking.

Lake Lugano Region

The route winds its way along attractive footpaths and dirt roads. A view of the lake and the town of Lugano, as well as the limestone needles of the "Denti della Vecchia" can be enjoyed in some sections. The numerous points of interest along the walk make this route one of the most characteristic routes for nordic walking. Recommended in the spring, summer and autumn.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105907

 Search



Tamaro nordic walking.

Lake Lugano Region

This mountain route winds its way across the slopes of Monte Tamaro, which offer beautiful 360° views, until arriving at Monte Rosa. It starts from the intermediate cableway station on the line from Rivera to the Alpe Foppa and is best travelled during the spring-autumn period.

Info: www.ticino.ch 105908

 Search



Parks, gardens, panoramic viewing points.



One would be spoilt for choice in trying to decide which is the most spectacular park or garden in Ticino. Whether you are a botanical expert or can't distinguish weeds from flowers, it's impossible not to be captivated by the region's gardens, which are some of the finest in Europe. There are plenty of places, too, for those who wish simply to spend a few hours in the peace and quiet of beautiful surroundings.

One of the most famous is on the Brissago Islands, surrounded by the waters of Lake Maggiore. The main island of San Pancrazio is a natural gem, one of the most enchanting places in Ticino. The large park will fascinate you with its thousands of exotic and tropical plants with their myriad of colours and fragrances. Broad terraces in the heart of the Gambarogno Riviera host an impressive park and a nursery with a splendid view over Lake Maggiore and the Alps. The park provides ideal conditions to grow plants, which burst into





colour and fragrance in spring, thanks to the special climate. In Morcote, on the shores of Lake Lugano, one can savour the spring blossoms in the enchanting Scherrer Park with its architectural surprises dotted among the cedars, Mexican pines, camphor trees and Chinese magnolias. The park around Bellinzona's Villa dei Cedri is the pride of the town for its beauty and inclusion in the "natura in città" (nature in town) itinerary devised by the WWF. Two locations of particular peace and beauty are found further south: Villa Argentina in Mendrisio, a splendid Palladian-style building; and the villa that hosts the Vela Museum in Ligornetto. Both offer parks designed in an English style with elements of Renaissance inspiration and exemplify the successful union between

architecture and nature. There are even small parks in the mountains. The Naturetum park in Acquacalda received the "Svizzera pura" (pure Switzerland) award in 2006, and hosts species typical of the area. The visitor not only receives information but is shown how to observe and appreciate the fauna and delicate flora of the higher altitudes. Nature meets the transcendent in these enchanted places.

parks.ticino.ch



Bellinzona and its parks.

Bellinzona

In addition to offering significant examples of Renaissance architecture, the Bellinzona castles also host wonderful green areas, ideal sites for a pause in the shade of the historical and fascinating castle walls. Otherwise visitors can stroll in a romantic style park at the Villa dei Cedri Museum, characterised by picturesque ornamental vegetation and contemporary works of art.



Info: www.ticino.ch 97111



Botanical Park.

Brissago Islands

A real pearl in the waters of Lake Maggiore: the Brissago Islands represent one of the most enchanting places in Ticino. You will find the large botanical park fascinating with its wealth of plants, exotic and tropical flowers of a thousand colours and fragrances. You will have the impression of being in an earthly paradise while strolling on the avenues in the shade of palm and bamboo trees.



Info: www.ticino.ch 2636



Camellia Park Locarno.

Locarno

Awarded by the International Camellia Society, this locus amenus is one of the major pride of the city of Locarno. Nine hundred different varieties of camellias, set in a prestigious natural location near the lake, are the protagonist of "Camellie Locarno", an international event that takes place at the end of March. Don't miss the opportunity to visit this natural wonder!



Info: www.ticino.ch 84276



Gambarogno Botanical Park.

Piazzogna – San Nazzaro

The splendid shore of Lake Maggiore in the heart of the "Gambarogno Riviera", with its broad terraces, hosts a park and garden nursery extending over 17,000 sq.m with a splendid view over the lake and the alpine mountain chain. Thanks to the mild climate this park provides the ideal conditions for growing plants and flowers which bloom in multi-colour variations in spring.



Info: www.ticino.ch 85680



Lugano and its parks.

Lugano

There are numerous opportunities to escape into green open spaces only a short distance from Lugano's historical centre: colour filled parks and flowering gardens are ideal for your moments of peace and quiet. These small corners of paradise blend with the architecture of exclusive villas and historical buildings, offering moments of relaxation in places of absolute beauty.



Info: www.ticino.ch 96076 [Search](#)



San Grato Park.

Carona

The San Grato gardens in Carona are a natural treasure, featuring an extraordinary collection of azaleas and rhododendrons. In April and May, this unique explosion of colour in our canton, both in terms of variety and size, creates a lasting impression on the countless visitors. Inside the gardens is a villa, formerly a private home, which now houses a bar and restaurant. The gardens are surrounded by extensive woods where visitors can go on pleasant walks.



Info: www.ticino.ch 94113 [Search](#)



Olive Park and Footpath.

Castagnola

Lake Lugano's shore is famous for its particular Mediterranean vegetation, characterised by olive and cypress trees and rosemary plants which grow on the slopes and terraces facing the sun. The Olive Park and Footpath will help you to discover this area, guided by interesting information panels which will inform you about the growing techniques and the use of the centuries-old plant and its delicious fruit.

Info: www.ticino.ch 53416 [Search](#)



Breggia Gorge Park.

Morbio Inferiore – Mendrisiotto

The Breggia Gorge Park represents the first Geo Park to be inaugurated in Switzerland. A geological succession of rare beauty and scientific value can be visited from 2001, where mother nature has made available stratifications almost 2 km long, which cover 200 million years of the earth's history, between the Jurassic and present time.

Info: www.ticino.ch 52602 [Search](#)



National Parks, nature and rural cottages.



