

Bodensee!

LAKE CONSTANCE TRAVEL GUIDE

One Lake.

Four Countries.

All Year Round.

BODENSEE MAP INCLUDED

HIGHLIGHTS
EVENTS
INSPIRATION

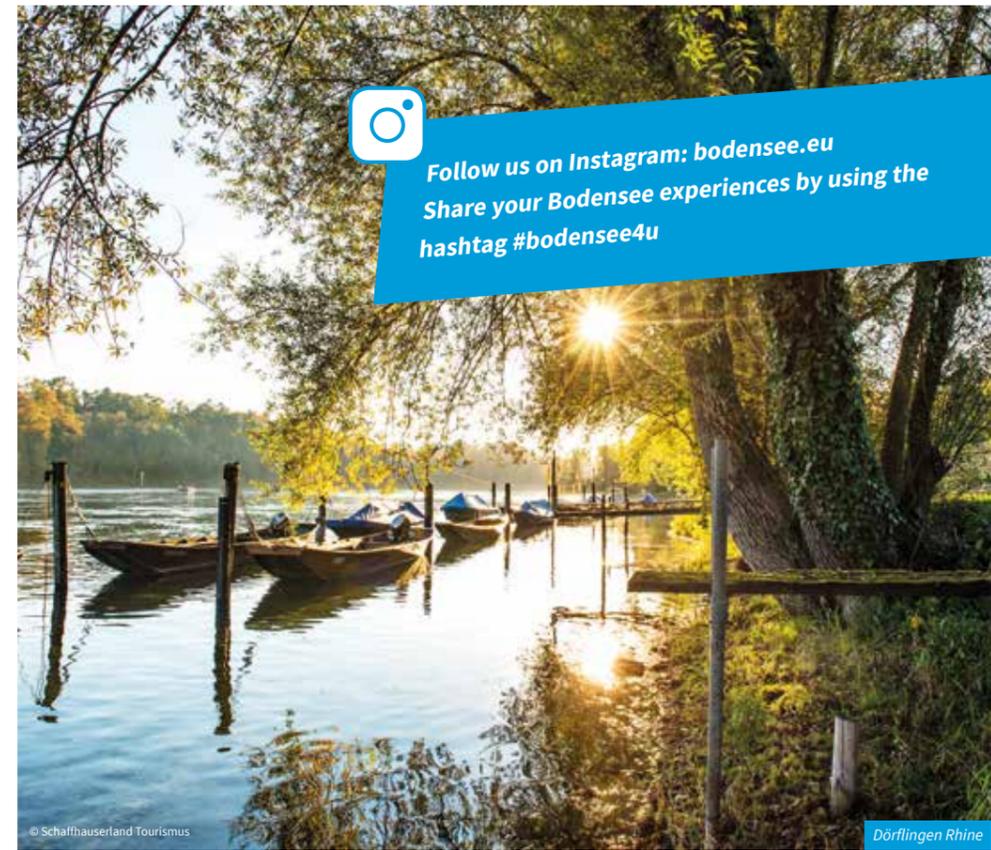


LAKE CONSTANCE
BODENSEE®

www.bodensee.eu



Bodensee passenger ships



© Schaffhauserland Tourismus

Dörflingen Rhine



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INFORMATION

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WELCOME TO THE BODENSEE!

Bodensee Region – Unique in the World!

Visit four beauties around this beloved lake

Lake Constance, also known as the “Bodensee” (Boden-zay) in German, is the liquid border fed by the mighty Rhine at the foot of the Swiss and Austrian Alps. It’s visually stunning, refreshingly green and often snowcapped. Come and explore this holiday gem and its four sparkling facets: Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein – all closely connected by passenger ship, train and bike paths.

4 countries in a day? Yes, it’s possible – without a car! Here’s an option: Start in Lindau, Germany and take your bike on the ferry to Rorschach, Switzerland. Follow bike signs to Austria along the Rhine Delta Nature Preserve to Bregenz (32 km). Lock your bike at the train station and take a 30-minute train up the Rhine Valley to Feldkirch, Austria. Then take a bus toward the Liechtenstein Alps to Vaduz. In 45 mins, you’ll be at the royal palace. Mission completed.

