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GUIDE TO SIRMIONE



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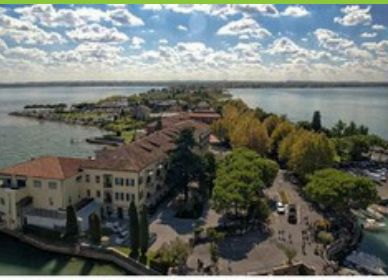


This guide will help you discover **Sirmione, a fascinating peninsula jutting out into the waters of Lake Garda, just 10 km from Enjoy.** Sirmione offers appealing experiences: a visit to the majestic Scaliger Castle, discovering the Grotte di Catullo, and relaxing in its famous thermal baths. There are also little gems such as ancient churches, exciting boat tours and walks along the lakefront. Remember: this guide is an excellent starting point, but it is always useful to check the official websites for up-to-date information on open days, hours, prices, and rules. Now you are all set to explore this beautiful village. Shall we set off?

Infopoint

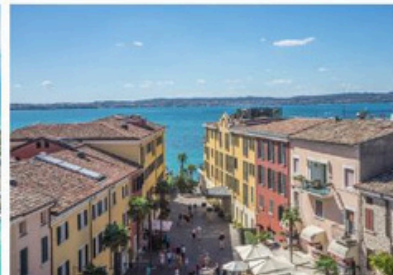
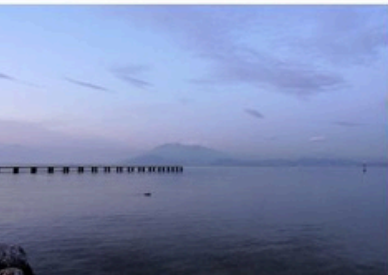
It is located at the entrance to the village, just before crossing the bridge leading to the Scaligero Castle. You can find out where the little train that takes you to the Grotte di Catullo departs from and get lots of other useful information.

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Le Guide: Enjoy the Moments
Sirmione and its beauties



Sirmione: a peninsula of land jutting into the lake Just a few kilometres from Enjoy is Sirmione, one of the most fascinating towns on Lake Garda, where history and nature enchant visitors. You can explore the majestic Scaliger Castle, delve into the suggestive ruins of the Grotte di Catullo or relax in the famous thermal baths. Admire the frescoes in the ancient churches, enjoy a stroll through the historic centre or along the lakeside promenade, and be captivated by the charm of a boat tour around the peninsula.

Sirmione offers a sense of magic: get ready to discover all its treasures!

HOW TO GET THERE

By Car

The distance between the Enjoy and Sirmione is short, but the travel time can be uncertain, depending upon traffic. It is in fact only 10 km away, but the time taken depends on tourist traffic, which becomes very heavy in the summer months.

Parking:

Look at the map of Sirmione: as you can see, it is a very long strip of land and the historic centre starts in the northernmost part, where the Scaliger Castle is located. In the picture you can see that from the beginning of the village to the Castle is about 3 km, along which you will find several car parks, which are very expensive.

During the **high season** (April to October) we recommend you leave your car in one of the first available car parks, and then take the **shuttle bus** that connects Piazza Campiello in the hamlet of Colombare with the historic centre of Sirmione.

During the low season when the shuttle bus is not running, you can afford to approach the car parks located to the north, except for GrifoParking, which is reserved for tourists staying in hotels in the area. To avoid wasting time getting to parking spaces that are already full, we recommend using the SirmioPark app to check in real time which ones are available.

By bus

A good alternative - both in high and low season - is to take the bus directly from Peschiera. Take line LN026 (direction Desenzano) at the stop in Piazza Betteloni in Peschiera del Garda. The stop is about a 12-minute walk from the Enjoy. After 17 minutes you can get off at the Sirmione - Largo Faselo, Centro stop.

To see timetables and buy tickets for the shuttle bus and the LN026 bus you can download the Arriva Italia app.



THE SCALIGERO CASTLE



The Scaligero Castle of Sirmione represents an exceptional example of lake fortification and is among the best-preserved and most impressive Scaliger fortresses on Lake Garda. Built after the mid 14th century, it owes its name to the Della Scala family, who ruled Verona and its territory between the 13th and 14th centuries.

What to see

Even if there are no internal rooms accessible to the public, you can explore the tower, the patrol walkways, the internal courtyards and the charming dockyard, the ancient refuge of the Scaligera fleet.

The dockyard can only be visited on weekends, with a guide, at set times and with a surcharge on the entrance ticket.

Don't miss the climb to the top of the tower! From the main tower, after climbing 150 steps, you can admire a spectacular view over the town of Sirmione and Lake Garda. An effort that will be repaid by unforgettable scenery.