A rural legend has it that magical creatures emerged from the woods to build complex stone walls and complete buildings in a single night using enchanted stones, to help the poor and the pure of heart. The story is still recounted, and our relationship today with buildings that seem so perfectly in harmony with their surroundings is one of strong affection. Stone as a building material seems intrinsic to the farm worker's spirit and rural life. These buildings, which were once fundamental for agricultural life, have been adapted to modern uses – in most cases with sensitivity to their age and style. Some are now homes offering accommodation to visitors as bed & breakfast or as rural cottages (rustici). Some have been renovated to provide a degree of luxury that their original occupants would find astonishing; others have been simply conserved to offer a more authentic but comfortable experience. All are immersed in nature, in areas a short distance away and easily accessible





from the villages or towns of the valleys. Whatever the origins of this need to return to nature, it is easily met in Ticino where the region, and Switzerland as a whole, are strong in traditions that remember the past and our ancestors. The associations of the Saint Gotthard region are not just to do with the economic importance of one of the main trade routes across the Alps; they are bound up with Switzerland's entire history and its struggle for independence from neighbouring countries, as well as the drama of horse-drawn PostBuses struggling through winter storms and snows. Among the many natural and cultural treasures of Ticino are the "stone footpaths" in the Maggia Valley. The 25 different

itineraries over signed footpaths are suitable for all; they range from an hour to half a day and take in hundreds of stone structures, mainly in the lower levels of the valley where the walking is easier. As an alternative, the Blenio Valley to the north of Biasca is the perfect destination for those in search of open-air living or somewhere quiet to recharge the batteries. There are numerous holiday flats, accommodation for groups and rural cottages located at heights from 500 to 1,800 m. There are also rural cottages in Maggia Valley, Onsernone and Centovalli available throughout the year.

ticino.ch



National Park project.

Lake Maggiore and Valleys

The “Locarnese National Park” extends from the Brissago islands to the Walser village of Bosco Gurin. The varied nature and climate, which changes from subtropical to alpine, are typical. The National Park project aims to enhance all the treasures in this area, in collaboration with various organizations, associations and the local community, promoting tourism and regional products, in order to inject new impetus to the sustainable development of the region.

Info: www.ticino.ch 118032 



Hunger blockhouses.

Camorino – Bellinzona

The educational “hunger blockhouses” footpath follows a section of the Dufour line of defence in the Municipality of Camorino. Today, the five cylindrical towers which dominate the Camorino community can be admired close at hand along the route. The route also has information notices and explanatory panels among vineyards and panoramic views.

Info: www.ticino.ch 2795 



Stone Footpaths.

Maggia Valley

The routes named “stone footpaths” enhance the landscape and the historical and cultural wealth of several characteristic areas of the Maggia Valley. These itineraries are particularly well suited to families, schoolchildren and tourists who wish to learn about the stone constructions built by man over the past centuries.

Info: www.ticino.ch 85677 



Centò Rustici.

Intragna – Centovalli

Country-style cottages and holiday homes can be rented in the Centovalli, in the Onsernone Valley in the “Terre di Pedemonte” and in the upper Maggia Valley for you and your family, thanks to the “Centò Rustici” agency. The offer by “Centò Rustici” ranges from accommodation to leisure activities and to the sale of regional products. In addition, the “Centò Rustici” agency organises group events, such as seminars, guided visits, etc.

Info: www.ticino.ch 92193 

The Chestnut Path.

Arosio – Malcantone

The Malcantone Region, with its gentle green hilly landscape has lived above all for one fruit for hundreds of years: the chestnut. The “chestnut footpath” extends along the Firenescio Valley passing above Vezio to reach the Fescoggia village. The time estimated to complete the route is about 5-6 hours.



Info: www.ticino.ch 138369 [Search](#)



Path of Marvels.

Novaggio

This 7 km path in Malcantone winds its way past dry-stone walls, mills, forges, castles, kilns and mines. It is ideal for families and very undemanding. Thirteen noticeboards provide information on the attractions present along the path, which offers the chance to reflect upon and appreciate the ingenuity of man and the beauty of certain natural settings. The entire excursion runs through woodland.

Info: www.ticino.ch 138378 [Search](#)



Cement itinerary.

Morbio Inferiore – Mendrisiotta

The Breggia Gorges Park have a new attraction, thanks to the rehabilitation of the old Saceba cement works. Located in the heart of the park, the “cement trail” provide visitors with an opportunity to enjoy the natural, historical, cultural and educational offerings in the vast former industrial area, against a spectacular backdrop. It is a highly appealing route, with impressive natural scenery, tunnel environments and the remnants of the industrial plant.

Info: www.ticino.ch 117971 [Search](#)



Booking Online.

Ticino

The new digital facilities include the possibility of consulting a website that will enable you to book your country style cottages (rustici), holiday homes and flats throughout Ticino directly online. You can plan your holiday at your leisure using the online booking system to choose your ideal accommodation. The vast choice of ensures that your needs can be met throughout the year.

houses.ticino.ch



Alpine lakes.



There is something about water that meets a subliminal need in the human spirit, whether to gaze in awe at water crashing over rocks at a dramatic fall in a river or sitting quietly beside a glass-still lake. Water relaxes people in a different way from woods or mountains, and there is plenty of opportunity for such communion with nature in Ticino. Besides its two major lakes, it has over 130 smaller lakes.

Some are easily reached; others are more of a challenge. There's an easy and attractive route to discover the small Chiera Lakes in Leventina. More difficult but hugely rewarding is the Piora route which starts at Lake Ritom at an altitude of 850 m and reached by the funicular railway from Piotta on the route to the Saint Gotthard Pass. It encompasses

the following lakes during the walk: Lake Cadagno (1,923 m), Lake Dentro (2,298 m), Lake Miniera (2,525 m), Reno di Medel, Lake dell'Isra (2,322 m) and arrives at the Cadlimo Hut (2,570 m). On the return journey you will meet the inner Lake Cadlimo (2,506 m), Lake Scuro (2,451 m), the Taneda Lakes (2,304 m and 2,248 m), Lake Tom (2,021 m) returning to Lake Ritom. One of the region's rarest and most extraordinary geographical features occurs in Lake Cadagno; meromixis - the permanent stratification of two layers of water - is found in very few other lakes in the world.

In the Saint Gotthard area there is a spectacular half-day circular walk from Ospizio, an old staging post, using the old road before branching off on a service road to a dam.



The walk takes in the lakes of Orsino, Orsirora, Valletta and Lucendo.

