

# Road Trip Itinerary B: Dolomites & Venice

Scooby Travel Planning

June 2026

## ITINERARY OPTION B: Lake Como, Innsbruck, Dolomites & Venice

### Milan → Mondsee → Cortina d'Ampezzo → Venice → Milan

**Dates:** June 24-30, 2026 (7 days)

**Theme:** Alpine Lakes, Spectacular Passes, UNESCO Mountains & Lagoon City

**Pace:** Relaxed with time to enjoy scenery and meals

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## PART 1: INBOUND - Milan to Mondsee

Same as Option A

### DAY 1: TUESDAY JUNE 24 - Milan to Chiavenna

**Theme:** Lake Como Beauty & Alpine Approach

**Driving:** ~140 km, 2.5 hours (with stops)

#### Morning: Depart Milan (9:00 AM)

- Pick up rental car in Milan
- Coffee near rental location
- Head north on A9 toward Lake Como

#### Late Morning: Lake Como Exploration (10:30 AM - 2:00 PM)

**Varenna (10:30 AM - 12:30 PM) - Walk of Lovers (Passeggiata degli Innamorati):** Scenic lakeside stroll - **Villa Monastero:** Gardens extending to lake (€10, 45 min) - **Varenna Old Town:** Narrow cobblestone streets

**Lunch in Varenna (12:30 PM - 2:00 PM) - Restaurant:** Il Cavatappi - Lakeside terrace, fresh lake fish - Try: Risotto with perch - Price: €25-35 per person

**Afternoon: Scenic Drive to Chiavenna (2:00 PM - 5:00 PM)**

**Route:** Varenna → Menaggio → Colico → Chiavenna

**Scenic Stops:** - **Piona Abbey** (12th century, free, 20 min) - Views of Grigne mountains - Lakeside drive on SP72

**Evening: Chiavenna (5:00 PM)**

**Explore:** - Historic center, Piazza Salis - Bregaglia Valley viewpoint

**Dinner (8:00 PM) - Osteria del Porto** - Valtellina cuisine: Pizzoccheri, Bresaola - Price: €30-40 per person

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**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 - Chiavenna to Innsbruck**

**Theme:** Spectacular Alpine Passes

**Driving:** ~280 km, 4-5 hours (with stops)

**Morning: Depart Chiavenna (9:00 AM)**

- Breakfast at **Caffè delle Alpi**
- Fuel up (last Italian gas)

**Late Morning: Maloja Pass (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM)**

**Chiavenna → Maloja Pass (45 min) - Val Bregaglia:** Narrow valley, granite peaks - **Soglio:** (Optional) Gorgeous mountain village

**Maloja Pass Summit (1,815m)** - Views of Engadine Valley - Coffee at Hotel Maloja Kulm - Time: 30 minutes

**Midday: Engadine to Reschen Pass (12:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**

**Route:** Maloja → Reschen Pass

**Reschensee with Submerged Bell Tower** - Iconic photo spot - Walk to the bell tower

**Lunch (1:00 PM) - Seegasthof or Reschener Stube** - South Tyrolean: Schlutzkrapfen, Speckknödel - Views of submerged church - Price: €20-30 per person

**Afternoon: To Innsbruck (3:00 PM - 6:00 PM)**

**Route:** Nauders → Landeck → Innsbruck

**Optional:** Swarovski Crystal Worlds in Wattens (1 hour detour)

**Evening: Innsbruck (6:00 PM)**

**Explore:** - Old Town, Golden Roof - Maria-Theresien-Straße

**Dinner (8:00 PM) - Stiftskeller** - Tyrolean: Gröstl, Kasspatzen - Price: €25-35 per person

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## **DAY 3: THURSDAY JUNE 26 - Innsbruck to Mondsee**

**Theme:** Morning in Innsbruck, Easy Drive to Wedding

**Driving:** ~180 km, 2.5 hours

**Morning: Innsbruck (9:00 AM - 12:30 PM)**

**Nordkette Mountain Experience (Recommended) -**

Hungerburgbahn funicular - Seegrube (1,905m) panoramic terrace -

Time: 2-3 hours - Cost: ~€40 return

**Brunch (12:00 PM) - Café Mundingplatz** - Tyrolean breakfast -

Price: €15-20 per person

**Afternoon: Drive to Mondsee (1:30 PM - 4:00 PM)**

**Route:** Innsbruck → Wörgl → St. Johann → Lofer → Salzburg → Mondsee

**Optional:** Kufstein Fortress (30 min from Innsbruck)

**Arrive Mondsee by 4:00 PM**

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## **PART 2: WEDDING WEEKEND - Mondsee**

**FRIDAY JUNE 27 & SATURDAY JUNE 28**

- Wedding events as scheduled
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## **PART 3: OUTBOUND - Mondsee to Milan (Option B)**

