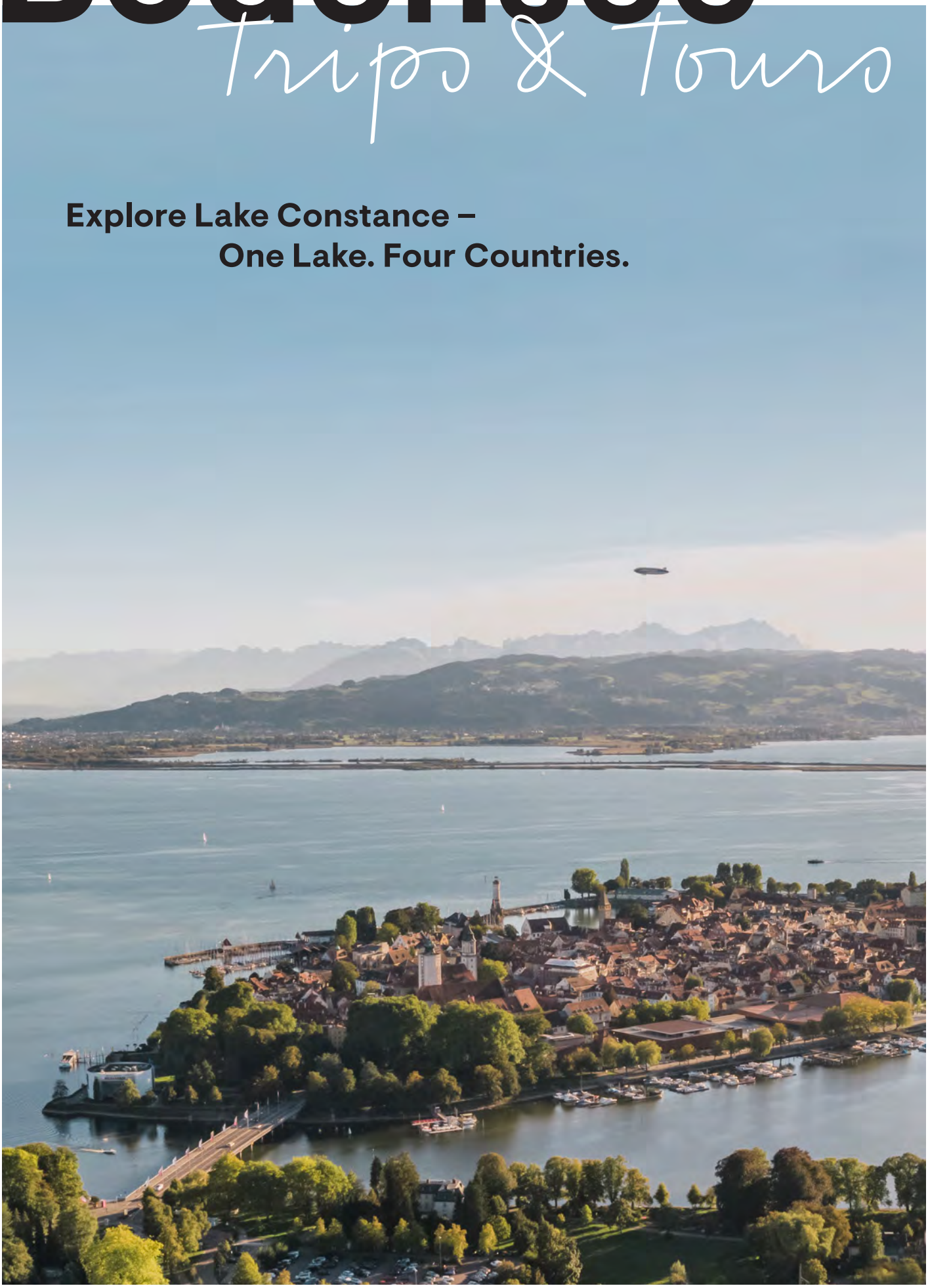
Bodensee

Trips & Tours

Explore Lake Constance –
One Lake. Four Countries.



One Lake, Four Countries. All Within Easy Reach.

Welcome to Lake Constance – a region where Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein meet within a remarkably compact area.

The lake lends the landscape its sense of openness. Along its shores lie historic towns, islands, monasteries, and cultural landscapes shaped over centuries. Orchards and vineyards define the scenery near the water. Farther inland, the lush Alpine foothills begin, with their meadows and pastures. Beyond them rise the Alps, offering a wealth of hiking trails and magnificent panoramas that sweep across the lake and far beyond national borders.

This proximity creates an extraordinary variety of experiences: cross the lake by boat, cycle from one country to the next, and discover regional cuisine right where it is produced. Lake Constance is also home to cultural attractions of international stature – from outstanding museums and exceptional performance venues to no fewer than three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Each season brings its own distinctive character: spring, with fresh greenery and orchards in bloom; summer, with vibrant life on and around the lake; fall, with its abundance of regional flavors; and, not least, winter, with an enchanting atmosphere all its own that extends far beyond the region's wonderful Christmas markets.

Lake Constance is not a single place, but a region with countless ways to experience it. I hope you discover the one that is entirely your own.

Carsten Holz
General Manager

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Europe

In One Place

The countries, landscapes, and cultures shown on this map can be experienced together with remarkable ease: stroll through the lanes of Lindau, Bavaria's island town, in the morning; cross the lake to Switzerland by boat at midday; and dine against a backdrop of the Austrian Alps in the evening. Lake Constance lies at the heart of Europe – where Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein meet, the Alps are a constant companion, and every destination is close at hand.

This central location also makes the region easy to reach. International hubs such as Zurich and Munich are within quick and easy reach. Long-distance rail services connect the region with major cities several times a day. Once here, a dense network of trains, buses, and passenger boats makes getting around effortless.

Lake Constance is more than a destination – it is also a gateway. The German Alpine Road, Germany's oldest scenic route, begins in Lindau. It leads through some of the most spectacular landscapes and sights in the Bavarian Alps all the way to Königssee – just one of many ways to continue your journey from the lake. Lake Constance is therefore both the ideal starting point for a trip through Central Europe and a destination that invites you to linger.

Four countries, distinct cultures and landscapes, one shared lake.





