



Historical Tour of Bellagio Town centre



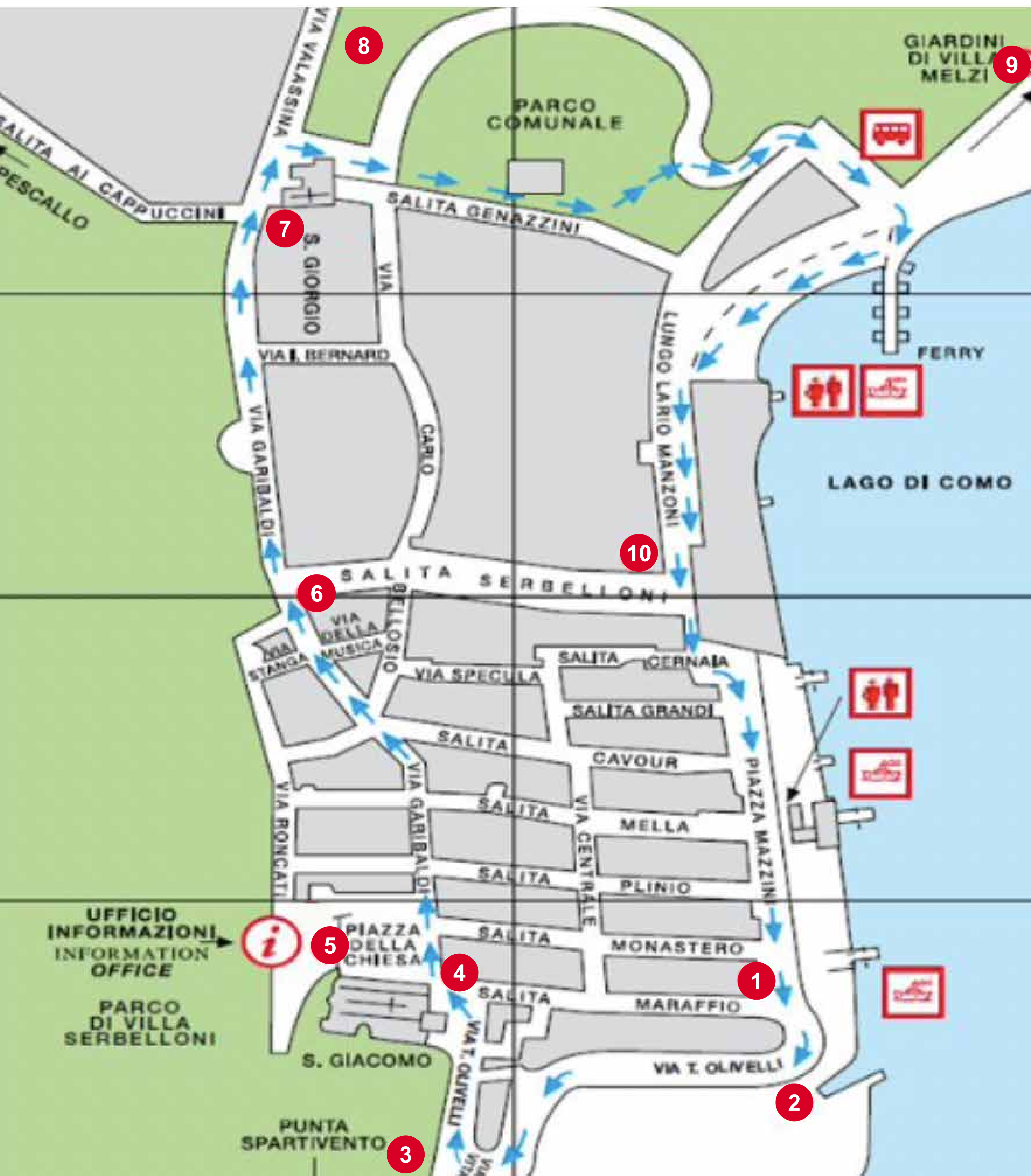
Historical Tour of Bellagio Town centre

Welcome to Bellagio!

This walk will take you through the **historical heart** of the Borgo district, one of the first inhabited areas of the town.



Duration: about 1 hour



1. Piazza Mazzini



We start from the boat terminal in Piazza Mazzini, where once the market was held. In front of you, you will see porches, where at their end on the left, you will notice a dark stone column with two dates that mark the ancient floods of the lake. Starting to see the lake again, take the road to the right and start climbing towards the church.

***Note:** The column marks the lake floods of 1829 and 1868. Over the centuries, Bellagio has experienced several floods, but not all of them are recorded on monuments like this one.*

2. Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni

Just around the corner on your left, you'll find the entrance to the Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni, originally built as a private villa and converted into a luxury hotel in 1873.



Note: *The hotel has been a landmark for illustrious guests such as Winston Churchill and Clark Gable. Today, it still maintains its aura of luxury and history. It is also one of the finest examples of neoclassical architecture on Lake Como.*



3. Punta Spartivento

Before continuing, I recommend a short detour to Punta Spartivento, where you can enjoy one of the most spectacular views of the lake: the three branches of Lake Como with mountains in the background.