Each country on the lake is a micro-region with its own flair. Visit futuristic museums in tidy towns, bike through rolling orchards and vineyards, relax in friendly beer gardens and wine bars. You will love all the fresh salads, rich comforts, cheese, fish, sausages and breads from village bakers. No holiday here is complete without castles, flowers and baroque gardens, but maybe a beach is all you need. There are many. We are family friendly and English is gladly spoken.

The lake’s German side looks toward the Alps and stewards 173 km of shoreline with its many historic towns, parks, harbors, beaches and resorts. 72 km define Switzerland’s easternmost border from rolling farmlands that look across the lake to the ancient German kingdoms of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. The 28 km long Austrian border is where the Rhine enters the lake. No shoreline for Liechtenstein, but getting there takes just 30 mins by car up the Rhine.



Beergarden in Constance



Spring blossom

© Thurgau Tourismus

When to visit?

OPEN 365 DAYS

www.bodensee.eu/when-to-visit



Höri peninsula

© Achim Mende

The Bodensee enjoys a mild climate since the lake is a thermal source that blesses the area's orchards, vineyards and gardens with a longer growing season. Oppressive heat is rare and there is often a light lake breeze. In the hilly areas, temperatures average a bit higher. Spring and fall are the best periods for hiking and cycling. Spring arrives early and fall frosts are delayed thanks to the lake's warming effect.



Spring

When nature throws off her winter coat, you'll rub your eyes. It's a much-anticipated time when millions of apple, pear and cherry blossoms blanket the hillsides and sunny dandelions crash the party. Migrating birds and sailboats return to their common nesting grounds on the lake. Spring is the perfect season to explore this colorful Garden of Eden – hiking and biking especially. Alfresco dining returns in April and everyone anxiously awaits the first white asparagus. Springtime is magical.

Summer

When things heat up, we cool it down. There's enough beach for every suit: modern pools with cafés and activities, grassy lawn beaches with shade trees, access along the bike path, and deep water jetties in town parks. Summer is a paradise for golfers, cyclists and hikers too. When it gets busy, explore the trail network further inland – it's quieter. Kayaks and paddle boards provide hours of meditative sport. A cruise is a relaxing way to travel to neighboring countries. At night, music and theater come to life in open-air venues and public theaters all around the lake. Summer rocks!



Uhldingen-Mühlhofen

© TI Uhldingen



Hüttwilen

© Thurgau Tourismus

DID YOU KNOW?



The Bodensee Region enjoys a transitional climate between maritime Western Europe and continental Eastern Europe, making this region one of the milder areas at this latitude. These favorable conditions make it possible to grow grapes and many other fruits and vegetables. The average water temperature is 23°C (73°F) in summer, staying around 17°C (63°F) until October making the region one of the milder areas and therefore a perfect travel destination all year round.



Autumn

Misty mornings burn off to bright days. The orchards are dripping with crispy apples and locals forage for walnuts. There's an excitement in the air as vintners drive their loaded tractors to the village presses. Piles of pumpkins and gourds decorate the roadsides – heaps of joy. The hops on their giant trellises are ready for the brewers' vats. This is fall in her full regalia when leaves crinkle underfoot on long forest walks and the region's food festivals take center stage. We celebrate gratitude and nature's abundance. Fall is one of the best times to visit.

Winter

The charm of winter is quietude. After a brisk walk there's nothing better than a candlelit tavern. The Bodensee Region is still able to enchant romantics with its snowy Alps and sleeping orchards. Holiday decorations erupt and village squares light up. People bundled in woolen coats stroll the Christmas markets with steaming mugs of mulled wine and gingerbread. Passenger ships offer celebration excursions. The Bodensee is surrounded by world-class nordic and alpine trails – it's a good base for day trips to area resorts in all four countries. You could also warm your bones in one of the relaxing thermal spas on the lake. The perfect antidote to cold: Saunas!



