

Driving to Lake Como from the United Kingdom

We have been doing this at least once a year for the last 10 years and have tried every route. This is the one that we find most convenient and least tiring. Driving through Belgium rather than France gives more varied scenery (honest!), and there are no motorway tolls to pay.

It is possible to do all of this in one go, if you have two drivers, but we find it best to have one stop-over.

Here we go:

Dover to Dunkerque ferry crossing (super boat – takes longer than Calais but time for a meal and relax)

From Dunkerque, motorway to Lille E42/A25. From Lille, to Mons, then Charleroi, then Namur.

At Namur turn right for Luxembourg, then Luxembourg to Metz, Metz to Strasbourg (some tolls), Strasbourg to Basel (staying on the French side, no tolls). At the Swiss border you have to buy a *vignette* for the Swiss motorways.

Then relax as you drive through increasingly gorgeous landscapes until you come to Luzern and then San Gottard. Although near the end of the journey, we have stopped overnight in the Holiday Inn on the motorway at Luzern, in order to be fresh and early for the Gottard tunnel in the morning. In high season there can be long queues for the tunnel. Best to do it either as early as possible in the morning, or at night. From Gottard it is literally downhill all the way to Bellinzona, Lugano and Como.

Buon viaggio!