Lake Retico is a surprising lake in the Blenio Valley and can be reached along a fantastic route from the Boverina Hut. Besides its constantly changing colours, the lake is noted for its geological features - perfect for that geography lesson. It takes several hours of fairly steep walking to reach lake Caneè, set beneath a scree slope in the Riviera but the views once there are sensational, and if you have any energy left, you can always continue on to the summit of Pizzo di Claro (2,720 m).

One of the more curiously shaped lakes is in the Lavizzara Valley, above Broglio. The name of the lake is Tomè, at 1,692 m.

The shape of the lake is reminiscent of a pear, and it appears to expand and narrow continuously depending on the position from where it is observed. The waters of Lake Tomè always seem to reflect something stormy, even on a glittering summer day.

alpinelakes.ticino.ch



Chiera Lakes.

Cari – Leventina Valley

You can drive up to Somprei from Faido via Osco or via Cari to reach the Chiera Lakes. These are two interesting lakes that are really worth visiting. The route is very attractive and there are no particular difficulties along the way. The small lakes are around a two-hour walk, with an ascent of around 620 metres.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3115
Search



Lake Retico.

Campo Blenio – Blenio Valley

Lake Retico can be reached from Alpe Predasca where an easy footpath leads first to the Bovarina Hut and then to the lake. Lake Retico has the appearance of a palette of colours with undefinable tones. It is characterised by its magnificence and its geological history of glacier and mineral deposits, waterfalls and erosions.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3127
Search

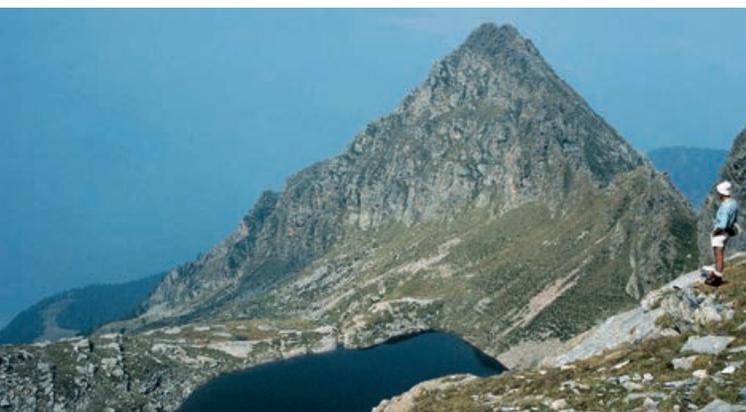


Cava and Lago Lakes.

Malvaglia – Pontirone Valley

High peaks encircle the itinerary that leads to the lakes creating a net contrast with the pastures. The small Lago lake is solitary and independent from the two Cava lakes which are located in the vicinity of the hut with the same name. All three lakes can be reached from Pont Sceng.

Info: www.ticino.ch 41475
Search



Lake Caneè.

Claro – Riviera Valley

Giuseppe Brenna refers to “an absolute beauty” in his alpine guidebook when referring to Lake Caneè. A walk several hours long is required to be able to admire and savour this beauty: the route that leads to Lake Caneè involves a long and strenuous excursion, but will be very satisfying in the end.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3194
Search

Lake Sfille.

Cimalmotto – Campo Valley

Cimalmotto is the last village in the Campo Valley and is the starting point to reach Lake Sfille. There is a daily postal-bus service operated by the “Ferrovie Autolinee Regionali Ticinesi” (FART – Ticino Regional Railway-Bus service) that links Cimalmotto with Locarno.

The itinerary does not have significant differences and can be completed in approximately 2 hours and 45 minutes; a detour to visit Alpe Sfille is a must. There are no catering facilities along the route.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3131
Search



Crosa Lakes.

Foroglio – Bavona Valley

The Crosa Lakes can be reached from the Foroglio village across the Calnegia Valley: the walk takes 5 hours and involves an elevation gain of 1,456 m: from the “Crosa piccolo” with its banks which drop vertically into strangely and surprisingly marine blue waters to the “Crosa grande” that is located a little higher. A really special excursion!

Info: www.ticino.ch 3118
Search



Lake Tomè.

Broglio – Lavizzara Valley

Lake Tomè is pear-shaped and is located in a very unusual scenario, giving the impression of closing and opening depending on the observer's position. Lake Tomè also darkens the objects that it reflects, and it has something stormy in the water even on the brightest summer day: it is a typical lake of glacial origin.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3133
Search



Lake d'Efra.

Frasco – Verzasca Valley

The footpath starts from the church in Frasco from where Lake d'Efra can be reached in approximately 3 hours. At a certain point along the route the visitor is completely surrounded by streams and the sensation is quite unusual. The lake is positioned in an attractive hollow, sheltered by the mountain and is delimited by larch trees and alpine roses.

Info: www.ticino.ch 3119
Search



Mountain huts.



The mountain hut represents the cornerstone of many a hike in the mountains, since many high-level walks cannot be done without spending a night at high altitude, and tents or bivouac bags are often not a sensible option. Those who want the challenge of hiking right across the massif of Ticino's mountains are grateful that these huts were created, some well over a century ago and many by the Swiss Alpine Club, here and in other parts of Switzerland.

Starting in the north there is the Cristallina Hut; completely rebuilt and inaugurated in 2003, it is one of the most modern structures of its kind in Europe and also the highest in Ticino. The Leit Hut is located lower down in Leventina and is the ideal starting point for a variety of hikes calling for differing levels of skill and stamina. The Föisc Hut, at a height of 2,208 m, overlooks the Saint Gotthard, Lake Ritom and all of the Leventina Valley and can be reached by climbing up from the village of Altanca; it is the starting point for hikes into other regions, equally fascinating





whether on foot or skis. Located in the Verzasca Valley, the Borgna Hut is immersed in the green highland pastures in the upper part of Porta Valley, at an altitude of 1,912 m. The hut can be reached from Vogorno or from “Monti della Gana” and is located on the Upper Verzasca Route, a longer distance path that links no less than five huts and offers splendid panoramic views of the Ticino mountain peaks. This footpath is marked white and blue—the category reserved for the most difficult routes, calling for experience of such terrain, the ability to navigate by compass and experience in coping with trackless ground if the path leads across a snowfield. In the Lugano district is the Monte Bar Hut in upper Capriasca at an altitude of 1,604 m, a destination in demand during summer and

winter thanks to its readily accessible position. The hut is open throughout the year and a popular route goes on to the San Lucio Hut. The many huts in Ticino are managed by enthusiastic and capable staff, who are often accomplished chefs, used to serving dishes to provide good and healthy food – polenta, braised beef, pork knuckle and typical alpine cheeses. There is always a special sense of satisfaction in reaching huts, and the shared love of mountains and hiking makes for a convivial atmosphere among the guests. Evenings in an alpine hut draw people closer together, part of a warm tradition that goes back centuries.

huts.ticino.ch



Adula UTOE Hut.