Malbun

© Liechtenstein Marketing



For more Bodensee highlights, visit:
www.bodensee.eu/highlights

Bodensee Bucket List

WHAT YOU SIMPLY MUST DO



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09



10



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12

1. Visit **Mainau Island**, the flower island of the Bodensee Region
2. Stop by **Chateau Arenenberg**, presumably the most beautiful castle here
3. Enjoy a journey through the history of airships at the **Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen**
4. Experience the agricultural and artistic legacy of the Cistercians at **Salem Monastery and Palace**
5. Discover a UNESCO world heritage site come alive at the **Lake Dwelling Museum**
6. Explore the rooms of Germany's oldest inhabited **castle in Meersburg**
7. Walk up the **Pfänder** – the hill overlooking Bregenz, Austria and the Swiss Alps
8. Get your passport stamped in the Principality of **Liechtenstein**
9. Feel the spray at Europe's largest waterfall in Switzerland: the **Rhine Falls**
10. Visit the **Erwin-Hymer Museum**, the unique European museum for mobile camping
11. Take the gondola up to the peak of the **Säntis Mountain** (2,502 m) in Switzerland with views over six countries
12. Enjoy vegetables direct from farm to table at the **Island of Reichenau**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



For more information about Top Events:
www.bodensee.eu/top-events

Bregenz Festival

© Bregenz Festival / Lisa Mathis

January–March

- Carnival celebrations around Bodensee

March–May

- Spring weeks at the German shore

March–June

- Bregenzer Frühling – dance festival

End of April

- International Fleet Cruise of the United Shipping Companies

April–August

- Reichenau Island – Religious Holidays
- 25th April: Festival of St. Marc
- Mon following Trinity Sun: Festival of the holy blood
- 15th August: Festival of the saints of the minster

May

- International Bodensee Week in Constance

May–June

- Match Race Germany in Langenargen
- Bodensee Festival

End of May

- Horseback Procession of the Precious Blood in Weingarten

June

- 3rd Sunday: Castle Theme Day in Upper Swabia
- End of June: St.Gallen Festival

SPRING



June

- Spring blossom magic of the Bodensee Gardens

July

- 3rd Sunday: Hausherrenfest in Radolfzell
- 31st July: Fire on the rocks in Schaffhausen

July–August

- Bregenz Festival

July–October

- Wine and fall festivals around Bodensee

August

- 1st August: Swiss National Day with fireworks, e.g. in Stein am Rhein
- 2nd Saturday: Kreuzlingen and Constance Lake Night Festival
- 15th August: National holiday Liechtenstein
- Stars in Town in Schaffhausen
- Cultural Watersidefestival Friedrichshafen
- Baroque Week Upper Swabia
- Vaduz Classic Festival

August–September

- Sand Sculptures Festival in Rorschach

September

- Long Night of the Bodensee Gardens

September–October

- Apple weeks at the German shore and in Switzerland

October

- Monastery experience days Bodensee
- Autumn food festival around Lindau
- Fish weeks at Western Lake Constance
- County Agricultural Fair „Olma Messe“ St.Gallen

December

- Christmas Markets at the Bodensee Region

SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER



FOUR COUNTRIES CLOSE TOGETHER

„GRÜEZI!“
 „HOI!“
 „SERVUS!“
 „SALI!“

Germany

The major shareholder at Bodensee is Germany with 173 km. Tell any German you're going to the Bodensee and watch the eyes light up. Lindau is the Bavarian sweetheart and only island city on the lake. Friedrichshafen is tech-savvy and home to Zeppelin and Dornier. Meersburg draws a crowd with its two fairytale castles and wine-making traditions. The health spa town of Überlingen is a gardener's dream. The largest is Constance on the Swiss border, the energetic college town and cultural depot. Radolfzell is big on nature preserves and great outlet shopping. The smaller villages also have their loyal following. Visit any one of them and you'll be glad you did.