*Note: The view from Punta Spartivento has often been celebrated by poets and writers. Lake Como was also described by Alessandro Manzoni in the novel *The Betrothed*, a classic of Italian literature.*

4. Church of San Giacomo



After returning, head to the Church of San Giacomo, a gem of Lombard Romanesque art dating back to the 11th century. From here, you'll have a beautiful view of the historic center.

***Note:** The church was declared a national monument in 1904. The bell tower, notable for its height, was built in the 18th century, but the lower part was part of a medieval defensive tower.*

Church of San Giacomo



5. Square with the Fountain



After visiting the church, stop by the square where you'll find a granite fountain built in 1897.

Note: *The fountain was originally in the garden of an English villa to celebrate Queen Victoria's reign. It was later moved to the square at the beginning of the 20th century.*

6. Via Garibaldi and Salita Serbelloni



Continue along Via Garibaldi, full of small shops, until you reach the famous Salita Serbelloni. This picturesque alley was once part of the ancient defenses of the Borgo.

***Note:** Salita Serbelloni was known in the Middle Ages as “The Ditch” because one of the main defenses of the town was located here. Even today, you can see the ancient defensive walls on the right.*

7. Municipality of Bellagio and Church of San Giorgio



At the end of the street, you'll find the Town Hall and the Church of San Giorgio, a small Romanesque gem contemporary to San Giacomo.

***Note:** The small church of San Giorgio, built between the 11th and 12th centuries, is an example of local Romanesque architecture with a simple but historically rich interior.*

8. Gothic Villa and Municipal Park



A little further ahead, you will reach the Municipal Park and the Gothic Villa, an old Anglican church converted into a private residence.

Note: *The Gothic Villa is an excellent example of neo-Gothic architecture, a style that was very popular among English aristocrats at the end of the 19th century.*

Gothic Villa



9. Kennedy Memorial and Villa Melzi Gardens



On the lakeside, you'll come across the Kennedy Memorial, dedicated to the President's visit in 1963, and the beautiful Villa Melzi Gardens, open to the public from March to November.

***Note:** The Kennedy Memorial was erected to celebrate Bellagio's connection to the U.S. President, who visited the lake in June 1963, just a few months before his assassination.*



Villa Melzi

10. Plaque for Marinetti and Liszt



On your way back to the center, you will notice two plaques: one dedicated to the futurist Filippo Tommaso Marinetti and the other to the composer Franz Liszt, who spent a few months here.

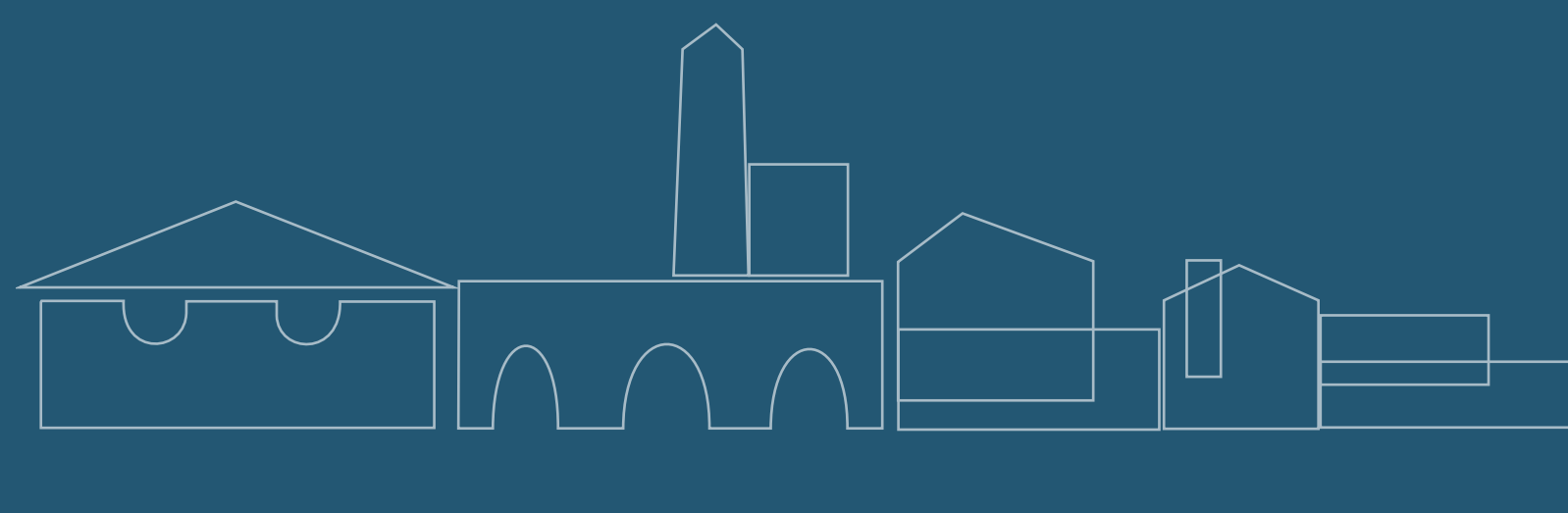
Note: Marinetti, the founder of Futurism, died in Bellagio in 1944. Franz Liszt, meanwhile, found inspiration in the tranquility of the lake, where he composed some of his most famous works.





BELLAGIO
— LAKE COMO

**Thank you and
enjoy your stay in
Bellagio!**



Contacts



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