

KNOWMADIC RESEARCH REPORT

Lake Garda, Italy — June 13–20, 2026

Order reference:	KM-XXXXXXXX-XXX
Prepared for:	Jonathan
Plan:	Adventurer (\$49)
Travel dates:	June 13–20, 2026
Travelers:	4 adults, 2 children (ages 1 and 5)
Prepared by:	Knowmadic LLC

YOUR DESTINATION AT A GLANCE

Lake Garda in June is one of those rare confluences of timing, place, and light where everything cooperates. Italy's largest lake sits tucked between the Dolomites to the north and the Venetian plains to the east, and in early summer it rewards you with warm afternoons (typically 25–26°C), long days of reliable sunshine, and evenings cool enough to make waterfront dining genuinely comfortable rather than something you endure. The southern shore — your home base at Peschiera del Garda — is the heartland of two of Italy's best-kept wine secrets, the crisp Lugana whites and the fruit-forward Bardolino reds, both made from vineyards you can practically see from your hotel terrace. From Peschiera, you're also ideally positioned for the two big day trips you've requested: Venice is an easy 90–110 minutes east on the motorway, and Lake Como is a similar distance in the opposite direction, which means the days balance each other beautifully without doubling back on yourself. Coming back with young children and grandparents in tow — and with a clear eye for avoiding the tourist crush — June is the perfect month to do it. The school-holiday peak hasn't fully hit yet, weekday crowds are manageable, and the lake water has just reached swimming temperature. The south shore towns of Lazise, Bardolino, and the Peschiera old town itself are genuinely stroller-friendly, and there are enough unhurried, genuinely Italian experiences within a 15-minute drive of your hotel to make this feel less like a theme park excursion (there's one of those nearby too, if anyone needs it) and more like a proper Garda deep-dive.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- **Passport/ID** — Germany is a Schengen EU member state; Italy is a Schengen EU member state. No border control, no visa, no special documentation required. A valid German national ID card is sufficient; your passports are fine too but not strictly necessary
- **Visa** — None required. EU free movement applies
- **Entry forms** — None required (no eTA, no ESTA, no pre-arrival registration)
- **Health documentation** — None required for EU travellers
- **Currency** — Euro throughout; same as Germany, no exchange needed

The simplest international trip you'll take. Cross the border and you're in Italy with nothing to declare except where to eat lunch.

TWO WAYS TO DO THIS TRIP

OPTION A

Deep South Shore — Quality over distance

Take your two big day trips as anchors — Venice early in the week, Lake Como later — and use the days in between to go genuinely deep into the southern Garda neighbourhood you haven't fully explored. This means a morning at Parco Giardino Sigurtà (one of Italy's most spectacular botanic gardens, 10 minutes from your hotel) combined with lunch at the watermill hamlet of Borghetto sul Mincio next door. It means an afternoon at the Olive Oil Museum in Cisano and a slow wander into Bardolino. It means a full afternoon on the hotel beach with the children, a cycling day along the flat lakeside path to Lazise, and a wine estate visit in the Lugana DOC region — which starts, literally, at your hotel's front door. This approach plays directly to the youngest travellers' schedules, gives grandparents genuine breathing room, and produces a week that feels rich without ever being rushed. Budget sits comfortably in the lower-to-mid portion of your range.

OPTION B

The Garda Grand Tour — Venice, Como, and the Northern Shore

Everything in Option A, plus one additional day dedicated to driving the spectacular eastern shore north: through Torri del Benaco, up to Malcesine, and onto the Monte Baldo cable car — a gondola-style ascent to 1,700 metres of alpine meadow with a panoramic view across the entire lake. It's one of the most dramatic experiences on Lake Garda, strollers are allowed in the cars, and the views at the top are the kind you talk about for years. The grandparents can settle at a lakeside café in Malcesine while the more active adults and the 5-year-old take the cable car, or everyone goes together. This option trades one relaxed beach day for one genuinely memorable outdoor adventure, and if the outdoor/adventure part of your trip vibe matters most, Option B earns its keep.