Aviation *History*

Lake Constance: A Destination Ready for Takeoff



The Zeppelin

The name Zeppelin resonates far beyond Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance. The legacy of its visionary creator, Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, lives on today in the museum that bears his name and in major companies such as the global technology group ZF. He laid the foundation for the region's economic strength. Today, passengers can still take to the skies aboard the successor to his famous airship.

Floating in near silence, with only a gentle vibration and an exhilarating sense of space and freedom – this is how passengers describe a flight in the modern Zeppelin NT. Traveling by airship is an unforgettable experience. Cruising at a leisurely 60–70 kilometers per hour and at an altitude of less than 300 meters, the Zeppelin offers unique perspectives available from no other aircraft.

Those who prefer to keep their feet on the ground can still experience these airships – and their impressive scale – up close in the Zeppelin hangar. The vast structure measures 110 meters long, 69 meters wide, and 34 meters high. A guided hangar tour reveals the technical secrets behind these aircraft. Only six Zeppelin NTs are currently in service worldwide: three in Germany, where they offer sightseeing flights, and three in the United States, where they fly as Goodyear advertising airships. And while you are there, the hangar restaurant's terrace pairs excellent food with a front-row view of Zeppelin takeoffs and landings.





Zeppelin Museum |
Explore the background, origins, and influence of Count Zeppelin's work – from his era to the present day – in an engaging, interactive setting at the modern museum directly on Friedrichshafen's harbor.

"You need only want it, believe in it, and it will succeed."

Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin

Dornier Museum

Very close to the Zeppelin hangar is another attraction closely linked to the history of German aviation: the Dornier Museum, with its fascinating exhibitions. Among the many stories to discover is that of the legendary 12-engine Dornier Do X flying boat, a celebrated testament to Claude Dornier's pioneering spirit. In its day, it was the largest passenger aircraft in the world.



FFA Museum

Still eager for more aviation history? On the opposite shore of Lake Constance, in the Swiss village of Altenrhein, the FFA Museum presents an engaging collection of aircraft spanning more than 100 years, along with historic Rolls-Royce automobiles from the early 20th century.



Classic Vehicles | **Whether on land or in the air, the FFA Museum in Altenrhein is a must for technology enthusiasts.**



UNESCO World Heritage

More Than 6,000 Years of Fascinating History

Abbey District of St.Gallen





The UNESCO World Heritage Sites around Lake Constance span an extraordinary sweep of time. The Pile Dwellings at Unteruhldingen offer insights into life as far back as 4,300 BC. The Monastic Island of Reichenau traces its origins to the eighth century. And the Abbey of St.Gallen, whose beginnings also reach back to the eighth century, is considered a cradle of ecclesiastical culture and scholarship. It is hard to imagine a richer journey through time.

Preserving what people created in the past – and the works that continue to shape us today – is central to UNESCO's mission and to every World Heritage Site. Three of these cultural treasures are found around Lake Constance. Together, they bear witness to the exceptional creative power of this remarkable region and to its people's determination to safeguard their heritage.

At the heart of the Abbey District of St.Gallen in Switzerland stands its Baroque library, considered one of the most beautiful in the world. Yet grandeur and splendor alone do not make it so exceptional: the library also safeguards unique treasures and mysteries. Among them is an extraordinary collection of medieval manuscripts more than 1,000 years old. It is also home to Schepenese, a female Egyptian mummy dating from the seventh century BC.

In addition to designating the Abbey of St.Gallen – including its late-Baroque cathedral – as a World Heritage Site, UNESCO has inscribed the written heritage preserved in the Abbey Library and Abbey Archives on its Memory of the World International Register. Manuscript B of the Nibelungenlied (The Song of the Nibelungs) has a separate inscription in the register. Together, these treasures bring 1,300 years of history to life and offer a remarkable perspective on the cultural and intellectual development of the world we know today.

St.Gallen | **The Abbey District lies at the heart of the city: its cathedral, Abbey Library, and Abbey Archives have formed part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.**



Monastic Island of Reichenau

The Monastic Island of Reichenau, home to an important Benedictine abbey, maintained close ties with the Abbey of St.Gallen and, like it, was an intellectual and cultural center of the Middle Ages. The island's three Romanesque churches are of exceptional cultural and historical significance, captivating visitors with their remarkable architecture and magnificent murals. These ancient walls still convey a sense of monastic retreat from the secular world – and make history feel vividly present.

For those wishing to venture even farther back into the history of human civilization, the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps” offers vivid testimony to the Stone and Bronze Ages in western Lake Constance. At Unteruhldingen, the Pile Dwellings vividly recreate everyday life in the distant past in an authentic lakeside setting. They reveal just how surprisingly sophisticated these communities were in their culture, social organization, and craftsmanship. A visit to Unteruhldingen offers more than an encounter with long-vanished eras; above all, it provides profound insight into our shared human origins.

Together, these three UNESCO World Heritage Sites around Lake Constance reveal a depth of history in the heart of Europe that is all too easily overlooked. Better still, Unteruhldingen, the Monastic Island of Reichenau, and the Abbey District of St.Gallen are each only about an hour’s drive from one another. Their proximity makes it possible to travel through more than 6,000 years of history – and visit all three World Heritage Sites – in a single day.



Pile Dwelling Museum Unteruhldingen

7,000 Years of Fascinating Human History in 23 Pile Dwellings.





