

Enjoy a wonderful day at Sirmione del Garda the Garda Lake most beautiful town and the amazing surroundings...

Meet your driver in piazzale Roma at **09:30 am** and let's start the trip to the Garda Lake close to Verona.



The sun shines over Lake Garda and in the summer it becomes a destination for national and international tourists, Italians, Germans, Dutchman, and all kinds of Europeans.

Lake Garda's temperate climate allows the development of lush Mediterranean vegetation, palms, oleanders, orange trees, lemon trees, vines, olive trees etc. Vines and olive trees dominate the landscape of the eastern shore of Lake Garda, where excellent wine and oil are produced.

Its famous wine are: Bardolino, Valpolicella, Bianco di Custoza, Lugana, Soave. There are more than 1.000 lake Garda hotel - hotels – various residences and holiday villages, huge camping sites, bed & breakfasts and agritourisms available for tourists on Lake Garda. Lake Garda weather for your holiday on Lake Garda.

Stop at Sirmione del Garda at **11:00 am**

Sirmione stands on a peninsula with a minimum broadness of 120 mt which stretches out for about 4 km in Lake Garda from the southern shore.



In ancient times Sirmione - “Sirmio” for the Romans – used to be a “road station” at the basis of the peninsula and a renowned place for holidays and thermal bath for nobles.

Sirmione still holds all the ancient ruins of the famous villa which is said to belong to the famous Veronese poet Caio Valerio Catullo who lived in Sirmione during the first century B.C., especially the part which stands on the peninsula was also inhabited in late ages (Byzantines and

Longobards built fortifications), it received municipal orders in the XII century, and from the XIII century it was ruled by the Della Scala family of Verona.

Sirmione Since 1405, Sirmione, as well as the other Lake towns of the area of Brescia, became part of the Republic of Venice.

Sirmione is nowadays an important touristic-climatic and thermal bath centre: the first information on the underwater Boiola source (69 °C), collected in 1889, date back to 1546; the first establishment dates back to 1898.



Free time to explore the city with a tailor made brochure and you can enjoy a lunch in one of the many restaurants in Sirmione center

14:30 Meet with the driver at the exit of Sirmione and enjoy an amazing trip on the lake on a boat



Sirmione peninsula tour takes about 30 minutes and you will enjoy the view of the Catullo's caves, the spring thermal waters, Maria Callas villa and other...

15:30 Back to Venice; expected drop off at piazzale Roma **17:30**

Tour duration: 8 hrs

Not included in the rates: restaurant

Fares 30 minutes boat ride included

- Car/Driver for the Tour 2/3 persons **Euro 470,00**
- Minivan and Driver up to 4/7 persons **Euro 590,00**

Fares without boat ride

- Car/Driver for the Tour 2/3 persons **Euro 420,00**
- Minivan and Driver up to 4/7 persons **Euro 450,00**

Sirmione

Sirmione has been settled since the Stone Age, with early finds showing that it was probably a small village of fishermen living in houses on stilts on the banks of Lake Garda.

Its strategic position near the southeastern "corner" of the lake and the defensive qualities of the peninsula meant that it was of military importance over the years. But the beauty of the setting also meant that it was - and still is - a popular place for people to visit.

Rich Romans, for example, built holiday villas on the end of the peninsula, of which one still exists:



Grotto of Catullus

The "Grotto of Catullus" on the end of the Sirmione peninsula is a bit of a misnomer as it is neither a grotto nor - contrary to what some tourist blurbs would have you believe - did the Roman poet Catullus ever live there. It was originally termed a "grotto" in reference to the run-down and collapsed walls. As far as the history goes, Catullus lived before this building ever existed (although his family did own a villa here).

The villa itself is a three-story building from around 150AD (Catullus died in 54BC) and the main sights to be seen are the supports for what was once a patrician villa for a rich family. There is a small museum at the entrance and the site can be visited (entry fee).

As an important strategic point, Sirmione was continually engulfed in the turbulent history of northern Italy, whether it was through the waves of invasions following the fall of the Roman Empire, the expansion of the Lombards, or the intricate struggles between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines in the Middle Ages (essentially between a political grouping supporting the Pope and one supporting the Emperor).

Those last struggles bequeathed Sirmione its major landmark, the Scaliger Castle (or, to give it its proper name, the "Rocca Scaligera"):



Scaliger Castle

This fortification, surrounded by water, was built near the end of the 12th century as part of a defensive network surrounding Verona.

Although the struggles between the Ghibellines and Guelphs featured largely in the history, the original military adventure onto the peninsula was to wipe out the population of Sirmione, who were heretic Cathars and 2,000 of whom were subsequently burned at the stake in the Arena in Verona.

The castle was maintained and extended first as part of the Veronese protection against their rivals in Milan and later under the control of the Venetian inland empire. After another fortification was built at nearby Peschiera, the castle lost its importance and was used as a storage depot. It was taken into government ownership at the start of the 20th century.

From the fall of the Venetian Republic in the days of Napoleon, the inhabitants of Sirmione enjoyed a less eventful life and were able to concentrate more on the fruit orchards and olive groves on land and the fisheries in the lake.

The modern-day concentration on tourism was helped along by the efforts of a diver who, at the end of the 19th century, managed to insert a metal pipe into a rock near the hot-water springs close to the northern end of the peninsula and thus bring the water to land for the first time since the Romans:



Thermal Baths

The Terme di Catullo uses the water which bubbles out of Lake Garda near the northern shoreline of the Sirmione peninsula. Metal pipes which supplied the Grotto of Catullo have been discovered in the Roman ruins (in fact, one theory says that it may actually have been a bathhouse and not a villa). The water - mineral-rich and at a temperature of 70°C when it leaves the rock - is used for health treatments in the two thermal baths and spas which exist on the peninsula. The principal one is located on the lakefront northwards from the ferry landing jetty.

Jamaica Beach 🏖️

Area archeologica
delle Grotte di Catullo 🏛️

Lido delle Bionde 🏖️

Chiesa di San
Pietro in Mavino 🏛️

Via Cesare Arici

Via Caio Valerio Catullo

Villa Cortine Palace 🏛️

Hotel Olivi 🏨

Via S. Pietro in Mavino

Via Punta Staffalo

Centro Benessere
Termale Aquaria 🏠

Via Vittorio Emanuele

La Speranzina 🏖️

Spiaggia 🏖️

Castello scaligero 🏰

Hotel Sirmione
e Promessi Sposi 🏨