

7-Day Milan & Dolomites Itinerary: Duomo Rooftops to Alpine Peaks

Milan and the Dolomites are having their moment — the city and Cortina d'Ampezzo are co-hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics, and this loop pairs a couple of days in Milan's centro storico with four nights deep in the mountains that will carry the downhill and curling events. Expect Duomo rooftops and canal-side aperitivo in the city, then ski lifts, frozen alpine lakes, and the Olympic ice stadium once you're up in Cortina.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

December – March

peak ski season · Feb–Mar 2026 also

hosts the Winter Olympics

FROM

\$2,100 USD / person

for 2 people

Day 1

Arrive in Milan, Settle Near the Duomo

Land at Milan Malpensa and head straight into the centro storico — the Malpensa Express drops you a short walk from the hotel, leaving the rest of the day free to get your bearings around the Duomo.

Malpensa Express — Malpensa Airport to Milano Centrale

~50 minutes · About \$16 USD one-way per person

Trenord's dedicated airport train runs every 30 minutes from Terminal 1 and puts you at Milano Centrale (or Cadorna, closer to the Duomo) without needing a transfer. A taxi covers the same run in about 45 minutes for roughly \$95–110 USD.

Malpensa Express (Trenord) · malpensaexpress.it

Overnight — Hotel Spadari al Duomo

From \$250–300 USD / night, for 2 people

A design-forward 4-star just steps from the Duomo, on the same block as the Rinascente rooftop — easy walking distance to everything on Day 2.

Hotel Spadari al Duomo spadarihotel.com · +39 02 7200 2371

Dinner near the Duomo

Est. \$30–45 USD / person

On your own — the streets around Piazza del Duomo and the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II are packed with trattorias; walk a few blocks further into Brera for a quieter, less touristy table.

Day 2

Duomo Rooftops, the Last Supper & Navigli by Night

The one full day dedicated to Milan itself — start on the cathedral roof, spend the afternoon face to face with Leonardo, and close with a guided crawl through the Navigli canal district.

Duomo Rooftop Terraces & Cathedral

~1.5–2 hours · About \$32 USD / person (elevator access)

Walk among the cathedral's marble spires with the Milan skyline (and, on a clear day, the Alps) behind you, then drop down into the nave itself. Book the elevator ticket rather than the stairs option if you want to save your legs for Cortina.

Duomo di Milano · duomomilano.it

The Last Supper — Cenacolo Vinciano

~15-minute timed entry · About \$18 USD / person

Leonardo's fresco is shown to just 30 people at a time, and slots for 2026 sell out months in advance — book the moment your dates are set, not the week before.

Cenacolo Vinciano · cenacolovinciano.org

Navigli Food & Drinks Tour

~3.5 hours, evening · About \$105 USD / person

A guided crawl through the Navigli canal district — five stops of Milanese street food and natural wine, capped at 12 people per group. A good way to close out the city half of the trip without having to pick a restaurant yourself.

Eating Europe · eatingeurope.com

Overnight — Hotel Spadari al Duomo

From \$250–300 USD / night, for 2 people

Second and final night at the same hotel before the transfer north.

Hotel Spadari al Duomo · spadarihotel.com · +39 02 7200 2371

Day 3

Milan to Cortina d'Ampezzo

No direct train reaches Cortina, so the standard route is a high-speed train to Venice followed by a coach into the mountains — budget most of the day for it, and enjoy the scenery once the bus starts climbing.

High-Speed Train — Milano Centrale to Venezia Mestre

~2.5 hours · About \$35–60 USD one-way per person

Trenitalia Frecciarossa and Italo both run this route hourly; book a few weeks out for the lower end of the fare range. Get off at Mestre rather than Santa Lucia — it's the stop the Cortina bus actually departs from.

Trenitalia · trenitalia.com

Guided Snowshoe Walk — Lago di Braies

~3 hours · About \$85 USD / person, guide and gear included

Lago di Braies freezes into one of the most photographed spots in the Dolomites come winter — a local guide gets you out on the marked route safely and knows where the ice is thick enough to walk on.

Guide Alpine Cortina guidecortina.com · +39 0436 868505

Alpe di Siusi Cable Car

Round trip · About \$21 USD / person

A cable car up to Europe's largest high-altitude alpine meadow, blanketed in snow through the winter — cross-country ski trails and marked winter walking paths fan out from the top station.

Alpe di Siusi Cable Car seiseralm.it · +39 0471 704270

Overnight — Franceschi Park Hotel

From \$270–350 USD / night, for 2 people

Third night at the same hotel.

Franceschi Park Hotel franceschiparkhotel.com · +39 0436 867041

Day 6

Cinque Torri & the Olympic Ice Stadium

A quieter day close to town — a chairlift up to a WWI open-air museum in the morning, then a walk through Cortina's Olympic venues before dinner.

Cinque Torri Chairlift & Open-Air Museum

~2–3 hours · About \$19 USD round trip / person

The chairlift climbs to the base of the Cinque Torri rock towers, past a preserved network of WWI trenches and gun emplacements built into the rock. Snowshoes aren't required but make the museum loop easier in fresh snow.

5 Torri 5torri.it · +39 0436 871178

Public Skating — Stadio Olimpico del Ghiaccio

~1 hour session · About \$14 USD / person, skate rental included

Cortina's Olympic ice stadium hosts curling and figure skating during the Games, and opens for public skating sessions the rest of the season — a low-key way to see an Olympic venue from the inside.

Dinner in Cortina

Est. \$35–55 USD / person

On your own — Corso Italia, the pedestrian main street, has a strong run of alpine trattorias for a final dinner in the mountains.

Overnight — Franceschi Park Hotel

From \$270–350 USD / night, for 2 people

Fourth and final night at the same hotel.

Franceschi Park Hotel franceschiparkhotel.com · +39 0436 867041

Day 7

Cortina to Milan, Depart

The trip in reverse — coach down to Venice, train back to Milan, and on to the airport. Build in extra time; winter road conditions can slow the first leg.

Cortina Express — Cortina d'Ampezzo to Venezia Mestre

~2.5–3 hours · About \$35–40 USD / person

Same route as the way up, run in reverse — book the earliest departure that works if you have an evening flight out of Malpensa.

Cortina Express cortinaexpress.it · +39 0436 867350

High-Speed Train — Venezia Mestre to Milano Centrale

~2.5 hours · About \$35–60 USD one-way per person

Connects straight to the Malpensa Express at Milano Centrale — no need to go into the city center if your flight's the same evening.

Trenitalia · trenitalia.com