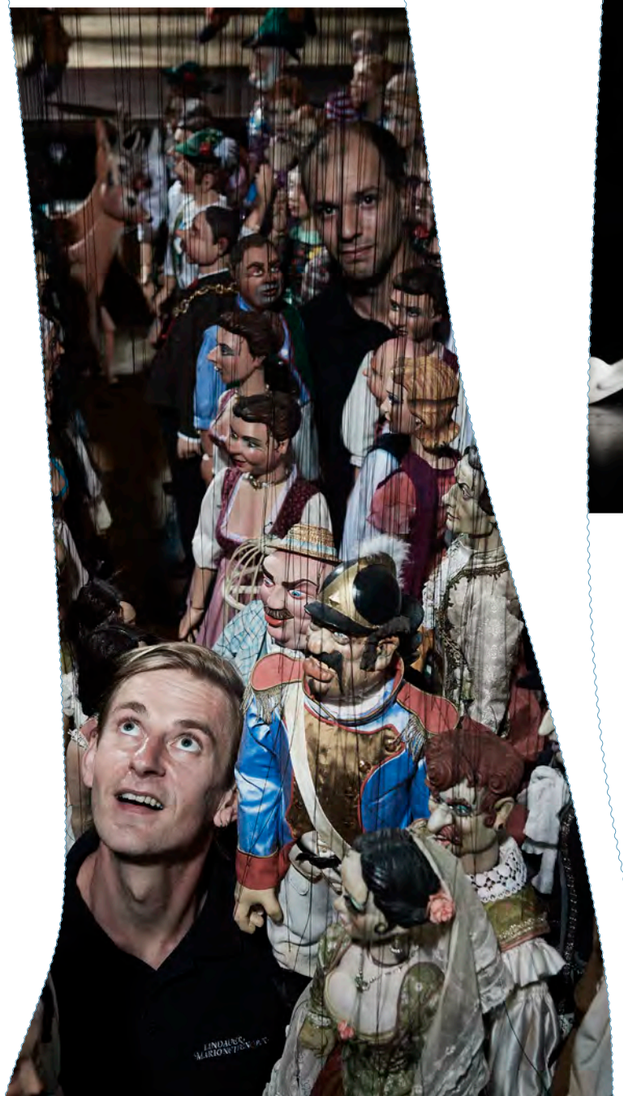
Pile Dwellings | Experience the past – don’t just observe it: the Pile Dwelling Museum Unteruhldingen brings history vividly into the present through an interactive experience that engages all the senses.

Cultural *Highlights*

From Unmissable Landmarks to Hidden Gems: A World of Culture by the Lake

Culture is central to the region's identity. Lake Constance is defined by a remarkable range of experiences – from the enchanting miniature world of the Lindau Marionette Opera and the Baroque basilica at Birnau to the world's largest lake stage in Bregenz. In between Hundertwasser, castles, and museums.

In the heart of Lindau Island, Bernhard Leismüller brings his puppets to life at the Lindau City Theater. He is the founder and artistic director of the Lindau Marionette Opera – the only company of its kind in Germany. With a collection of some 500 marionettes, the ensemble delights audiences with lovingly staged operas ranging from Mozart to Verdi, and from The Magic Flute to La Traviata.







Lindau Marionette Opera | Grand opera on an intimate stage: Mozart or Verdi, lovingly performed by 14 puppeteers at the Lindau City Theater.



Kunstforum Hundertwasser | With the Colors of Another World – changing thematic presentations at the former post office through 2030.



Cavazzen | History to touch and hear – brought vividly to life rather than simply displayed behind glass.



At the Cavazzen Museum in Lindau's picturesque center, the former Free Imperial City presents its cultural heritage. This magnificent early-18th-century building, fully restored in 2025, is a place of remembrance, connection, and discovery. Its annual special exhibitions have already brought major names to Lindau. Through 2030, the Kunstforum Hundertwasser offers even more art, with a changing series of thematic exhibitions at the former post office near the island train station.

For culture on a grand scale, the Bregenz Festival is a summer institution. Year after year, spectacular opera productions unfold directly on the lake. Accompanied by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra, the Lake Stage – the largest of its kind in the world – captivates an international audience. Dance, theater, concerts, and exhibitions in and around Festspielhaus Bregenz complete the festival program.



Bregenz Festival | Culture on a grand scale: Opera on the Lake unfolds on a monumental stage set in the water – the largest of its kind in the world.





Principality of Liechtenstein

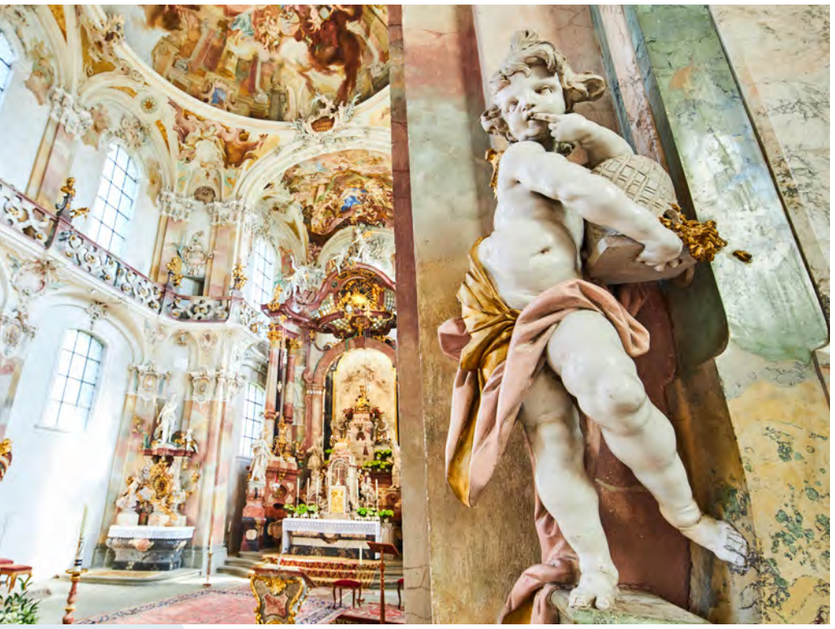
A dazzling display awaits at the Liechtenstein Treasure Chamber, part of the Liechtenstein National Museum. The collection includes ceremonial weapons and artifacts from the remarkable history of one of the world's oldest noble families.



Birnau Basilica | Splendor with a view: this pilgrimage church is one of the finest Rococo buildings in the German-speaking world.



Panorama Konstanz | Yadegar Asisi's monumental 360° panorama surrounds visitors with a richly detailed historical world, transporting them back to the Council of Constance.



Those seeking the sound of silence rather than music will find it at Birnau Basilica, built in the mid-18th century. It displays Rococo splendor in all its glory and, with its exuberant ornamentation, is celebrated worldwide as a jewel of the Baroque.

Panorama Konstanz invites visitors on an immersive journey deep into history. Artist Yadegar Asisi's multisensory installation transports audiences to the Council of Constance, where the only papal election ever held on German soil took place in 1417.

West of Lake Constance, near Schaffhausen, the Rhine Falls reveal a true masterpiece of nature. Water plunges 23 meters over the falls at a rate of approximately 600,000 liters per second.

Rhine Falls near Schaffhausen | Europe's largest waterfall by volume thunders at the foot of Laufen Castle – a natural spectacle less than an hour's drive from Lake Constance.



Jewish Heritage

Jewish Life and Jewish Stories in the Border Region





"No one here wanted to confront this history."