Like any self-respecting castle, the Scaliger Castle also has its own legend.

It is said that Hebegard found his wife Arice dead, killed by the knight Elabert, who was in love with her.

After a duel in which Elaberto died, Ebengardo, destroyed by grief, was condemned to wander the castle like a ghost, without ever being able to re-embrace his beloved.

Contatti

Castello Scaligero

Piazza Castello 34 – Sirmione (BS)

Sito: <https://museilombardia.cultura.gov.it/musei/castello-scaligero-di-sirmione/>

THE SCALIGERO CASTLE

When to go and how to get a ticket

The low season is always advisable, but if you are at Enjoy during the warmer months of the high season you can:

- Choose midweek days
- Go early in the morning, at the castle's opening time.

You can buy tickets

- On site via the totems located at the entrance, with credit and debit cards (no cash).
- On <https://www.museiitaliani.it/> (the app is also available). Search for 'Castello Scaligero' and filter by 'Lombardia'.

Admission is free up to 18 years old.

Other useful tips and information

- To enrich your experience, download the '**1,2,3 Musei del Garda**' app. Thanks to this app, you can follow a personalised route to visit the Scaliger Castle, the Catullus Caves and the Roman Villa of Desenzano.
- You can buy the ticket for the **castle alone, or the cumulative ticket** that also gets you into the Villa Romana in Desenzano, which is about 10 km away.
- If you are certain you will go, we recommend **buying online**, because it allows you to enter at the appointed time, without waiting.
- If you visit the castle on the weekend, you can also buy a **guided tour of the Darsena/waterfront**, which cannot be visited otherwise.
- The Scaliger Castle of Sirmione adheres to the **Polysensorial Museums** project, with the aim of overcoming the barriers that prevent people with sensory or cognitive disabilities from accessing cultural heritage.

CATULLO'S CAVES



The archaeological area of the **Grotte di Catullo**, dating back to the Augustan period (1st century B.C. - 1st century A.D.), **includes the remains of a luxurious Roman villa**, so called because of the first travellers of the 15th century who mistook the remains for natural caves, since some rooms had collapsed and were covered with vegetation.

In the past, it was believed to have belonged to the poet Catullus, author of famous verses dedicated to Sirmione. However, the villa could not have been his, because it was built after his death.

The structure, rectangular in shape and covering about two hectares, retains impressive

foundations and some elements, such as the **Botteghe**, the **Grande Criptoportico**, the **Campo delle Noci**, the **Aula dei Giganti**, the **Cisterna** and the **thermal sector**.

There is also an archaeological museum in the area, which houses artefacts such as mosaics, fresco and stucco decorations, and tells the ancient history of the Sirmione peninsula and the Garda settlements. Among the many exhibits you can admire are spears, coins, rings and plates.

The Grotte di Catullo are located in the **middle of an olive grove**: a quiet and peaceful spot with a breathtaking view of the lake.

CATULLO'S CAVES

Contact

Grotte di Catullo

Piazzale Orti Manara, 4

Phone number +39 030/916157

Web site: <https://museilombardia.cultura.gov.it/musei/grotte-di-catullo-e-museo-archeologico-di-sirmione/>

How to get a ticket

- You can buy your ticket on site.
- You can buy a single ticket or a cumulative ticket to visit the Grotte di Catullo, the Castello Scaligero and the Villa Romana in Desenzano del Garda.

Other useful tips

- Check opening times carefully: sometimes it closes at unsuspected times and you may risk finding the gate closed.
- The duration of the visit may vary, but it generally does not take more than an hour and a half.
- You can use the '1,2,3 museums' app we mentioned about the castle. We recommend that you download it before you reach the Grotte di Catullo, because in some places the connection is poor. There are few directions on site, so this audio guide can be very useful.

Indications for the summer season

- In summer it can be very hot: be aware that there are no refreshment points inside the facility, so it might be a good idea to take some water with you.
- In the high season you can take advantage of a convenient train/shuttle that takes you to the entrance of the Grotte di Catullo. For information on the departure point of the train, we recommend you ask at the tourist information office located at the entrance to the town, just before the Scaligero Castle (via Marconi 18).
- If you visit Sirmione in the summer, know that just before the entrance to the archaeological area there is a gate: from there you can pass through to reach the Giamaica beach. If you feel like relaxing in the sun or going for a swim, you have to walk down a steep, dirt road surrounded by olive trees. You will arrive at a smooth, white rocky beach, partly equipped with sunbeds and partly free.

DOWNTOWN WALK



The heart of Sirmione starts at the impressive Scaliger Castle and stretches along the strip of land to the fascinating Grotte di Catullo at the northern end.