**DAY 5: SUNDAY JUNE 29 - Mondsee to Cortina d'Ampezzo**

**Theme:** Into the Heart of the Dolomites

**Driving:** ~250 km, 4.5 hours (with many scenic stops)

**Late Morning: Depart Mondsee (11:00 AM)**

- Sleep in after wedding
- Brunch at hotel
- Leisurely checkout

**Midday: Through Austria to Italy (12:00 PM - 2:00 PM)**

**Route:** Mondsee → Salzburg → Bischofshofen → Zell am See → Mittersill

**Optional Quick Salzburg Stop (1 hour):** - Just Mirabell Gardens and Getreidegasse if desired - Or drive straight through

**Scenic Drive: - Hohe Tauern mountains - Zell am See** (glimpse of lake) - **Grossglockner option:** If you want to add the famous pass (2-3 hours extra)

**Afternoon: Felbertauern Tunnel to Lienz (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)**

**Route:** Mittersill → Felbertauern Tunnel → Lienz

**Felbertauern Tunnel** - 5.3 km tunnel through mountains - Connects Salzburg region to East Tyrol - Dramatic exit into different landscape

**Lienz (Optional Coffee Stop)** - East Tyrol's main town - Medieval Schloss Bruck - **Coffee:** Café Zentral

**Late Afternoon: Into the Dolomites (4:00 PM - 6:30 PM)**

**Route:** Lienz → Sillian → San Candido → Cortina

**This is where it gets spectacular:**

**Sillian → San Candido (Border Crossing)** - Cross from Austria to Italy - Puster Valley scenery - **San Candido:** Pretty alpine town (quick stop if time)

**Great Dolomite Road Approaches** - Mountains become dramatic limestone peaks - The famous Dolomite scenery unfolds

**Arrive Cortina d'Ampezzo (6:30 PM)**

**Cortina - "Pearl of the Dolomites"** - Glamorous ski resort town - Surrounded by iconic peaks - Italian chic meets Alpine scenery

**Evening Exploration: - Corso Italia:** Main pedestrian street - **Piazza Roma:** Central square - **Window shopping:** Luxury boutiques - **Mountain views:** Every direction you look

**Dinner (8:00 PM) - Restaurant Recommendation:** Tivoli - Elegant, traditional Cortina dining - Try: Canederli (bread dumplings), venison, polenta - Good wine list - Price: €40-60 per person

**Alternative:** El Camineto (more rustic, Ladin specialties)

**Evening: - Aperitivo:** Bar Corso or Enoteca Cortina - Aperol Spritz with mountain views - Snacks included

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**DAY 6: MONDAY JUNE 30 - Cortina to Venice**

**Theme:** Dolomites Morning Spectacle & Grand Canal Arrival

**Driving:** ~160 km, 2 hours (but spend morning in mountains)

**Morning: Dolomites Exploration (9:00 AM - 1:00 PM)**

**This is the highlight - take your time!**

**Option 1: Great Dolomite Road Loop (Recommended)** - Cortina → Lake Misurina → Tre Cime → Passo Falzarego → Cortina - **Time:** 3-4 hours with stops - **Distance:** 100 km loop

**Lake Misurina (9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)** - “Pearl of the Dolomites” - Crystal clear lake reflecting Tre Cime - **Coffee:** Lakeside café - **Walk:** 30-minute lakeside stroll

**Tre Cime di Lavaredo Viewpoint (11:00 AM - 12:00 PM) - The Three Peaks** - most iconic Dolomite view - Drive to Rifugio Auronzo (€30 toll) - 30-minute walk to famous viewpoint - **Alternative:** View from below if not paying toll

**Passo Falzarego (12:30 PM - 1:00 PM)** - 2,105m elevation - WWI open-air museum (trenches, tunnels) - **Lunch:** Mountain hut restaurant - Try: Kaiserschmarrn (shredded pancake), Speckknödel - Price: €15-25 per person

**Afternoon: Drive to Venice (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM)**

**Route:** Cortina → SS51 → A27 → Venice

**The Drive:** - Descend from mountains to Veneto plains - Dolomites fade into rolling hills - Enter Venice lagoon area

**Arrive Venice (4:00 PM)**

**Important:** Return rental car at **Piazzale Roma** - Venice is car-free - Park in garage (€30-40 per day if staying overnight) - Or return car and use vaporetto/walking

**Late Afternoon/Evening: Venice Magic (5:00 PM - Evening)**

**Vaporetto to San Marco** (if car returned) - Water bus from Piazzale Roma - See Grand Canal for first time

**St. Mark's Square (5:30 PM) - St. Mark's Basilica:** Byzantine glory (free entry) - **Doge's Palace:** Exterior marvel - **Campanile:** Bell tower (€10 for elevator to top) - **Caffè Florian:** Historic café (expensive but iconic)

**Rialto Bridge (7:00 PM)** - Walk across iconic bridge - **Rialto Market area:** Food stalls, bacari - Views of Grand Canal

**Dinner (8:00 PM) - Restaurant Recommendation:** Cantina Do Spade - Authentic bacaro (wine bar) - Cicchetti (Venetian tapas): Baccalà, sarde in saor, polpette - Stand at bar like locals - Price: €20-30 per person

**Alternative:** Osteria alle Testiere (seafood, book ahead)

**Evening:** - **Get lost on purpose:** Wander backstreets - **Canal views:** Every bridge is a photo opportunity - **Night atmosphere:** Venice is quieter, more magical at night