*Our recommendation for Jonathan: **Option B**. You've been to Garda before, which means the novelty of simply being here isn't the point — it's about finding the layer of the place that rewards a second look. The Monte Baldo ascent and the Malcesine drive are exactly that layer: few tourists who only come once ever make it that far north. Pair it with the Sigurtà gardens and the wine estates and you've built a week that's genuinely different from the last visit. Keep the day trips well spread, protect at least one or two genuinely slow days near the hotel, and the pace will work beautifully for everyone in the group.*

GETTING THERE

Two cars, two drivers, the Alps between you and Italy — here's how the route breaks down, along with what to watch for before you leave.

OPTION A

Classic Brenner Route — via Innsbruck and the A22

Head southeast from Stuttgart on the A8 toward Ulm, then continue on the A8 or A96 south toward Munich and Rosenheim, crossing into Austria at the Kufstein border. Follow the A12 through the Inn Valley and Innsbruck, then south on the A13 Brenner Autobahn over the 1,374m Brenner Pass into Italy, where the road becomes the A22 Autostrada del Brennero. The drive south through South Tyrol's vineyards and Trentino's mountain valleys is spectacular and genuinely enjoyable with children who are awake for it. Exit at Affi (signposted Garda Sud / Peschiera) and continue on the lakeside road to the hotel. Total distance approximately 560–580 km; estimated drive time 5.5–6.5 hours without stops, 7–8 hours total with fuel, kids, and a lunch break. Budget approximately €31–35 per car in one-way tolls (Austrian e-vignette + Brenner section toll + Italian A22 to Affi), plus fuel. **Critical note before you go:** the Lueg Bridge on the A13 in Austria has been under a lane-restriction renovation since early 2025 and remains so through 2030. In June this causes queuing, especially on Saturday mornings — which is exactly when you're leaving. Check Waze or Google Maps for live traffic the morning of June 13 and leave by 7:00–7:30am. The Austrian e-vignette must be purchased online at shop.asfinag.at for each car before you go — it's plate-linked and there's no physical sticker to buy.

OPTION B

Fernpass Alternative — via Füssen and the Austrian Tirol

If Lueg Bridge reports show serious delays on the morning of departure, the Fernpass route is the clean alternative. From Stuttgart take the A7 southwest toward Kempten and Füssen, cross into Austria at Füssen, and take the B179 over the Fernpass (1,209m) through the Tyrolean Alps to Imst, where you join the A12 Inn Valley motorway toward Innsbruck and pick up the A22 as before. The Fernpass adds approximately 50–70 km and avoids the Lueg Bridge congestion entirely — no Brenner section toll either. Slightly slower mountain roads but the scenery through the Tyrolean Tirol is outstanding and the pass itself is a lovely stretch with the children awake. Austrian vignette still required (same €10.20/car, same [asfinag.at](https://shop.asfinag.at) purchase).

OPTION C

Munich/Salzburg bypass — for severe A13 disruption only

If both options A and B face major delays (which happens occasionally on peak summer weekends), take the A8 east all the way to Salzburg and route through the Tauern Autobahn. Adds roughly 60–80 km and additional tolls but maintains motorway-standard roads throughout. Use this only as a last resort based on real-time conditions.

GETTING AROUND

With two cars and free hotel parking, you are already set for everything this trip needs. The southern Garda towns are well connected by road and the distances are tiny — Lazise is 10 minutes north, Bardolino 20 minutes, the Sigurtà gardens 15 minutes. One car is more than enough for any given day; taking both only makes sense on long day trips where passenger comfort across 2+ hours matters.

- **Your two cars** — ideal configuration; no rental needed; hotel parking is free; keep one car ready for shorter local drives and the other for the longer day trips to Venice and Como
- **Lake Garda ferries (Navigazione Laghi di Garda)** — the most enjoyable way to move between lake towns; stroller-accessible; runs Peschiera–Lazise–Bardolino–Garda–Torri–Malcesine; fares approximately €5–10 per adult per journey; children under 4 typically free (verify at navigazonelaghi.it); a ferry ride itself is a highlight with young children
- **Venice: Parcheggio Tronchetto** — Europe's largest car park, right at the Venice island entry; approximately €25–35/day; from here take Vaporetto Line 2 to San Marco; children under 6 ride free on vaporetti; leave the stroller in the car — Venice's bridges make it impractical in the city center; a baby carrier for the 1-year-old is essential for this day trip
- **Lake Como: drive to Como city or Menaggio, then ferry** — park at the lakefront and take public ferries to Bellagio or Varenna; Como lakefront is flat and stroller-accessible; Bellagio's old town has hills but the waterfront is manageable