Blenio Valley

This hut offers a beautiful view extending from north to south-west, looking out over the peaks that surround the Greina and the Uri, Bernese and Vallesane Alps, without forgetting the highest peaks in Ticino. It is the ideal base for climbing up to the top of the Rheinwaldhorn (or Adula).

Info: www.ticino.ch 13306

Search



Brogoldone Hut.

Lumino Valley

The Brogoldone Hut is situated on a panoramic terrace of rare beauty at the head of the Valle di Lumino, the starting point for excursions and itineraries through the beautiful Pizzo di Claro region. It is easily accessible even in winter. The night-time view over the capital is a truly unforgettable experience.

Info: www.ticino.ch 13311

Search



Cristallina Hut.

Ossasco – Bedretto

The Cristallina Hut is the highest in Ticino. Rebuilt in year 2003 and situated between the Bedretto Valley and the Bavona Valley, it is one of the most modern huts in Europe. A magnificent view of the Basodino glacier and the surrounding peaks can be enjoyed from the panoramic terrace. There are several access routes, the quickest and most spectacular route passes near the lakes and via the Narèt Pass.

Info: www.ticino.ch 13317

Search



Piansecco Hut.

Bedretto Valley

This hut is the perfect base for various alpine activities and excursions. In winter there are various peaks available for skiing, including Pizzo Rotondo which, thanks to its shape and height, is the most popular peak in the Bedretto Valley. The Piansecco region is also perfect for excursions with children. In fact the hut is easily accessible from All'Acqua.

Info: www.ticino.ch 13329

Search

Alpe Spluga Hut.

Giunaglio – Maggia Valley

A completely restructured settlement that consists of 11 farmsteads, bearing the name of the surrounding peaks. The Spluga centre represents an extraordinary example of traditional rural architecture skilfully preserved until today that also provides the possibility of shelter for mountain enthusiasts: a real alpine pearl. The hut was inaugurated in 2005 and has 20 beds.

Info: www.ticino.ch 85580
Search



Borgna Hut.

Vogorno – Porta Valley

A hut that is immersed in the high altitude green pastures on the upper part of the Porta Valley. This is the most southern starting point to reach the Upper Verzasca Road, a trail that links five huts and provides splendid panoramas of the most attractive peaks in Ticino. This excursion is marked in white and blue and is only suitable for highly expert hikers who prefer adventure. The hut can be reached from Monte della Gana and from Vogorno.

Info: www.ticino.ch 13356
Search



Monte Comino Hut.

Centovalli

This hut stands in a beautiful alpine setting looking out over the Centovalli. It serves an extensive range of local specialities prepared in a modern kitchen. The relaxing atmosphere, mild climate and wealth of flora and fauna make it an ideal destination for relaxing holidays, study trips and seminars. Monte Comino can be reached by a modern cable car from Verdasio station. This is only a few minutes from Verdasio station. The cable railway operates in summer as well as in winter.

Info: www.ticino.ch 46388
Search



Monte Bar Hut.

Corticiasca – Upper Capriasca

This hut is frequently visited and has a magnificent view of the gulf of Lugano and its surroundings. A destination that is appreciated both by summer and winter hikers, thanks to its privileged and easily accessible position. It is open all the year round with the possibility of crossing to the San Lucio Hut. There are countless and varied possibilities of excursions on foot and by mountain bike.

Info: www.ticino.ch 13339
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Funiculars and cable cars.



Since the first European mountain railway was opened up Monte Rigi in 1871-73, the combination of rack railway, funiculars, cable cars and chairlifts has gradually opened up even more tracts of mountain that previously were accessible only to goats, ibexes, birds or the most audacious mountaineers. The first mountain tourists sometimes stayed in the summit hotels for months on end, grateful for the clean air and a much-reduced chance of catching tuberculosis. Today, ski lifts and cable cars are essential to reduce the time required in getting up the slopes and coping with the numbers of skiers who flock to them. But they are equally useful in summer for walkers, climbers and even mountain bikers, to take them quickly to the start of challenging ascents or descents.

There are more than 20 funiculars/cable cars in Ticino, and the canton can also boast an exceptional funicular railway. This is the Piotta-Ritom railway,





built in the 1910s for the workers who built the dam of the same name. The water behind the dam has been generating electricity to power trains on the Saint Gotthard line since 1917, and the funicular was retained after the dam was built and opened to the public in 1921. It remained an attraction not only because it provides access to mountain landscapes, but its maximum gradient of 87.8% makes it one of the steepest public funicular railways in the world. The railway carries 100 passengers every hour in each direction. Even mountain bikes are allowed on board.

The Locarno–Orselina–Cardada–Cimetta combination of funicular, cable car and chairlift is popular not only with visitors to the Madonna del Sasso but also to take children to the play area

and Indian village at Cardada. And then there is the Monte Generoso railway, the only rack railway in the canton. The 35-minute journey starts from Capalago on the shore of Lake Lugano, and there are two intermediate stations, to serve a grotto and an alpine garden. Special journeys are scheduled during the year with a vintage train, open carriages and a steam locomotive built in Winterthur in 1890, and there are also romantic night-time journeys to coincide with the full moon.

transports.ticino.ch



Ritom cable railway.