Hanno Loewy, former director of the Jewish Museum Hohenems



Many people with Jewish roots come in search of traces of their family history. In the small town of Hohenems, those traces are still there. This Austrian community was once a center of Jewish life – and the setting for tragic stories of escape that continue to resonate today.

Today, markers throughout the Lake Constance region commemorate the often tragic – and occasionally fortunate – fates of Jewish refugees. Along an approximately 100-kilometer cycling route through Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, 52 symbolic boundary markers identify listening stations. QR codes provide access to 65 audio accounts of the people and events being remembered, close to the places where they unfolded. The route begins in Lindau at the marker dedicated to Ruth Guggenheimer, who escaped by boat across Lake Constance to Switzerland in 1933.

This distinctive form of remembrance was created by the Jewish Museum Hohenems. The museum stands at the heart of the Jewish Quarter, which flourished during the first half of the 19th century, when the Jewish community numbered more than 600 members. Housed in the Villa Heimann-Rosenthal, its exhibitions document Jewish life in earlier times, making it an important place of remembrance today. Sensitively designed tours bring individual stories to life and illuminate Hohenems's cultural importance to the Jewish diaspora in the Alpine region. Through its many events, including programs for young people, the museum actively raises awareness of antisemitism – so history will not repeat itself.

A shorter option is a four-kilometer walk along one of the historic escape routes. Beginning at the Jewish Museum Hohenems, it leads to the Old Rhine, the river that once marked the border with neutral Switzerland. For many Jewish people, this became a fateful boundary: some reached safety across it; others were intercepted and deported.

Jewish Museum Hohenems |
Once the home of a Jewish family, today a place of remembrance: the Villa Heimann-Rosenthal in the historic center.

The German *Alpine Road*

Switchbacks, Lakes & Dream Destinations

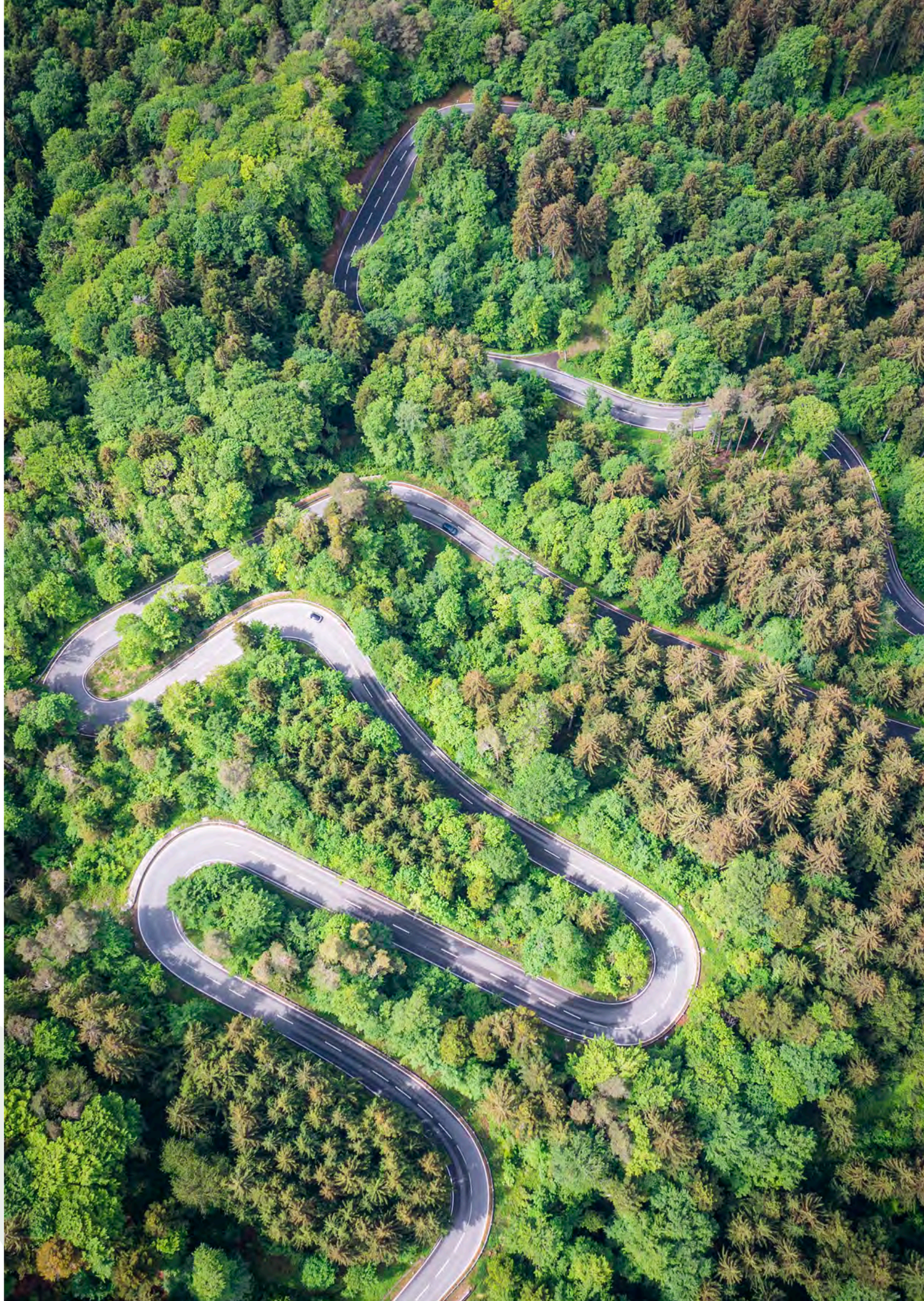
The German Alpine Road links several of Germany's most beautiful sights in a single journey. Between mountains and valleys, castles and farmsteads, world-famous landmarks and fresh discoveries, travelers embark on an unforgettable 484-kilometer journey from west to east.

For many, the German Alpine Road is the country's most beautiful scenic route. The first plans date back to 1927. The idea was to connect historic trade routes and pilgrimage trails – above all, to give the emerging tourism industry a boost and foster a new appreciation for the beauty of the region. International visitors were still extremely rare at the time. Over the decades that followed, the road through the Bavarian Alps took shape one section at a time. The route has been considered complete in its present form since 1960.

At its western end, the German Alpine Road begins in Lindau on Lake Constance; in the east, it reaches Schönau am Königssee. In between lie 25 castles and palaces, 21 mountain lakes, and countless monasteries, museums, and summits. Then there are the people – distinct from region to region yet always shaped by the singular character of these landscapes.