Switzerland

The Swiss shore stretches 70 km between the airport at Altenrhein and Stein am Rhein. What lies between them is worth exploring. Rorschach is a perfect starting point for a bike tour through the Rhine Delta back to Bregenz, Austria, Romanshorn invites you to play along its award-winning lakeside park, and Arbon's historic old town is a living museum. Don't miss the idyllic lake villages of Gottlieben, Ermatingen, and Steckborn where you can eat delectable fish dishes in tidy timber-frame restaurants. The boat trip from Stein am Rhein to Schaffhausen is one of the most iconic river journeys in Europe and where the great waterfall roars over the rocks.

Austria

Vorarlberg is the second smallest and most westerly province in Austria with its capital city Bregenz on Bodensee. This region packs a punch when it comes to innovative woodworking, contemporary design, alpine sports, and mountain traditions. There are lovely public parklands and city squares with markets and cultural events in the neighboring cities of Dornbirn, Hohenems and Feldkirch.

Liechtenstein

Famous for its size and financial prowess, the Principality of Liechtenstein is only 30 minutes from the lake by car. There's a lot to do in this alpine nation starting with the family art collections from the House of Liechtenstein, music festivals and skiing. The best way to see this tiny hereditary monarchy is to hike the length of it along the 75 km "Liechtenstein Trail".

DID YOU KNOW?



*Join in and win with the Bodensee Passport!
 Everyone who visits all four countries can win great prizes.
 Get the "Bodensee Passport" stamped. It's fun and easy!
www.bodensee.eu/passport*

BODENSEE CITIES

Historic old towns,
cozy villages and
modern architecture



03

www.bodensee.eu/cities



01



02

1 Arbon, Switzerland

Arbon is a port city nestled between the Bodensee and the Säntis Mountain, the region's 2,500m landmark. It is a great place to rest, relax and explore the region by bike, foot or boat. The historically preserved town invites you to stroll through the ages or breathe in the fresh mountain air along the lovely 3-km lakeside promenade.

2 Bregenz, Austria

Bregenz is the waterfront capital of the Vorarlberg province where the Austrian Alps meet the lake. The Pfänder Mountain gondola is within easy walking distance from the downtown port area. This former Roman stronghold is today a unique combination of seaside resort, trendy arts venue and sporty mountain town. The city park flowers along the lake promenade with bike rentals and a large children's playground. Bregenz is easily walkable from the train station and passenger ship docks. Take your pick of art galleries, shops, restaurants and the world's largest floating opera stage.

3 Friedrichshafen, Germany

The Zeppelin airship is a constant floating feature in the skies above the lake with daily sightseeing in good weather. The "Zeppelin City" is known for its brain power and visionary leadership in aviation, auto and electronic industries with two masterful museums: the Zeppelin Museum and Dornier Museum highlighting 100 years of German flight history. There are many outdoor music and art festivals along the large park and waterfront promenade – all of it rebuilt after WWII. It's a fascinating destination for pilots, students of history, and engineers.

4 Constance, Germany
 The largest city on the lake, Constance, became famous during the Great Schism in 1414 when Europe's top clergy convened in neutral territory to elect a 'legitimate' pope. The original council building still stands and watches over one of Germany's most controversial statues – a buxom courtesan seen by many as a nod to feminine power. Thanks to the city's close border with Switzerland, the historic center is intact and a great place to explore near the cathedral. Constance is a youthful university town with excellent shopping and dining choices. The two islands of Reichenau (UNESCO & veggies) and Mainau (flower island) are easily reached by bike, bus or car.

5 Lindau, Germany
 The Lion guarding the port alongside Bavaria's only lighthouse make Lindau harbor one of the most iconic, as yachts and ships come and go. Conveniently located off the A96 Autobahn, the minute you cross the bridge onto the pedestrian island, you feel the holiday vibe. The Linden trees on its medieval coat of arms reveals how the town got its name. A walk or a trolley ride around the island are good ways to see all the island's treasures. The island Christmas market is a local favorite.