WHERE TO STAY

No lodging arrangement needed — Hotel Bella Italia (Via Bella Italia 2/A, Peschiera del Garda) is already confirmed for all seven nights, June 13–20. The hotel sits 150 metres from the lake, has free parking for both cars, and the affiliated resort complex next door includes multiple pools with slides, a snack bar, and sports facilities — the 5-year-old will consider this the holiday's main attraction on any non-excursion day.

WHERE TO EAT

No dietary restrictions in your group makes Lake Garda's food scene wide open — and the south shore sits at the intersection of three great Italian food traditions: Veronese cooking, the Lugana wine country, and the Trentino Alps just up the road.

- **Gran Caffè, Peschiera del Garda** — breakfast · A proper Italian bar experience right in the old town near Piazza Cattaneo; espresso, cornetto, and outdoor terrace seating; the ritual of a standing breakfast before the day begins; €3–5/person
- **Osteria dal Baffo, Lazise** — lunch · Local trattoria a short walk from the Lazise lakefront; traditional Verona-style food (bigoli pasta, risotto, lake fish); outdoor seating; where the residents eat on a weekday; €15–20/person; no reservation needed
- **Watermill restaurants, Borghetto sul Mincio** — lunch · Several small restaurants line the Mincio River in Borghetto serving the town's signature dish, Tortellini di Valeggio (delicate fresh pasta in broth or with butter and sage); this is one of those meals you'll describe to people afterward; moderately priced but slightly tourist-premium; arrive by noon for good seating; no reservation needed for most tables
- **Vecchio Mulino Beach Bar, near Hotel Bella Italia** — casual dinner · Convenient lakeside option right near the hotel; solid for an easy first evening after the long drive; local fish, grilled meats, outdoor tables on the water; €20–30/person
- **Locanda Gallehus, Lazise** — casual dinner · Consistently well-reviewed, with a garden and lake views; known for fresh fish and grilled specialties, excellent local wines; perfect for a relaxed evening with the whole group including the children; €25–35/person; early reservations recommended in summer
- **Sardellina, Bardolino waterfront** — aperitivo and light dinner · The lakeside promenade in Bardolino is lined with spots for the classic Italian aperitivo hour (Aperol Spritz, Bardolino wine, small plates); ideal early evening with children running the lakefront while adults settle in; €10–20/person
- **Ristorante Al Cardellino, Cisano (Bardolino)** — date night · This is the one. A family-run restaurant nestled in an olive grove in the hamlet of Cisano, between Lazise and Bardolino, operating since 1977. The Modena family serves exceptional homemade pasta, a remarkable beef filet, and works from a 500-label wine cellar that takes Bardolino and Amarone seriously. Summer garden dining by tea-light in June is genuinely romantic. **Reservation required — at minimum one week in advance**; book via WhatsApp (+39 331 2251508) or the restaurant's website; prices approximately €60–90/person with wine; plan this as a standalone evening while grandparents enjoy the hotel with the children
- **Osteria con cucina at Piazza del Duomo, Trento** — departure day lunch · On your last morning, the natural lunch stop heading north on the A22 is Trento, approximately 90 minutes into the drive; the Piazza del Duomo area has several reliable family-run trattorias with outdoor terrace seating; order a tasting of local Trentino cuisine (goulash influences from the north, fresh pasta from the south, canederli dumplings); immediately after lunch, the Palazzo delle Albere park a short drive from the piazza has two fully equipped children's playgrounds set within a five-hectare historic garden — perfect for letting the 1-year-old and 5-year-old run before the remaining 4–5 hours of motorway home

HIGHLIGHTS AND EXPERIENCES

Your vibe — adventure, food and wine, city exploration — maps very naturally onto what the south shore does best, especially for a return visit that wants to go deeper than the standard Garda itinerary.