The journey begins in **Lindau**, an idyllic island town on Lake Constance. An early departure is rewarded with an extraordinary quality of light: the water glitters with reflections as the morning sun illuminates the historic buildings of the old town. Filled with these impressions, travelers head east into the **Allgäu**. Cows graze on gentle hills and lush meadows, their bells creating the region's signature soundtrack. Small cheese dairies, where mountain cheese takes shape in great vats, offer the perfect opportunity to savor the Allgäu and stock up for the road ahead.

The Alpine Road passes **Bad Hindelang**, an ideal base for hiking and climbing tours with an adventure to suit every fitness level. A little farther east, the moment arrives: the towers and turrets of **Neuschwanstein Castle** rise into the sky. The best approach is by horse-drawn carriage to the gatehouse, where guided tours begin. Lasting about 35 minutes, they are a journey into the dazzling fantasy world of the "Fairy-Tale King," Ludwig II – from the opulent murals of the Singers' Hall to the monarch's bedchamber and onward through an artificial grotto. Alternatively, a walk across Marienbrücke reveals the view known around the world from countless postcards.



"The Journey Is the Destination"

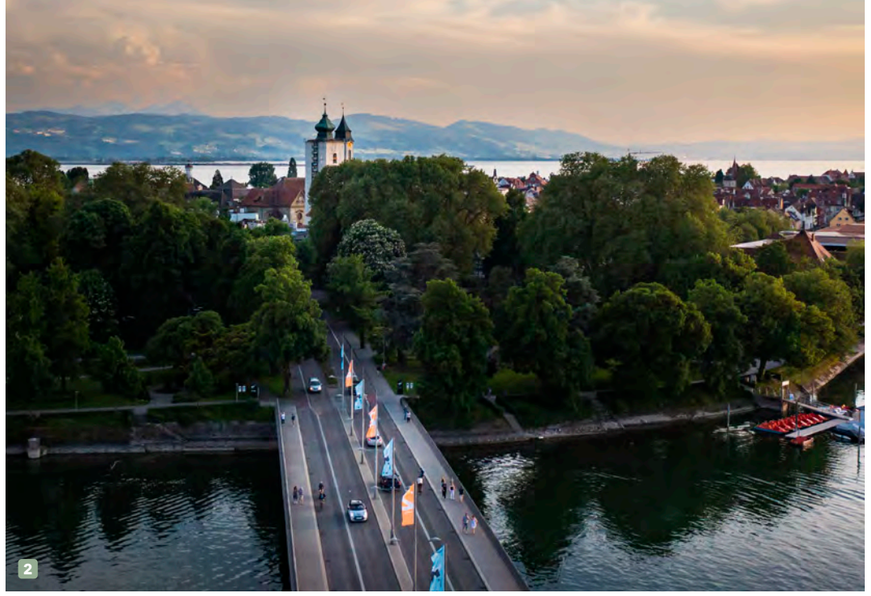


From **Füssen** onward, high mountains dominate the route. The tallest along the road – and in all of Germany – is the **Zugspitze**, at 2,962 meters. On a cable car ride to its majestic summit climbs nearly 2,000 meters in 10 minutes and reveals an unforgettable panorama; on a clear day, the view extends far beyond Germany's borders. A must-see is the tiny Maria Heimsuchung Chapel (Visitation of the Virgin Mary), close to the summit cross and easily overlooked by day-trippers. Yet stepping into the special stillness of Germany's highest chapel is well worth the pause. From the foot of the Zugspitze, it is only a short distance to **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**, where hikers can explore the Partnach Gorge, a spectacularly rugged ravine. Following the narrow walkway that clings to the rock face, with spray misting your face, is one of those experiences that lingers long after you return home. Farther along the route – at roughly its halfway point – lies **Bad Tölz**, whose picturesque old town is distinguished by its ornate facade paintings. It is also the ideal place to buy authentic Bavarian attire, preferably followed by a slice of cake in a café overlooking the painted facades. In **Oberaudorf**, now in the final third of the Alpine Road, Mount Hocheck tempts adventure seekers with high-energy attractions such as a summer toboggan run and a free-fall slide, while the mountain station offers sweeping views across the Alpine foothills to enjoy at a gentler pace. **Reit im Winkl** is quieter. With its old farmhouses and balconies overflowing with geraniums, the town is a sight in its own right – a place where it is easy to lose track of time.

On the final leg, a detour toward **Berchtesgaden** is well worthwhile. Take the Jennerbahn up early in the day, and at the top – with the Watzmann massif almost close enough to touch – you can enjoy a traditional Bavarian Weißwurst breakfast. Paired with the incomparable Alpine panorama, it satisfies the soul as much as the appetite.

Just as the German Alpine Road begins beside Lake Constance, it ends in the idyllic setting of **Schönau am Königssee**. It is the perfect place to bring this remarkable journey to a close aboard an excursion boat beneath sheer rock faces, while somewhere along the shore the echo of an alphorn reverberates – the traditional sound that breaks the lake's silence from time to time.





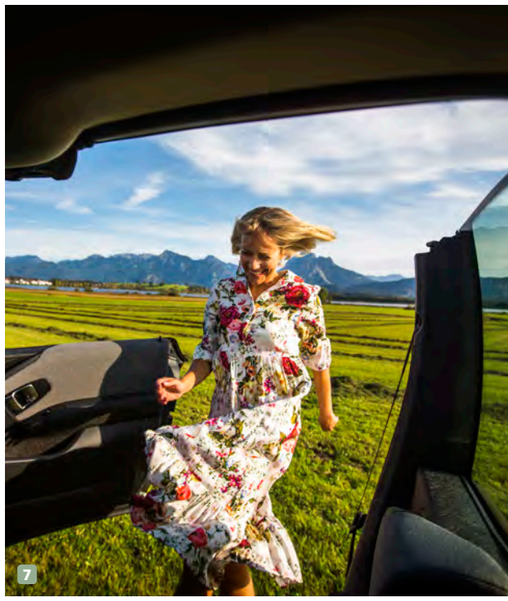


1/2 **Lindau Island**
3 **Füssen/Neuschwanstein**
4/5 **Garmisch-Partenkirchen**
6 **Zugspitze**
7 **Driving route**
8 **Partnach Gorge**
9/10 **Schönau am Königssee**