6 Radolfzell, Germany
 The Untersee is home to a stretch of largely unspoiled nature with sanctuaries of reedy marshland, forest, natural lakes, and wildflower meadows. At the heart of this unique landscape lies the official health resort of Radolfzell. It has a pretty old town on the lake with great outlet shopping, the longest shoreline, and outstanding transport connections. Radolfzell is synonymous with nature, wellbeing, and a healthy holiday experience.

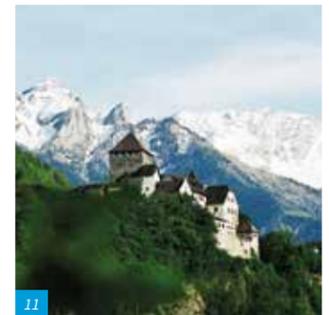
7 Ravensburg, Germany
 If you play puzzles, you surely recognize the name Ravensburg. This "City of Towers and Gates" is a 30-minute drive from Bodensee and the modern home of Ravensburger publishing company. Trading has always been its tradition. Germany's first paper was manufactured here in 1336, and centuries ago, clever merchants sold textiles and linen throughout Europe and invested great wealth into beautifying their town. This same medieval district is the region's favorite shopping destination. Climb the watch tower for views of rolling farmlands, the lake and the Alps.

8 Stein am Rhein, Switzerland
 Like a precious stone, Stein am Rhein is located at the point where the lake narrows back to the river known as the High Rhine on its long journey to the North Sea in Holland. This village is noted for its painted stories, the ones told through the centuries as art frescoes on the building façades. It's nice to stroll along the river where the passenger ships dock, savor some Swiss chocolates, visit the monastery, and shop for local arts and crafts.

9 St.Gallen, Switzerland
 St.Gallen produces some of the world's finest textiles for the big fashion houses ... fabrics for weddings, galas and inaugurations of the world's elite. The fine detail to artistry is also seen in the oriel windows built onto prominent homes and in the precious books once written and illustrated at the world-famous abbey library. You'll want to visit the baroque cathedral, chocolate shops and cafés, and don't forget to try the bratwurst sausage "Olma" – without mustard! St.Gallen is 20 minutes from the lakeshore by car or train.

10 Überlingen, Germany
 Überlingen has a long history as a health spa town, where guests have been 'taking the cure' for more than 100 years. The modern thermal baths are one of three of the Bodensee Region with saunas, pools of varying temperatures and lake access. It's relaxing and important to German wellbeing. What makes Überlingen extra special are the garden parks for long walks and dramatic scenes along ivy towers, plunging cliffs and memories of ancient struggles along the defense wall. The waterfront promenade is a sunset destination where the wine flows.

11 Vaduz, Liechtenstein
 The capital city of Vaduz is the beating heart of Liechtenstein. Spend an afternoon here and get your passport stamped. It feels like Switzerland and looks like Austria – just smaller and wealthier. The VIP financier scene is smart and chic, but the culture's deep roots in farming and alpine traditions keep Vaduz approachable. The pedestrian zone below the palace is where the action is. Don't miss the prince's own art gallery and museum collections. Getting here is an easy 30 minutes from the lakeshore by car.



CULINARY DELIGHTS

from four countries



On the Bodensee, it's 5-star wherever you are ... be it a campground, a guesthouse, or a luxury penthouse – the views and high standards are the same everywhere.

“Farm-to-Table” truly defines our food culture from field and orchard, fishery and dairy – we are cultivating for your plate. The lake whitefish and pike-perch pair well with white wine. Reichenau Island supplies fresh salads and vegetables. Tart apples, sweet cherries, plums and pears are eaten directly or made into tempting desserts. Local cheeses make fondues and smoother dumplings. You can even order a white sausage, pretzel and wheat beer for breakfast in Bavaria.

More on Bodensee's culinary delights:
www.bodensee.eu/culinary



WHO INVENTED IT?