Piotta – Leventina Valley

We set out from the point of arrival of one of the steepest cable railways in the world to discover the splendid alpine landscapes. The cable railway has a maximum gradient of 87.8% and offers an unforgettable experience. It is rapid and safe, and ensures a transport capacity of 100 persons per hour in each direction. This is the starting point for numerous excursions on foot and by mountain bike.



Info: www.ticino.ch 999 [Search](#)



Monte Carasso – Mornera.

Monte Carasso

From Monte Carasso (300 metres above sea level), a modern cableway travels to the plain and Mornera mountains (1,400 metres above sea level) in just 12 minutes. Mornera stands on a gentle natural south-facing terrace, surrounded by green larches and firs, offering a breathtaking view over the Bellinzona area, the Magadino Plain and the main peaks of the Sottoceneri. The first intermediate station is Curzùtt, where a modern playground, a typical restaurant and countless excursion possibilities await.



Info: www.ticino.ch 998 [Search](#)



Cardada.

Locarno – Cardada – Cimetta

After reaching Orselina with the cable railway Locarno Madonna del Sasso, the ultra-modern cable car designed by the architect Mario Botta will transport you to Cardada in only 5 minutes, where you can visit the suspended catwalk, the recreation tour and the Indian village. You then climb to Cimetta (1,670 m), with the chair lift where a full-scale panoramic view can be enjoyed from the geological observatory.



Info: www.ticino.ch 993 [Search](#)



San Carlo – Robiei cable car.

San Carlo – Bavona Valley

Robiei lies at the foot of the Basodino glacier and can be reached in a little less than fifteen minutes from San Carlo. The raw beauty of the surrounding alpine landscape is rendered softer by an exceptional flora and fauna. The surrounding peaks are majestic and create an attractive frame for the numerous alpine lakes. The cable car service operates from June to October.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1002 [Search](#)

Verdasio – Rasa cable car.

Verdasio – Centovalli

The Verdasio station in Centovalli is 13 km from Locarno, and can be reached by the train operated by the “Ferrovie Autolinee Regionali Ticinesi” (FART – Ticino Regional Railway Bus services). The cable car to Rasa departs from here: Rasa is an enchanting and unusual car-free village. You will undoubtedly be surprised to find yourselves on a panoramic terrace that covers the whole valley; an excellent starting point for excursions and to relax. Comfortable accommodation and a restaurant are at your disposal.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1003
Search



Monte San Salvatore cable railway.

Paradiso – Lugano

The Monte San Salvatore cable railway reaches its majestic summit at 912 m and offers a incomparable view of the Lake Lugano Region and over the sumptuous chain of the Swiss and Savoy Alps. The site is enchanting thanks to its restaurant with a veranda and panoramic terrace, where you can combine gastronomic pleasures with relaxing moments.



Info: www.ticino.ch 994
Search



Monte Brè cable railway.

Ruvigliana – Lugano

The Monte Brè cable railway, after more than 100 years from the date of its inauguration, will take you from Cassarate to the peak of the mountain with the same name in 10 minutes. This is a panoramic balcony over the gulf of Lugano that enables a glimpse of Monte Rosa, the Bernese and Valais Alps can be caught in the distance.



Info: www.ticino.ch 995
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Monte Generoso railway.

Capolago

The only exclusive rack and pinion tourist mountain railway of its kind. The railway departs from the shores of Lake Ceresio to reach the summit of Monte Generoso. There are special trips during the year with a vintage train, open carriage and steam engine.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1064
Search



Other sports.



Every generation needs to stretch itself, and sometimes this entails a healthy dose of madness in devising extreme sports and activities to add spice to more traditional pastimes. Ticino has been in the forefront of devising new ways to have fun, by using unusual facilities to create alternative “worlds” and stimulating new experiences.

Our huge dam walls were just too good an opportunity to be left to the power companies. These enormous concrete walls holding back millions of cubic metres of water are some of the most impressive man-made sights in the canton, and someone had the bright idea of exploiting them as walls. To be climbed, using your bare hands. Or as a launching pad, to jump headfirst. Fortunately we are as well-known for our professionalism as for our enthusiasm, so you will be in good hands. You can cling to the hand-holds of the Luzzone Dam in Blenio Valley, which is the longest artificial climb in the world with a height of





160 m. It was equipped by the Ticino Alpine Guides in 1999. But it is only recommended for the most expert because of the indescribable sensations of climbing such an immense cliff - even for experienced climbers, a major adrenalin rush is guaranteed.

Jumping from the Verzasca Dam means performing the wildest jump in the world: a dive with an elastic no less than 220 m long. Pure emotion! For those who have lots of courage... like James Bond who made the jump in GoldenEye. In Giumaglio Valley you can descend the gorge walls by abseiling or you can practise canyoning. It's a demanding route for those who already have some experience, and the location is fascinating, with water basins and waterfalls of up to 13 m high, providing

a stimulating as well as scenically attractive environment. Another innovative activity is climbing tall obstacles without the help of ropes, where the use of special small transportable mattresses guarantees safety. This new style of climbing is known as bouldering and is normally limited to short climbs on large natural or artificial boulders.

Finally there is cliff diving. Though Ticino lacks sea cliffs, it has at Ponte Brolla such good cliffs for the activity that the European Cliff Diving Championship was held here in 2009. European athletes perform breathtaking dives and flying stunts, reaching speeds of 100 km/h. Only for the brave.

sports.ticino.ch

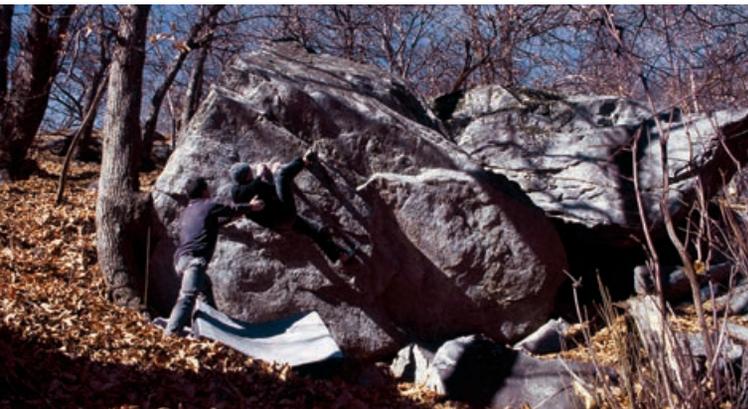


Sport climbing.