You can choose to stroll along the lively central street (Via Vittorio Emanuele, which flows into Via Catullo) or enjoy the view from the scenic Passeggiata delle Muse, a well-marked path that connects the Spiaggia del Prete to the Lido delle Bionde.

Among the narrow streets, you will find a wide choice of bars, ice-cream parlours, restaurants and small shops, with breathtaking views of the lake peeking out at every corner.

Finally, don't miss an aperitif at sunset: the colours of the sky and the lake will amaze you with a truly moving spectacle.

THERMAL BATHS



Sirmione is famous for its thermal cures, which offer visitors a unique wellness experience. The sulphurous salso-bromo-iodine thermal water - coming from the ancient Bojola Spring - has extraordinary therapeutic properties and is at the heart of all the thermal treatments available in the area.

The town hosts two important centres: **SPA & Thermal Garden** located in the town centre and **Therapy District** located in the hamlet of Colombare. These two spas offer different but complementary experiences.

The first is an elegant SPA with lake-view thermal pools, whirlpools, saunas, steam baths and sensorial pathways, perfect for those seeking a moment of pure relaxation in an exclusive setting. The second, on the other hand, specialises in therapeutic treatments thanks to its thermal water rich in minerals, ideal for respiratory, joint and skin problems.

If you want to spend a few hours relaxing, we recommend **SPA & Thermal Garden** (formerly known as Aquaria), located in the town centre.

The facility includes:

- Swimming pools and whirlpools
- Saunas and steam baths
- Relaxation areas
- Treatment area

THERMAL BATHS



Contacts

SPA & Thermal Garden – Piazza Don Piatti 1.

You can find information about both the Therapy District and the SPA & Thermal Garden at <https://www.termedisirmione.com/>

How to get a ticket

- You have to book your entrance ticket. You can do this on the official website, choosing the day and time. Tickets are available for the whole day, for certain time slots or for a certain number of hours.
- There are various offers on the site, combining entry with one or more beauty and wellness experiences.
- If you arrive at a different time to the one you have booked, access is not guaranteed.

Other useful tips

- Keep in mind that services close before the centre's closing time. Ask for updated times when you arrive, as they may vary.
- The time you spend in the changing room changing or showering is counted as part of the total time you have purchased.
- If the ticket you purchased provides for it, you will be given a welcome kit with bathing cap, towel and bathrobe included in the price. Otherwise, you can hire it directly from the hotel or buy it from the store.
- For your breaks you can go to the two bars, which offer both cafeteria and restaurant services and always have some vegetarian or gluten-free options. You cannot, however, consume food and drinks brought in from outside.
- Pay attention to the size of bags and backpacks: they must not exceed these measurements: 50 x 40 x 15 cm to enter their lockers.
- You must wear a swimming costume and pool slippers to enter the wellness areas.
- There are no safety deposit boxes, so we advise you not to take your valuables with you.

CHURCH OF SAN PIETRO IN MAVINO



This little gem is located about halfway between the thermal baths and the Grotte di Catullo, surrounded by greenery and silence, where you will find a corner of peace. Built in the **8th century AD** during the Lombard period, the Church of San Pietro in Mavino is **the oldest in Sirmione**.

The Romanesque bell tower was altered in 1070, while the church was rebuilt in 1320, the period to which the first frescoes, which are still visible, date back.

On the walls you can admire a **pictorial cycle** dating back to 1321: in the central apse Christ is depicted, while in the side apses there is the Madonna enthroned and, in the other, the Crucifixion. To illuminate them and see them better, you can insert a coin. The wooden truss ceiling is also valuable.

CHURCH OF ST. ANNA



The small church of S. Anna, formerly known as 'Madonna del Ponte', was built in the **second half of the 14th century** to serve the military garrison in defence of the main gate of the castle of Sirmione.

The exterior is very simple, with an unadorned gabled façade, while the interior preserves a small treasure: the presbytery is enriched with **15th- and 16th-century frescoes and fine 17th-century** stucco work.

In the centre of the altar is a fragment of a 14th-century fresco depicting the Madonna and Child.

It is located opposite the Scaliger Castle and is well worth a visit, which will be brief due to its small size.

TOUR OF THE SIRMIONE PENINSULA BY BOAT



An experience that will remain in your heart is undoubtedly the boat tour of the Sirmione peninsula.

This is a tour along the waters of the lake that will allow you to admire some of the main points of interest of the town from an unprecedented viewpoint, such as the **Scaliger Castle** and the **Catullo's Caves**, as well as the spot where the **famous thermal waters** flow.

A daytime tour of about 20-25 minutes and a longer sunset tour are often offered.

Private tours can also be requested.

There are several companies offering this service. Try looking at the sites of:

- Garda Tours: <https://gardatours.com/>
- Sirmione tour: <https://www.sirmionetour.it/>



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