- **Parco Giardino Sigurtà** — ~€18/adult, €10/child ages 5–14, free under 5, €14 over 65; 3–4 hours; fully stroller-accessible; 10km from the hotel in Valeggio sul Mincio; 600,000 square meters of garden with an animal farm, a hedge maze of 1,500 yew trees, water lily ponds, and sweeping meadow lawns where the 1-year-old can roam freely; golf carts available to rent for the senior members of the group; easily combined with Borghetto sul Mincio next door for a full day; advance online booking available at sigurta.it
- **Borghetto sul Mincio** — free; 1–2 hours; medieval hamlet of working watermills on the Mincio River, five minutes by car from Sigurtà; cobbled paths, pastel houses, river bridges, and the regional specialty tortellini at waterside restaurants; one of the most photogenic and genuinely uncrowded villages in northern Italy; this is the place most Garda visitors never find
- **Lugana DOC wine tasting at Le Morette** — approximately €20–35/person for a guided tasting; 1.5–2 hours; Le Morette winery is one of the most respected Lugana producers and is located just minutes from the hotel; the Lugana DOC white wine is made from an ancient, clay-rich terroir unique to the south shore and rarely seen outside the region; advance booking recommended, especially for groups; note that one adult can stay with the little ones in the outdoor vineyard area while the tasting takes place
- **Venice day trip** — Venice parking approximately €25–35/day; vaporetto free for under-6s, approximately €9.50/adult per journey; full day; the iconic floating city is an unmissable experience, and the logistics are more manageable than they look; drive to Tronchetto car park, leave the stroller in the car (Venice's 400 bridges make it largely impassable), use a baby carrier for the 1-year-old, and take Vaporetto Line 2 direct to San Marco; the Riva degli Schiavoni waterfront has been made accessible with ramps; the 5-year-old will be captivated by the boats, the bridges, and a gondola ride; leave the hotel by 7:30–8:00am to enjoy the city before peak crowds; avoid Saturday for this excursion
- **Lake Como day trip** — ferry approximately €5–10/person; full day; Como sits in a completely different landscape register from Garda — dramatic mountains plunging directly into the water, art nouveau villas and terraced gardens, the famous Bellagio peninsula at the centre of the Y-shaped lake; drive to Como city or Menaggio on the western shore, leave the car, and take the public ferry across to Bellagio for a few hours of wandering; the lakefront of Bellagio is flat and accessible; bring the carrier for the 1-year-old if you plan to go uphill into the old town; allow this to be a leisurely day rather than a ticking-off exercise; best scheduled at minimum two days apart from the Venice trip
- **Monte Baldo cable car, Malcesine** — approximately €25–30/person round trip; 2–3 hours for the cable car portion; the drive up the eastern shore from Peschiera to Malcesine (~50km) is one of the most beautiful roads in northern Italy, passing through Lazise, Bardolino, Garda, and Torri del Benaco on a road that sometimes tunnels directly through the cliff face; at Malcesine, the rotating cable car climbs to 1,760m above sea level in 10 minutes; strollers are allowed inside; the mountain top has alpine meadows and full-lake panorama on clear days; grandparents can enjoy the lakeside promenade in Malcesine or take the cable car if they're comfortable with the altitude; advance booking strongly recommended at funiviadelmontebaldo.com, especially for June weekends
- **Lazise old town** — free; 2–3 hours; a 10-minute drive north of the hotel; one of the best stroller-friendly town walks on the south shore; fully car-free historic center surrounded by intact 14th-century walls; flat lakeside promenade, a picture-perfect harbor with swan boats and fishing vessels, a weekly Wednesday market that fills the entire town, and the best selection of family-friendly outdoor restaurants on this stretch of the lake
- **Museo dell'Olio d'Oliva, Cisano (Bardolino)** — free admission; 1–2 hours; Italy's first olive oil museum, housed in a working olive mill on the Gardesana road between Lazise and Bardolino; 9 rooms charting the history of Lake Garda's northernmost-in-the-world olive oil production; multilingual guides including German; culminates in a tasting of Garda DOP extra virgin olive oil; directly adjacent to Ristorante Al Cardellino (date night recommendation above) — worth combining as a half-day Bardolino excursion
- **Lakeside cycling path, Peschiera to Lazise** — free (bike rental approximately €15–20/day); 2–3 hours; the Ciclopista del Garda is a flat, paved cycling path running north from Peschiera along the lake shore; excellent for the 5-year-old on a balance or tag-along bike; the hotel can likely assist with rentals; the path passes through the vineyards and olive groves of the Lugana and Bardolino country
- **Gardaland SEA LIFE Aquarium** — verify current pricing at gardaland.it; 2–3 hours; a calmer alternative to the full Gardaland theme park next door; indoor, air-conditioned, excellent for the 5-year-old's sense of wonder and a good option for a hot afternoon or a recovery day after a long excursion; 10 minutes from the hotel
- **Ristorante Al Cardellino — date night** — approximately €60–90/person including wine; 2.5–3 hours; this is your answer to the "really nice date night in the south of Garda" — an olive grove garden in Cisano, candlelit