Luzzone Dam – Blenio Valley

The longest artificial route in the world was equipped by the Ticino Alpine Guides in 1999 and is 160 m high. It is only recommended for experts and the local tourist office will be able to advise you how to access the dam wall. A very difficult 5 and 6 degree level climb with guaranteed sensations of empty space.

Info: www.ticino.ch 97179



Bouldering.

Leventina Valley

Bouldering can be readily enjoyed in various locations in Ticino. There are enormous boulders in Chironico and on the Saint Gotthard Pass where this activity can be practised. An occasion for adults and the very young during the summer season, to test themselves on these rocks in full freedom and harmony, thanks to special mattresses that have been positioned at the base of the boulder. Enjoy yourselves!

Info: www.ticino.ch 97180



Climbing centre.

Taverne - Luganese

Evolution is a reference point concerning alpine and climbing disciplines, with the specific aim of spreading passion for sport climbing and bouldering. Evolution target novices, adults, children, schools, private companies, institutions and sports clubs, delivering a professional and quality service.

Info: www.ticino.ch 128081



Bungee Jumping “GoldenEye”.

Verzasca Dam

The most daring jump in the world: a jump with an elastic rope from the Verzasca Dam no less than 220 m high. The most courageous can try this experience rich in explosive emotions, just like James Bond in the film GoldenEye, surrounded by the narrow rocky walls of the Verzasca Valley.



Info: www.ticino.ch 77102



Tenero Sports Centre.

Tenero – Locarno

The National Tenero Sports Centre (TSC) focuses on promoting young talents and sports. It organises sports camps, training courses and events. The Centre provides a broad range of sporting activities that include individual open-air sports to team sports in the gymnasium, thanks to a series of quality facilities which are suited to the various sporting disciplines. The CST is regularly used for training purposes by the world's sporting elite.

Info: www.ticino.ch 90336 



Adventure Parks.

Mount Tamaro and Gordola

Aerial platform and rigging, Tyrolean ropes, ladders and bridges will enable you to pass from one tree to the next testing your balancing skills. Thanks to these parks, you will be able to harmonize with nature, experience thrills and emotions, but above all enjoy yourselves together with others. A natural and eco-compatible recreation in total safety. Discover your climbing and acrobatic skills!



Info: www.ticino.ch 96085 



Ticino Adventures.

Ticino

100% pure fun! Tours, family outings and extreme adventures in the extraordinarily beautiful natural setting of Ticino. Book an activity with a Ticino Adventures firm and receive a 10% discount (8% for parachuting) on every additional activity you undertake with a Ticino Adventures partner.

Info: www.ticino.ch 126993 



Quadri-way.

Ticino

Midway between a quad bike and a mountain bike, Quadri-way is the perfect way to enjoy spectacular excursions or quiet outings over any type of terrain in Ticino. A brand new means of transport suitable for all.



Info: www.ticino.ch 120736 



Golf.



Golf may look an easy sport but it requires 2 important qualities: calm and concentration. Many hotels in Ticino are located in quiet areas close to the famous golf clubs, which are ready to welcome you and help you to enjoy an exceptional stay. You can combine the sport with a thermal bath and a massage each day, by following the "golf, relaxation and fitness" philosophy. There are 3 green golf courses in Ticino: the Golf Club Lugano, Golf Patriziale Ascona and the Golf Club Gerre in Losone, and they are all 18-hole courses. The Lugano Golf Club, the oldest club in Italian-speaking Switzerland, was founded in 1923 and represents a miracle of golfing architecture, offering a technically difficult course on nearly flat ground. Its challenges arise from narrow fairways, confined by vegetation and the River Magliasina, which has to be crossed 8 times during a game. The greens are well defended by natural obstacles and well-placed bunkers. Reservations for tee time are recom-





mended both during the week and the weekends. The Golf Club Patriziale in Ascona is located in a 50-hectare park and has an elegant club house built in 1932; it is well-known in golfing circles for its Golf School which has a steel and shatterproof glass practice course that can accommodate up to 60 persons, allowing them to practise the full range of strokes. The Golf Club Gerre Losone was inaugurated in 2001 and offers a course constructed in an enchanting area between valleys and chestnut woods. The impressive feature, besides the beauty of the landscape, is the various difficulties built into the course that change from one hole to the next. A stream flows calmly through the golf course and forms various small lakes.

And this is not all: beginners have the opportunity of learning to play golf on the Sake Pitch & Putt courses, an innovative variation of the game of golf that enables the golf player to experience the emotional tension of playing when everything is at stake in the last few tens of metres of each hole.

golf.ticino.ch



Golf Club Patriziale.

Ascona

A top-level golf course in harmony with tradition and innovation, located near Ascona and overlooking Lake Maggiore. The holes of the Golf Club Patriziale wind their way among majestic trees, in a natural landscape of rare beauty and the course is defined as one of the most attractive golf courses in Switzerland. The course is mainly flat and will succeed in thrilling both champions and beginners.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1051
Search



Golf Club Gerre.

Losone

18 splendid holes set in an enchanting valley between the hills and chestnut tree woods. The course is particularly stimulating and technical, so much that major international tournaments are organised there each year, but also training sessions and games played among friends. The Golf Club Gerre has skilfully known how to associate the area's natural beauty with an interesting route for every player.



Info: www.ticino.ch 73283
Search



Sake Golf Academy.

Losone

The 9 holes of this golf club are outstanding because of the course's beauty and conceptual design, built in accordance with the most modern techniques and enriched with interesting obstacles which make the game technical and enjoyable. The course is particularly appropriate for players who are just starting to play this magnificent sport, the Sake Golf Academy will welcome you with its informal management to enjoy high-quality play.



Info: www.ticino.ch 73489
Search



It's Tee Time.

Ticino

What better landscape can provide the surroundings of a golf course, if not Canton Ticino? The green valleys mix with the green golf courses, the blue lakes and the blue sky blend with the water obstacles, making the relaxing sport an authentic pleasurable experience. Discover all the novelties, the promotions and the peculiarities associated with playing golf in Ticino while sitting comfortably at home.

golf.ticino.ch

Golf School Locarno.