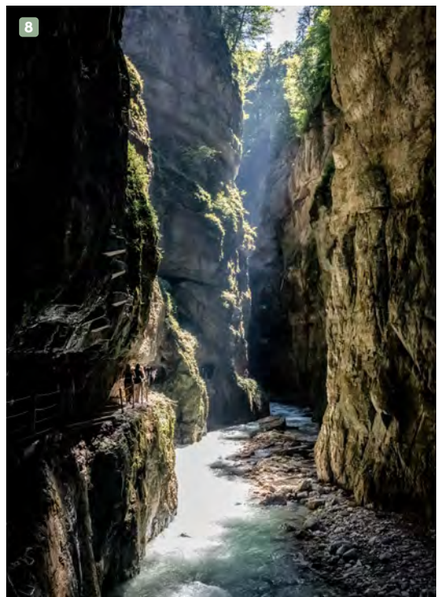








From the broad expanse of Lake Constance to the narrow confines of Alpine gorges, this photo essay captures the route's remarkable variety: Lindau's island in the evening light, fairytale Neuschwanstein Castle, village charm in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the cable car to the Zugspitze, and, again and again, people on the move – by car or on foot. The journey concludes in Schönau am Königssee, where rock and water create one of Bavaria's most famous postcard views.







Flavors *of the Region*

Specialties from the Lake Constance Region: So Much More Than Fruit & Wine

To experience a region with all your senses, taste as many of its specialties as you can. After all, the way to a traveler's heart is through the stomach. Fortunately, the fertile soil, sun-kissed hills, and lush vines along the shores of Lake Constance offer an exceptional wealth of flavors to discover. And they extend far beyond the celebrated fruit and acclaimed wines. Swiss delights are part of the Lake Constance story, too – from the cheeses of Appenzell to fine chocolate. Then there is Lake Constance whitefish, a prized regional specialty, along with zander (pike-perch), pike, perch, and trout. Hungry yet?



Wine growing

"The diversity of the landscape is reflected in every glass."

Claudius Haug

The Lake Shapes the Wine

Few products capture the character of a landscape and the distinctive qualities of a region as precisely as a fine bottle of wine. At estates such as Weingut Haug in Lindau, winemaker Claudius Haug achieves this through meticulous craftsmanship, creating wines full of freshness, elegance, and depth.

Dynamic, playful, and unmistakably individual – that is how Janine and Claudius Haug describe their style. They draw on the previous generation's winemaking tradition and carry it forward with modern expertise. The Bavarian Lake Constance wine region benefits especially from the area's mild climate and the balance of excellent soils and gently rolling terrain. Alongside classic varieties such as Müller-Thurgau, Chardonnay, and Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir), growers also cultivate fungus-resistant grape varieties. Known as PIWIs, these vines can require substantially fewer crop-protection treatments, are more resilient in increasingly unpredictable weather, and can support more sustainable cultivation overall.





The Bavarian Lake Constance wine region stretches between Lindau, Wasserburg, and Nonnenhorn, with 12 estates cultivating roughly 100 hectares. The revival of significant wine production in Lindau is thanks to two men: the fathers of Teresa Deufel and Claudius Haug, who awakened local winemaking from its long slumber in 1975. Today, their children tend the vines, alongside an entire new generation of young winemakers who are steadily enhancing the region's reputation at home and abroad. They invest consistently in quality and sustainability and remain open to new varieties such as Muscaris, Solaris, and Souvignier Gris. Wines made from these grapes stand shoulder to shoulder with the classics – so venturing beyond the familiar is well worth it.

Like every fine wine, those from Lake Constance reveal where they come from. Each vineyard site brings its own soils and light; the lake's mild climate adds another defining influence, while traditional and modern approaches meet in the cellar. The result is a strikingly diverse range of wines. The most rewarding way to explore it is in the region itself: at wine festivals such as LAGO or "Komm & See," with music and delicious food; at an organized vineyard picnic; in one of the seasonal vintners' taverns known locally as Rädlewirtschaften; at a tasting right on the estate; or in a farm shop. A leisurely journey along the lake, tasting and buying wines directly from the people who make them, brings winemakers and wine lovers together in a special way – and opens up the flavors of this exceptional wine region to all the senses.





Bavarian Lake Constance Wine Region |
Handcrafted with an Alpine view: Meticulous care in the vineyard determines, long before harvest, the quality that will eventually reach the glass.



Staatsweingut Meersburg

The roots of Staatsweingut Meersburg reach back to the 13th century, making it one of Germany's oldest wineries. This long tradition provides the foundation for a vibrant, contemporary range of highly enjoyable wines. Visitors can experience heritage and modern wine culture firsthand: the wine shop occupies the historic castle, while the estate's wine bar is just a few steps away in Meersburg's old town.

Hofkellerei Liechtenstein

The House of Liechtenstein is one of the world's oldest noble families. In the principality that bears its name, between Austria and Switzerland, the family has been devoted to winemaking for generations. Distinctive vineyard sites around the capital, Vaduz, yield remarkable wines. The Pinot Noir from the Herawingert – a vineyard with a 1,000-year history – regularly earns top scores for its concentration, character, and quality.

Weingut Aufricht

Meersburg lies within the Baden wine region, where the Aufricht family owns highly sought-after sites along the shores of Lake Constance. The family began breaking with convention and forging its own path early on. Today, the estate has won numerous awards, including recognition for its bold decision to plant varieties not previously grown beside the lake, such as the expressive Auxerrois. Its Spätburgunder (Pinot Noir) has even won the German Red Wine Award.









Fruit Growing *by the Lake*

Prized Across Germany & Europe: The Lake Constance Apple Has Made a Name for Itself

What benefits the vines is even better for fruit growing: Lake Constance's ideal climate produces exceptionally aromatic fruit. The region's many apple and pear varieties are prized far beyond its borders, both as fresh fruit and as the basis for exquisite fruit brandies.

When fruit grower Martin Nüberlin walks through his apple orchards in Lindau early in the morning, shortly before harvest, his heart lifts. Dew-kissed fruit gleams from branches heavy with apples. Elstar, Gala, Jonagold, and Pinova are among them – a variety to suit every taste. Nüberlin also grows Santana, a crisp, tangy variety that some people with apple allergies may tolerate better than other apples.