summer tables, homemade pasta, and a wine cellar that knows Amarone; book this before the trip begins; the grandparents and the hotel pool will hold the fort admirably

PRACTICAL NOTES

Italy keeps things straightforward for German travellers — same currency, same plug type, same time zone. The main thing to manage is that some popular Garda sites fill up fast in June.

- **Connectivity** — your German SIM works in Italy at no extra charge under EU roaming regulations; coverage is excellent throughout the south shore, in Venice, Trento, and Como; no local SIM needed; hotel WiFi available throughout the property
- **Payments** — Euro is the currency; you're already using euros at home, no exchange required; credit and debit cards (Visa, Mastercard) accepted at almost all restaurants, hotels, and attractions; carry €50–100 in cash for market stalls, farm shops, small beach bars, and the occasional cash-only trattoria; ATMs widely available throughout Peschiera and Lazise
- **Time zone** — Italy is on Central European Summer Time (CEST) throughout your trip — the same zone as Stuttgart; no jet lag, no clock adjustment
- **Emergency info** — EU emergency number is 112; nearest hospital is the Ospedale di Peschiera del Garda, approximately 2km from the hotel in the town centre; Verona's main hospital (AOUI Verona) is approximately 30 minutes by motorway for anything more serious; Italian pharmacies (farmacia, green cross signage) are well-stocked and often able to assist with minor ailments — a standard European pharmacy visit
- **Driving** — Italian motorway tolls are paid by card at automated machines or staffed booths (not cash-only); keep a card in reach; speed limits: 130 km/h motorway, 90 km/h main roads, 50 km/h in towns; the lakeside road (SS249) on the eastern shore gets congested on summer afternoons — plan day drives for mornings; Waze and Google Maps both perform reliably on Italian roads
- **Austrian toll preparation** — purchase the Austrian e-vignette (10-day, €10.20/car) for each car at shop.asfinag.at before departure; it's plate-linked and takes effect immediately; no sticker required; the Brenner section toll (approximately €12.50/car one-way) is paid automatically at the Schönberg toll station on the A13 — have a card ready

WHAT MAKES LAKE GARDA DISTINCTLY ITALIAN

Lake Garda doesn't feel like the rest of Italy. The north end, framed by peaks that look more like the Austrian Tirol than Tuscany, produces some of the world's best windsurfing conditions and a microclimate so mild that palms and lemon trees grow alongside alpine spruce. The south end — your end — is flatter and richer, where the morainic hills left by ancient glaciers cradle vineyards and olive groves and the lake water spreads wide and silver in the morning light. It's been a retreat destination since Roman times; the ruins of a first-century villa survive at Sirmione, and the Venetian Republic's defensive wall system still encloses the old town at Peschiera (a UNESCO World Heritage site). What the lake offers that most of Italy doesn't is a sense of ease: it's clean, well-organized, genuinely family-oriented, and the locals have been welcoming German visitors for long enough that the cultural exchange runs deep. Children receive an almost theatrical level of warmth at Italian restaurants — expect your 1-year-old to acquire at least one unsolicited biscotto and the 5-year-old to be treated like a small dignitary. The food culture here is built around the lake itself: lake fish — perch, trout, coregone — appear on almost every menu, usually grilled simply with olive oil and lemon. The wine culture is bifurcated between the eastern shore's Bardolino DOC (light, cherry-forward reds and a beautiful salmon-pink Chiaretto rosé) and the southern shore's Lugana DOC (mineral, aromatic whites from the Turbiana grape). The olive oil is among Italy's best — produced on what is, remarkably, the northernmost olive growing region in the world, where the warming effect of the lake extends the season just enough.