Locarno

The Golf School Locarno overlooks Lake Maggiore and is immersed in the green countryside, and will provide you with complete facilities: a 6-hole course and a 9-hole course, a driving range, a golf shop and the expertise of professional instructors. It makes no difference whether you are great champions or beginners: the services and the experience offered will know how to satisfy all your sporting needs.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1052 [Search](#)

Golf Club Lugano.

Magliaso

The Golf Club Lugano is the oldest golf club in Ticino and still represents a miracle of golfing architecture. The course has developed continuously from the date it was first established and is able to constantly meet the needs of modern golf players, whether they are experts or beginners. The technical quality and the enchanting landscape make this club a not be missed destination a short distance from the centre of Lugano.



Info: www.ticino.ch 1050 [Search](#)

Golf & Wellness.

Ticino

Excellent hotel facilities, located in the green countryside and quiet areas close to the acclaimed Ticino golf clubs, are ready to welcome you for an exceptional stay. You can follow the Ticino philosophy of "golf, relaxation and fitness", by combining your favourite sport with thermal baths, massages and relaxing therapies to restore calm and wellness, thanks to these hotels which provide every form of comfort.



Info: www.ticino.ch 73493 [Search](#)

Don't miss these offers.

Ticino

We highly recommend you to prolong your sporty vacation in Ticino! We selected several appealing hotel offers for you which will meet your highest expectations. All the proposals enable you to relax in an appropriate way after your training.

offers.ticino.ch



Winter.



The low season crisis is not recognised in Ticino. Mountains, rivers and lakes and plenty of abundant green landscapes still provide plenty of possibilities, helped by the canton that has more sunshine than any other part of Switzerland. Visitors can go skiing, sledging, skating, walking with snow shoes or seal skins. And if the cold appeals to you, you will find everything you need here: kilometres of permanently snow-covered skiing slopes waiting for you to fulfil your desire for adventure. But you can also walk on the snow thanks to the many tracks ideal for snow shoes.

The Campra Nordic Ski Centre on the Lukmanier Pass, in a valley of incomparable landscape beauty, provides more than 30 km of tracks to practise cross-country skiing. The courses wind their way along ups and downs through clearings and woods of pine and alder trees. Flat areas border the slow-flowing and meandering River Brenno. Allow yourself to be surprised by Bosco Gurin in





Maggia Valley, a picturesque village situated in the upper part of the valley and dating back to 1253. With its stone and wooden houses, Bosco Gurin represents a return to the rural past, a past that characterises our alpine regions. Today, it provides 30 km of demanding slopes, a snow park, a descent for sledges and a children's play area.

There are numerous exercise trails all around the towns, on which to walk in total relaxation for those who don't want to venture too far. Bellinzona can be crossed from south to north along the River Ticino. You can relax in Chiasso beneath the Penz area, while you can try the Castel San Pietro footpath in Mendrisio. Around Lugano and Locarno the lake roads offer gentle walks. Locarno dresses up in grand style during the

winter and hosts a splendid skating rink for Christmas, open to everyone, for the joy of both adults and the young. For the Christmas local street markets, the entire Canton dresses up in white and red. As the Christmas period draws closer, large and small towns come alive with stalls, music, lights, the smell of biscuits and mulled wine, decorated fir trees and glittering shop windows. It's an opportunity to meet and to discover original presents, while giving the taste buds and eyes a treat, in an atmosphere that has a magical flavour. Though Ticino is a canton covered in the greens of forest and grass, it looks just as welcoming under a mantle of glistening snow.

winterseason.ticino.ch



Tracks suitable for snow shoes.

Ciooss Prato – Bedretto Valley

From the starting point at the Ciooss Prato ski lift, following the official signs and wearing snow shoes, a circular route can be taken while remaining in the area of departure or by descending in the direction of Ronco; a longer itinerary is also available on the right side of the valley.

Info: www.ticino.ch 96081 



Cableway Airolo.

Airolo

The resort of Airolo-Pesciüm is located in the extreme north of the Leventina Valley, only 200 m from the motorway exit. The excellent infrastructure which includes fascinating slopes, a Snow Park and an attractive Kids Village is well suited to expert skiers, families and nature lovers. The intermediate station is enchanting also for those who wish to hike in altitude along the footpath or take advantage of the catering facilities at the Pesciüm restaurant.



Info: www.ticino.ch 985 



Campra Nordic Skiing Centre.

Campra – Blenio Valley

The Nordic Centre on the Lucomagno Pass, in a hollow of incomparable landscape value, provides more than 30 km of tracks to practise cross-country skiing. The routes wind their way through clearings and woods of pine and alder trees. Flat areas border the slowflowing Brenno River, forming numerous stretches of water and highly expressive meanders.

Info: www.ticino.ch 26983 



Nara sledge track.

Nara – Blenio Valley

The Nara sledge track enables you to rediscover the delights of sledge outings with family or friends. Cancori can be reached by chair lift from Leontica, and the route continues from Cancori up to Pian Nara. From this point you start the decent towards the bottom of the valley on the longest track in Ticino: the route is 5 km long and crosses snow-covered pastures, magical forests and settlements of rare beauty... to feel young once again!

Info: www.ticino.ch 88843 

Skiing in Cari.

Cari.

Cari has two chairlifts: the first departs from a height of 1,600 metres above sea level and travels to the intermediate station at 2,000 metres above sea level. This station is home to the Ristorante Belvedere with its large panoramic outdoor terrace, as well as its welcoming interior. The second chairlift is a four-seater and takes skiers up to Lago di Cari, at 2,300 metres above sea level. The ski resort of Cari offers 20 km of ski runs and it's addressed to any kind of skier. The "Kid's village", the track for sleigh and the one for snowshoe are guarantee of fun to littles and non-skier.

Info: www.ticino.ch 26953 [Search](#)



Locarno on Ice.

Locarno

From late November to early January, the beautiful Piazza Grande is the ideal meeting place for local residents and tourists alike, offering the chance to enjoy the company of others in a typically festive atmosphere thanks to the magical outdoor skating rink open to all, the igloo bars, the Nordic-style houses serving gastronomic specialities and various different forms of entertainment, including the very popular live evening concerts. Locarno on Ice is a truly enchanting spectacle of lights and sounds.