**Overnight in Venice:** - **Option 1:** Stay in Venice proper (expensive, magical) - **Option 2:** Stay in Mestre (mainland, cheaper, easy train next day)

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## DAY 7: TUESDAY JULY 1 - Venice to Milan

**Theme:** Morning in La Serenissima, Return Home

**Driving:** 280 km, 3 hours (but no rush)

### Morning: More Venice (9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

#### Relaxed Morning Options:

**Option 1: Grand Canal by Vaporetto** - Take Line 1 vaporetto from San Marco to Piazzale Roma - 45-minute scenic journey - See palaces from the water - Like a cheap gondola tour

**Option 2: Dorsoduro Neighborhood - Accademia Bridge:** Views of Grand Canal - **Campo Santa Margherita:** Local square, students - **Peggy Guggenheim Collection:** Modern art (if interested) - **Zattere promenade:** Views to Giudecca island

**Option 3: Islands Tour (if staying extra day) - Murano:** Glass blowing (45 min by vaporetto) - **Burano:** Colorful houses, lace-making - Would need to extend Venice stay

**Brunch (11:00 AM) - Café:** Any bacaro near your location - Coffee, cicchetti - Or proper brunch at hotel

### Late Morning: Depart Venice (12:00 PM)

**If Stayed in Mestre:** - Already on mainland - Drive straight to Milan

**If Stayed in Venice:** - Vaporetto to Piazzale Roma - Pick up car (if kept overnight) - Or take train (see below)

### Afternoon: Return to Milan (12:00 PM - 3:00 PM)

**Driving:** Venice → A4 Autobahn → Milan - Straightforward 2.5-3 hour drive - **Stop options:** - **Padua (Padova):** Historic university town (30 min detour) - **Vicenza:** Palladian architecture (1 hour detour) - **Verona:** If you skipped it (1 hour detour)

**Train Alternative:** - Leave car in Venice (Mestre) - Take **high-speed train Venice → Milan** (2.5 hours) - Frecciarossa or Italo - From €20-50 per person - Arrive Milan Centrale

**Arrive Milan (3:00 PM)** - Return rental car - Trip complete!

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## RESTAURANT SUMMARY (Option B)

Location	Restaurant	Cuisine	Price	Must-Try
Varenna	Il Cavatappi	Lake fish	€25-35	Risotto with perch
Chiavenna	Osteria del Porto	Valtellina	€30-40	Pizzoccheri
Maloja Pass	Reschener Stube	South Tyrolean	€20-30	Schlutzkrapfen
Innsbruck	Stiftskeller	Tyrolean	€25-35	Gröstl
Cortina	Tivoli	Ladin/Alpine	€40-60	Canederli
Falzarego	Mountain Hut	Alpine	€15-25	Kaiserschmarrn

Venice	Cantina Do Spade	Venetian	€20-30	Cicchetti, baccalà
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## DRIVING SUMMARY (Option B)

Day	From	To	Distance	Drive Time	Stops
1	Milan	Chiavenna	140 km	2.5 hrs	Varenna, Lake Como
2	Chiavenna	Innsbruck	280 km	4.5 hrs	Maloja Pass, Engadine
3	Innsbruck	Mondsee	180 km	2.5 hrs	Innsbruck morning
5	Mondsee	Cortina	250 km	4.5 hrs	Dolomites approach
6	Cortina	Venice	160 km	2 hrs	Dolomites morning loop
7	Venice	Milan	280 km	3 hrs	Direct or Padua stop
Total			~1,290 km	~19 hrs	More mountain time

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS (Option B)

- ☐ **Lake Como** - Varenna, scenic lakeside
- ☐ **Val Bregaglia** - Dramatic granite valley
- ☐ **Maloja Pass** - 1,815m with Engadine views
- ☐ **Innsbruck** - Golden Roof, Nordkette
- ☐ **Dolomites** - UNESCO peaks, Tre Cime, mountain passes
- ☐ **Cortina d'Ampezzo** - Glamorous Alpine town
- ☐ **Venice** - Grand Canal, St. Mark's, romance

## COMPARISON: OPTION A vs OPTION B

Factor	Option A (Bolzano/Verona)	Option B (Cortina/Venice)
Scenery	Very good	<b>Spectacular</b> (Dolomites)
Iconic Cities	Verona (romantic)	<b>Venice</b> (world-famous)
Driving Intensity	Relaxed	<b>More mountain driving</b>
UNESCO Sites	1	<b>2</b> (Dolomites + Venice)
Final Impact	Romantic wine country	<b>Bucket list Venice</b>
Cost	Slightly lower	Slightly higher (Venice)
Meals	Wine + traditional	Seafood + cicchetti Relaxed but more to

<b>Pace</b>	Very relaxed	see
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*Pace: Relaxed with time for scenery and proper meals*  
*Both options include the same Lake Como → Innsbruck → Mondsee*  
*inbound route*  
*Difference is only in the outbound: South Tyrol vs Dolomites/Venice*