- **Tippling** — not mandatory or expected in Italy; rounding up to the nearest €5 or leaving €1–2/person at a sit-down meal is warm and appreciated but never required; taxi drivers: round up; guided tour operators: €5–10/person
- **Italian meal rhythm** — lunch runs 12:00–2:30pm, dinner from 7:30pm; arriving at 7:30 is considered early and you'll have your pick of tables; arriving at 9pm is the local norm; for a family with a 1-year-old, 7:30 is perfect
- **Passeggiata** — in the early evening before dinner, the lakefront promenades fill with families, couples, and grandparents doing the Italian ritual evening walk; join it in Lazise or Bardolino with the children; this is free, slow, beautiful, and very Italian

- **Language** — Italian is appreciated; a few words of greeting go a long way; the south shore towns are well-versed in German (more so than English in some cases), which makes this trip uniquely easy for Stuttgart-based travellers; menus often have German translations

YOUR BUDGET SNAPSHOT

Your stated budget of \$2,500–\$5,000 (excluding transport) covers this trip comfortably at a balanced pace, with room to splurge on the date night and one or two premium experiences without pressure. The anchor saving is the hotel, which is already handled. Below is a working estimate for the week.

Activities and experiences (4 adults, 2 children, 7 days)	~\$500–750
Food and dining (7 days, group of 6)	~\$1,050–1,400
Ground transport — ferries, Venice parking, local tolls	~\$150–250
Travel insurance (4 adults)	~\$150–300
Miscellaneous, incidentals, and buffer	~\$200–350
Total estimated (excl. accommodation and transport to destination)	\$2,050–3,050

*Where to splurge: **the date night at Al Cardellino** — it is genuinely worth the €120–180 for two, book it early; **and the Monte Baldo cable car** — a €100–120 investment for the whole group that produces the trip's most spectacular photograph. Where to save: the Olive Oil Museum (free), Borghetto sul Mincio (free), and the Lazise promenade (free) are all zero-cost experiences that rival paid attractions in quality; packing a picnic from the Peschiera market and having lunch at Sigurtà's meadow is a fraction of the cost of a restaurant meal and arguably more enjoyable.*

WEATHER AND WHAT TO PACK

Lake Garda in June delivers reliably warm, sunny days averaging 25–26°C with cool, pleasant evenings around 15–17°C — perfect for outdoor activity by day and terrace dining by night without sweating through it. Expect around 11–12 days of some rainfall during the month, almost always in the form of brief afternoon thunderstorms that sweep in from the mountains and clear within an hour; they are more dramatic than inconvenient. The lake water reaches approximately 20°C from June onward — refreshing rather than cold, and the children will want to be in it. The one seasonal note worth planning around: UV index on an open lake is significantly higher than in a city, amplified by water reflection, and the fair skin of small children burns faster than expected. Start sunscreen earlier than you think necessary.