Info: www.ticino.ch 78676 [Search](#)



Natale in Piazza.

Lugano

A great programme of Christmas-themed events, packed with amusement, entertainment and culture. Discover the magic of winter and the Christmas period in Lugano's Piazza Riforma and its city streets, with Christmas markets, plenty of seasonal local fare, a wide range of different performances and lots of fun.

Info: www.ticino.ch 124122 [Search](#)



Mendrisio sul Ghiaccio.

Mendrisio

The main winter attraction in Mendrisio is skating in Piazzale alla Valle, in the heart of the city, where visitors can enjoy a sparkling Christmas atmosphere. Mendrisio on ice includes a series of shows and fringe events. Free entry.

Info: www.ticino.ch 123436 [Search](#)



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Ticino on the web.

ticino.ch
[#visitTicino](https://twitter.com/visitTicino)





hikeTicino



Excursions in Ticino.



>4,000 km
of trails



29 Premium
Itineraries



>300 km mapped
with Google Street View
Trekker



>500 points
of interest



2 UNESCO
sites



App

The App **hikeTicino** will help you discover the itineraries closest to you.



Website

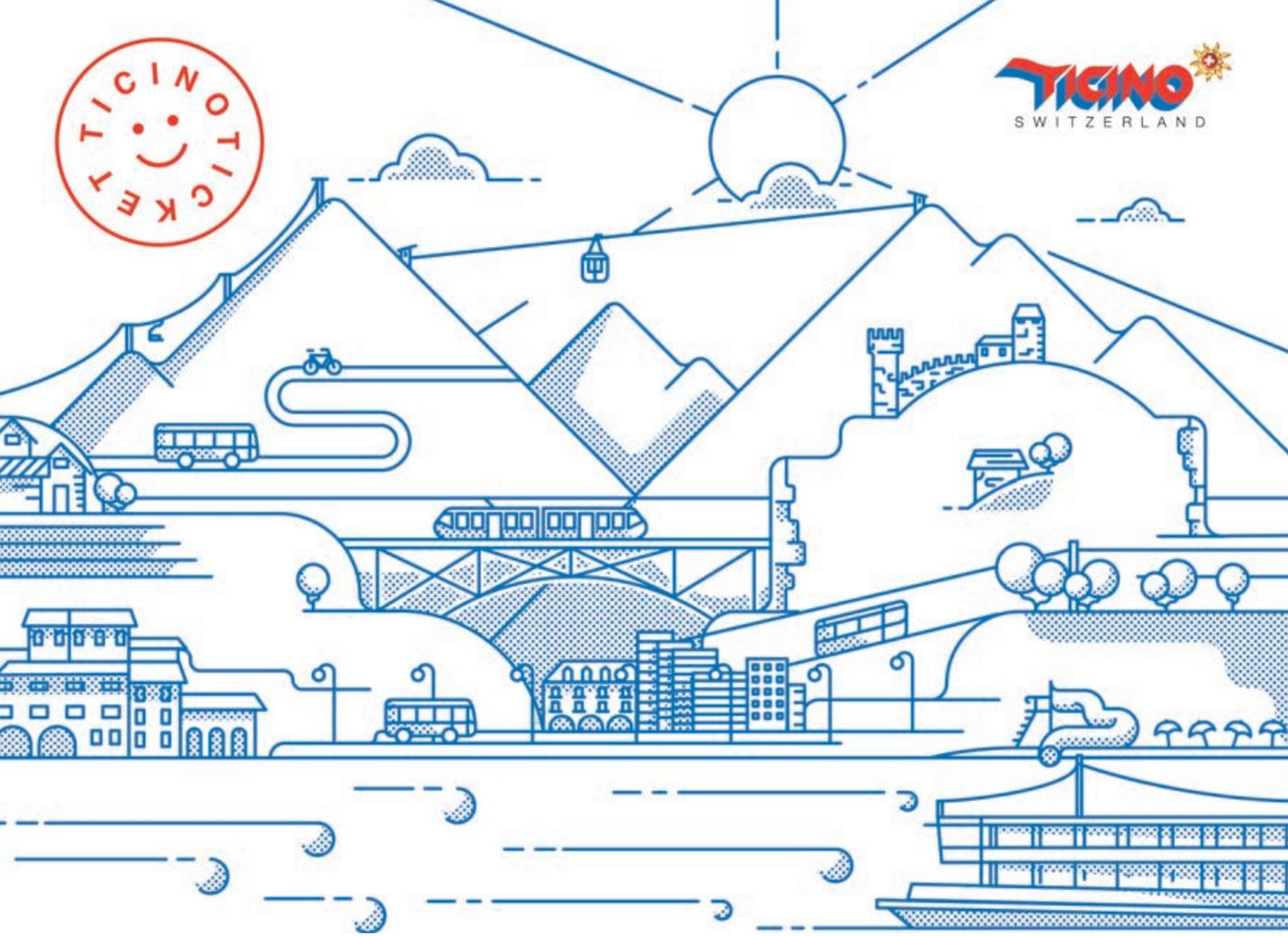
Plan your itinerary and much more, on the Ticino Turismo website.

hike.ticino.ch



Infopoint

Many tourist offices in the area are available to meet all your needs.



Ticino Ticket: travel within Ticino for free!

ticket.ticino.ch

The new Gotthard tunnel has opened, allowing transit of speed trains travelling from north to south. The trip to Ticino is faster and more convenient. To emphasize the importance of this historical moment and highlight the sustainable mobility, tourists staying in the destination benefit of a new product: the Ticino Ticket. In fact now tourists are able to get around for free in the whole

Canton by using public transport during their stay in 2017. The Ticket offers additional advantages such as discounts on different lifts and tourist attractions. The offer is proposed to guests who stay in hotels, youth hostels and camping site only. Everyone will receive the Ticino Ticket at the arrival upon check in and it can be used until the end of the departure's day.

FREE!



-30%*



* limited, see: ticket.ticino.ch/partner

-25%*



* 1-day travelcard