

The Story of Orion Continues...

Lake Orion's Historical Boat Tour.



Named after one of Italy's most iconic luxury boat brands, Riva may have been destined for a life on the water. What nobody could have predicted was that the girl who once got caught skipping history class would grow up to become one of Lake Orion's most passionate historians and storytellers. Now entering its 18th season, Tour on Orion has introduced thousands of residents and visitors to the hidden history, folklore, and forgotten stories that line Lake Orion's shoreline. What began as a love of local history has grown into one of the Lake Orion's most unique experiences. Part researcher, part storyteller, and part detective, Riva has spent years uncovering rare photographs, postcards, maps, journals, and artifacts that bring Lake Orion's past back to life. Many of those discoveries, however, haven't come from archives at all.

"Some of the best history I've found comes from someone stepping aboard and saying, 'I have a story for you.'"

Passengers have shared family photo albums, rare documents, personal memories, and long-forgotten stories that helped fill gaps in Lake Orion's history. Those contributions, combined with hundreds of digitally restored and

colorized historic images, allow guests to experience the lake as it looked more than a century ago.

One thing still surprises Riva: how many lifelong residents have never seen Lake Orion from the water—or believe they already know its history.

"They're usually the ones who come back and say, 'I had no idea,'" she laughs.

For Riva, preserving history has never been just about dates and facts. It's about connecting people to the place they call home, keeping local stories alive, and helping others experience Lake Orion from a perspective they may have never discovered before—one boat ride at a time.



A tradition more than 130 years in the making

Excursion boats have been part of the Lake Orion experience since the late 1800s. Today, Tour on Orion continues that tradition by sharing the stories that have always connected people to the lake.

TOUR ON ORION

TourOnOrion.com