- **Baby carrier** — non-negotiable for Venice; leave the stroller in the Tronchetto car park and carry the 1-year-old through the city; it also frees you up in any cobblestoned hillside town (Bellagio, Malcesine old town)
- **Compact stroller** — excellent for Peschiera, Lazise, Sigurtà, the Como lakefront, and most south shore promenades; bring a rain cover
- **Water shoes** — the lake beaches throughout the south shore are pebbly; mandatory for comfortable paddling for children and adults; adults' sandals won't cut it
- **SPF 50+ sunscreen** — generously applied for children; the lake reflection doubles UV exposure on the water; buy in bulk before you leave (cheaper in Germany)
- **Light packable rain jacket** — one per person; the afternoon thunderstorms are brief but immediate; it lives in the day bag and comes out twice
- **Evening layer (fleece or light sweater)** — for each family member; lakefront evenings at 15–17°C feel fresh after a hot day; grandparents in particular will want this for terrace dinners
- **Wide-brim sun hats** — for adults, the 5-year-old, and a sun hat with chin strap for the 1-year-old; midday sun on open promenades is relentless
- **Lightweight picnic blanket** — for the Sigurtà meadow, the Borghetto riverside, and any impromptu lakeside lunch; rolls into nothing, used constantly
- **Car travel pack for children** — snacks, small toys, and a simple screen setup for the 5.5–7 hour drive each way; the 1-year-old will need breaks approximately every 90 minutes
- **Portable first aid kit** — child-safe fever reducer, plasters, motion sickness tablets for the mountain passes; Italian pharmacies are excellent but having the basics in the car saves you a stop
- **Italian cash (€50–100)** — for markets, farm shops, and cash-preferred small restaurants; you don't need much but you'll want some
- **Power bank** — for all-day excursions like Venice and Como where you'll be navigating, photographing, and using maps extensively; one per car at minimum

A NOTE FROM YOUR KNOWMADIC TRAVEL EXPERT

Jonathan, this is a good brief to work with — the combination of explicit must-haves (Venice, Como, wine, date night), a clear sense of what you're trying to avoid (tourist-trap overload), and a base hotel that is genuinely excellent for a group like yours gives the itinerary a strong foundation. The south shore of Lake Garda in June is one of those places that rewards exactly the kind of traveller who has been before and now wants to go deeper rather than wider. The Lugana wine estates are five minutes from your hotel. Borghetto sul Mincio is fifteen minutes. The Sigurtà gardens are one of the most beautiful parks in Europe and most visitors drive past the exit without knowing it exists. The pieces that need attention before the trip begins are the Al Cardellino reservation (do this this week — the restaurant's own guidance says minimum one week, and June fills up), the Austrian e-vignette for both cars (asfinag.at, takes five minutes, do it early), and a traffic check on the Lueg Bridge situation on the morning of June 13. A 7:00am departure from Stuttgart puts you ahead of the Saturday tourist wave and gives you time for a proper lunch stop in Trento without arriving at the hotel exhausted. On the return side, that same Trento stop — piazza lunch, then 20 minutes at the Palazzo delle Albere park playgrounds — is exactly the kind of pause a 1-year-old needs before the final stretch home. What you now have from this report is a clear picture of what this trip can be: the experiences worth booking, the ones worth simply showing up for, and the ones most visitors miss entirely. The next step is turning that picture into an actual sequence — which days carry the weight of a long day trip, which days protect the grandparents and the toddler, and which evening gets reserved for you and your wife in an olive grove in Bardolino. That's the itinerary plan, and we're ready to build it the moment we hear your selections. Warm regards from the Knowmadic team. Buon viaggio.

YOUR SELECTIONS

→ **MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS** ←

Or check the boxes below and email this document to info@knowmadic.net

*Jonathan, tap ****MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS**** above to submit your picks. We'll start building your complete day-by-day itinerary as soon as we receive them.*

TRIP APPROACH

- ☐ **Option A:** Option A — Deep South Shore: Quality over distance
- ☐ **Option B:** Option B — The Garda Grand Tour: Venice, Como, and the Northern Shore
- ☐ **Option C:** A blend of both — please describe: _____

MODE OF TRAVEL

- ☐ **Option A:** Classic Brenner Route — A8/A93/A13/A22 via Innsbruck, ~560km, ~5.5–6.5hrs drive, approx. €31–35/car in one-way tolls; buy Austrian e-vignette at asfinag.at in advance
- ☐ **Option B:** Fernpass Alternative — A7 via Füssen/Nassereith/Imst then A12/A22, ~60km longer but avoids Lueg Bridge congestion entirely; no Brenner section toll; same Austrian e-vignette required
- ☐ **Option C:** We'll decide based on traffic conditions on the morning of June 13 — please include both route details in our itinerary notes
- ☐ **Option D:** Something else / not sure yet — please advise: _____

QUESTIONS OR NOTES FOR YOUR TRAVEL EXPERT

- ☐ **Option A:** No additional questions
- ☐ **Option B:** I have questions — notes: _____

Ngā mihi — warm regards from Knowmadic.