Obstbau Willhalm

Nüberlin is not the only grower upholding and strengthening the fruit-growing region's reputation well beyond its borders. In Lindau's Schönau district, Andreas Willhalm not only grows apples and pears, but also embellishes them with laser-etched designs – an eye-catching gift to take home. The centerpiece of his operation, however, is the on-site distillery. Here he produces Williams pear, cherry, and damson plum brandies, as well as specialties such as quince and Cox's Orange Pippin apple brandy. The region's abundant fruit harvest has fostered a long tradition of distilling. Through elaborate, meticulously controlled processes, local distillers create exceptional spirits that transform the character and distinctive qualities of the growing area into liquid gold.

Gierer Edelbrände

Artisan distiller and fruit-brandy sommelier Robert Gierer offers engaging tastings in his rustic showroom in Bodolz by advance reservation. His still produces distinctive specialties such as Elvados, a single-varietal spirit made from Elstar apples that develops depth and maturity over the course of eight years in oak. Gierer also distills classic stone fruits such as damson plums and cherries. Quince and hazelnut find their way into the still as well – and, of course, juicy Williams pears with their unmistakable character.







MoMö Museum | **Copper kettles, stills, and machinery vividly demonstrate how apples and pears become delicious juice, cider, and more.**

MoMö

The story of fruit growing and its long history comes vividly to life at MoMö – the Swiss Cidery and Distillery Museum in Arbon. This hands-on visitor experience presents the many facets of cultivation, processing, and refinement – from making apple juice and hard cider to producing high-proof spirits that capture and preserve the essence of the fruit. Naturally, visitors can also taste and purchase products made from apples and pears at MoMö.



Swiss Delights

Cheese & Chocolate

From Silky-Smooth to Beautifully Bold: Swiss Specialties to Delight the Palate and Lift the Spirits

Switzerland may be famous for its banks and strong currency, but its culinary pleasures are equally distinctive. The country played a defining role in creating the smooth chocolate we know today, and the best place to savor it is close to where that story began. Then there is the remarkable variety of distinctive cheeses, including aromatic Appenzeller, made just a short distance from Lake Constance.

Switzerland's traditions and national identity are closely intertwined with dairy farming and the cheese culture it has produced. This small country boasts an astonishing array of some 700 cheese varieties. The best known internationally are Emmentaler and aromatic Appenzeller. This full-flavored, semi-hard raw-milk cheese develops its distinctive character as its rind is regularly rubbed with a brine infused with meadow and Alpine herbs. It is made in small village dairies across Appenzellerland, not far from the shores of Lake Constance. Visitors can immerse themselves in the region's cheese culture at the Appenzeller Show Dairy in the village of Stein, where they can learn how these specialties are made – and taste them, too. On the German side, the Hoimat artisan cheese dairy in Eschach near Buchenberg in the Allgäu is also highly recommended. Unlike most dairies in the region, it specializes in soft cheese.

Chocolate is another of Switzerland's culinary calling cards. Its modern story began in the 19th century. Rodolphe Lindt's invention of the conching machine transformed what had once been bitter, grainy chocolate into the silky-smooth, sweet delicacy we know today – and set the stage for chocolate's worldwide success. It is no surprise, then, that chocolate lovers will find an abundance of tempting destinations in the Lake Constance region. One is the Chocolarium in the Swiss town of Flawil. At this interactive experience created by long-established chocolate maker Munz, visitors can immerse themselves in chocolate from the first stages of production to the finished treat – and even create little masterpieces of their own. Läderach boutiques in St.Gallen and Constance showcase extraordinary creations by the renowned Swiss chocolatier. And artisan chocolate maker Fenkart in Hohenems offers delicious proof that Austria, too, is part of Lake Constance's chocolate culture. Fenkart's intimate visitor experience is just the place to discover it for yourself.





Nostalgia Ahoy!
Lake Constance Cruising – from Vintage Charm to High-Speed Travel

Sun on your shoulders, fresh wind in your face – a cruise on Lake Constance is a delight in any season. Since the adventurous maiden voyage of the first steamship, Stephanie, in 1818, passenger service on the lake has flourished. Today, historic vessels such as the celebrated Hohentwiel share the water with scheduled passenger boats linking the shores of several countries. And for anyone who prefers a livelier pace, a high-speed catamaran sweeps across the waves.

The first trial of the steamship Stephanie ended in spectacular failure in 1818. The vessel just managed to complete her maiden voyage from Constance to Meersburg – but then the engines gave out, and the passengers had to row her all the way back under their own power. It took another six years for the breakthrough to come: in 1824, Wilhelm established the first permanent service between Friedrichshafen and Rorschach. King William I of Württemberg had provided financial backing for the venture. Powered by just 20 horsepower (approximately 15 kilowatts), the steamer reached what was then the breathtaking speed of 10 kilometers per hour.

That may sound positively leisurely today, but in the early nineteenth century it was remarkably fast. Traveling overland from Friedrichshafen to Romanshorn could take days; by boat, the journey took barely more than an hour. As passenger service grew in importance through continual innovation and new routes, it quite literally brought Germany, Austria, and Switzerland closer together.

Lake Constance
by Boat

In the early twentieth century, passenger service on Lake Constance entered another golden age. The paddle steamer Hohentwiel – arguably the most beautiful passenger vessel on the lake and still in service today – made her debut. During the 1920s, motor ships increasingly replaced steamships.





Lake Constance by Boat | **Adventure ahoy: every crossing becomes an experience, whether on a day trip or one of the many themed cruises.**



Progress on the water continues to gather pace. Passenger boat operators in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland are increasingly investing in sustainable propulsion technologies. Yet the vessels on the lake are far more than a means of transportation: a wealth of events and special cruises – from musical outings to culinary experiences – enriches life both on and along the lake, adding immeasurably to the region's distinctive flair.

Depending on the vessel and the route, a trip across Lake Constance always feels like a little journey through time – unless you opt for the catamaran. Running several times a day between Friedrichshafen and Constance, it reaches the lake's maximum permitted speed of 22 knots (approximately 41 kilometers per hour). At 52 minutes, the crossing is faster than any other mode of transportation – airplanes aside.

Lake Constance Cycling

at its best

"Nothing compares to the simple pleasure of a bike ride."

John F. Kennedy

Whether You Ride for Sport or Leisure – the Lake Constance Region Is a Cyclist's Paradise

Whether you follow the shores of Lake Constance or climb high into the hills and mountains for majestic views, Lake Constance is one of Europe's most varied cycling destinations. There is something for every ability level, whether you rely on pedal power alone or enjoy an electric boost. Visitors can also count on excellent cycling infrastructure.

