

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

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

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

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

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 Caminetto (more rustic, Ladin specialties)

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

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)

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!

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	Spectacular (Dolomites)
Iconic Cities	Verona (romantic)	Venice (world-famous)
Driving Intensity	Relaxed	More mountain driving
UNESCO Sites	1	2 (Dolomites + Venice)
Final Impact	Romantic wine country	Bucket list Venice
Cost	Slightly lower	Slightly higher (Venice)
Meals	Wine + traditional	Seafood + cicchetti Relaxed but more to

Pace Very relaxed see

*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*