The Lake Constance Cycle Path has earned its place on many a bucket list. This exceptionally well-developed route stretches for 260 kilometers around the lake, much of it directly beside the water. Your gaze drifts across sparkling waves as orchards give way to vineyards and back again, while the snowcapped peaks of the Alps rise on the horizon. A light breeze comes off the lake, water laps at the shore, and sailboats rock in little harbors: every stage has its own beauty and atmosphere. An excellent network of bike-friendly services now supports a remarkably wide range of visitors.

Is cycling first and foremost a sport for you? Then challenging routes with steep climbs and spectacular descents are an ideal fit – such as the scenic route from Meersburg up to Höchsten, with views across the entire lake. Serious climbs set your pulse racing; then an exhilarating descent, with the wind rushing against your face, rewards every ounce of effort. Or perhaps you love cycling but prefer a little ease and comfort. In that case, an organized e-bike tour with luggage transfers is just the thing – for example, a multi-day tour that lets you pedal leisurely from Constance toward Lindau while your bags are already waiting at the next hotel.

Prefer the heights to the shoreline? Vorarlberg bike guide Wendelin Küzler's favorite territory takes in the Pfänder area, the Vorderer Bregenzerwald, and parts of the Allgäu. Together with his guests, he explores scenic gems high above the lake. He leads them to special places where the Alps reveal their quiet magic: up narrow trails to remote alpine pastures, with Lake Constance shimmering far below.

The variety of cycling experiences on and around Lake Constance does not end there. They range from a relatively short panoramic loop in Lindau, perfect for a relaxed afternoon, to extended tours through four countries, across Switzerland's Thurgau, and deep into Appenzellerland, where rolling hills and the gentle soundtrack of cowbells await. In Überlingen, a culinary bike tour proves irresistible to food lovers, who enjoy a four-course menu of regional specialties at stops along the route. There is no more authentic way to experience the region.



Christmas *markets*

Mulled Wine, Sparkling Lights, and Christmas Market Magic: Every City Celebrates Advent and Christmas in Its Own Way

Lindau | Lights on the water: The aroma of mulled wine and roasted almonds drifts between the harbor entrance and the historic old town.



Constance | The historic Council Building is reflected in the harbor basin – an atmospheric backdrop for the Constance Christmas Market by the Lake and the Christmas Ship.



Bregenz | In the historic Upper Town, glassblowers, gingerbread bakers, and candlemakers demonstrate their crafts in person.

In the four-country Lake Constance region, visitors discover an extraordinary variety of holiday traditions. The markets may be smaller than those in cities such as Nuremberg or Dresden, but they are all the more idyllic, intimate, and welcoming – from traditional to alpine, rustic to storybook. An Advent stroll among the stalls and through the lanes of the four-country region is a feast for the senses and the perfect way to embrace the spirit of the season.

Lindau Harbour Christmas regularly earns a place near the top of international rankings. Its romantic setting between the water, the Bavarian Lion, and the lighthouse draws more visitors year after year. Nowhere else does Christmas-market enchantment blend so seamlessly with the panorama of the lake and the snowcapped Alps. The scent of mulled wine, roasted almonds, and freshly baked Apfelküchle – apple fritters – drifts among the stalls, while lights shimmer on the dark harbor waters and familiar landmarks are bathed in warm light. Around 90 lovingly decorated market stalls invite visitors to browse; choirs sing, and children lose themselves in the fir-scented enchanted forest right on the promenade.

The harbor is also the ideal starting point for Christmas-market hopping in Bregenz. Convenient and car-free, the Christmas ship MS Austria shuttles between the two harbors, turning the lake crossing into a little holiday adventure of its own. From late November through the end of the year, downtown Bregenz transforms into a festive wonderland. Around 40 Christmas market stalls cluster around Kornmarktplatz, where handcrafted wares and culinary treats tempt visitors. In the historic Upper Town, glassblowers, gingerbread bakers, woodcarvers, and candlemakers demonstrate their crafts before delighted onlookers.





Souvenirs | **Christmas to take home: Hand-carved Nativity figures, glass ornaments, and fragrant spice sachets – the stalls offer a keepsake for every taste.**

The Constance Christmas Market by the Lake is the largest on Lake Constance. Stalls line the route from Marktstätte through the old town and down to the harbor, while more than 100,000 lights shimmer on the water. Visitors can feel like children again for a moment, taking a nostalgic spin on the historic carousel with its hand-carved horses. Yet the holiday magic beckons beyond dry land as well: the Christmas Ship in the harbor extends the market onto the water, complete with an inviting festive dining area, views of the Council Building, and a party deck. Nearby, Mainau Island welcomes visitors to the Christmas Garden Insel Mainau. Along the festively decorated winter trail, twinkling light installations are paired with music and evocative soundscapes to create a magical holiday atmosphere. More than 25 colorful illuminations line the approximately 3-kilometer loop, including a radiant avenue of giant sequoias brought to life through an interplay of light and sound.

During Advent, 700 stars hang above the old town and the Abbey District in St.Gallen. A specially designed light choreography makes them appear to dance, giving the spectacle its name: Sternenstadt (“City of Stars”). Strolling through the lanes near the Abbey District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, visitors are immersed in the aromas of mulled wine and traditional St.Gallen Bratwurst. In the Liechtenstein capital of Vaduz, the Christmas market is particularly intimate and easy to explore. The setting is breathtaking, with Vaduz Castle and the Alpine massif as its backdrop. At Rathausplatz (Town Hall Square), skaters glide across a specially installed ice rink while the scent of punch and gingerbread wafts through the lanes.

Christmas also inspires vintners, brewers, and restaurateurs to create small, distinctive markets of their own. Two hidden gems are winemaker Teresa Deufel’s pop-up Advent market in Lindau, where grapevines and wine barrels set the scene for a uniquely relaxed holiday atmosphere, and the market at Hopfengut No. 20 near Tettnang, where freshly brewed winter beer and Christmas crafts come together. Christmas simply does not get more magical than in the Lake Constance region – even the Christ Child or Santa Claus would dream of spending a winter vacation here.





St.Gallen | **Reaching for the stars in the Sternenstadt (“City of Stars”): Thousands of lights bathe the celebrated Abbey District and the lanes of the old town in a festive glow.**

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