The national dish of Liechtenstein is “Käsknöpfle” (macaroni and cheese) with apple sauce. In Austria, Switzerland and Germany, this egg noodle dish KÄSSPÄTZLE is mixed with 3 or 4 types of cheeses and topped with crispy fried onions. We'll never know who invented cheese dumplings first, but who cares. Each country has their own recipe style and all of them taste great.

HERE'S THE RECIPE!

Ingredients for 8 servings:

- 600 g flour
- 8 eggs
- 10 cl fresh water
- A pinch of pepper
- A pinch of nutmeg
- A pinch of salt
- Grated Appenzeller and alpine cheese



Preparation:

Place the ingredients in a bowl and mix them into a dough. Leave it for 10-20 minutes. Then pass the dough through the special grater (“Knöpflehobel”) into boiling, salted water (2 heaped tablespoons of salt). Leave the small pieces of dough in the boiling water for a couple of minutes, then place them in a bowl, add grated Appenzeller cheese, alpine cheese and mix. Fry thinly-sliced onions in butter until they are golden, then place these on top of the dish and serve it hot.

TIP:

If the dumpling noodles are too dry, add a little hot water before mixing in the cheese

WINE

The Bodensee area is a happy place for drinkers of small batch, boutique and affordable wines. The big players are Müller-Thurgau, Pinot Gris and Pinot Noir, but there are many other varieties to sample. The gastronomy scene is an authentic way to discover the culture. We emphasize freshness, variety, creativity and quality.

German Wine Smugglers – the Müller-Thurgau Story

On a spring night in 1925, two local young men secretly set off in a row boat. Their fathers eagerly awaited their return home from the Swiss side. The young men had 400 grafted vines in their boat.

Johann Baptiste Röhrenbach was determined to cultivate Müller-Thurgau grapes after tasting it for the first time at Arenenberg Castle on the Swiss side of Bodensee. He was so smitten with the refreshing white wine that he decided to smuggle the vines back home. The variety was a new hybrid showing superstar promise in the wine world and he knew this early ripening grape was ideal for cultivation in Germany.

After the successful smuggling operation, Röhrenbach began to cultivate the wine, but was only allowed to press small quantities in Immenstaad. The new wine soon became the hot topic among connoisseurs and in spring 1926, the wine thief repeated his smuggling tour and secretly distributed vines to interested winegrowers.

Today, Müller-Thurgau is the most widely cultivated grape in the region.



HOPS & BEER

Some parts of the Bodensee Region are famous for the ‘Green Gold’ hops used in a number of European pale lagers and wheat beers. Visitors can watch the hops harvest and elaborate drying process but most importantly, taste different beers at local pubs and breweries. You’ll never forget the smell of hops, happily cultivated here since the 12th century.

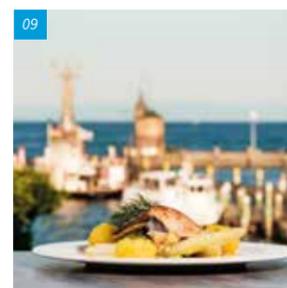
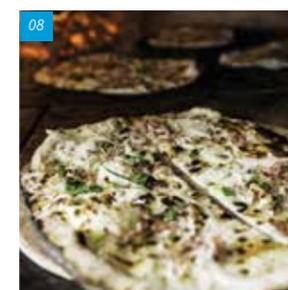
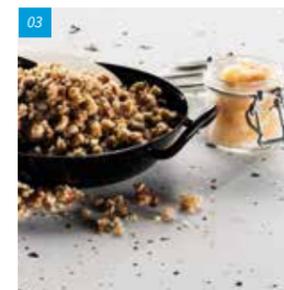
DID YOU KNOW?

Hops Heaven

The Bodensee Region is one of the largest producers of hops in Germany around Tettngang. If you want to learn more about the world of hops, Hopfengut No 20 is the place to be: hops production, brewery, museum, shop and restaurant – the ideal destination for beer lovers. The 4th generation of the Locher family produces the best aroma hops for breweries around the world and transforms them into high-quality beer specialities. Welcome and Prost!

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED...?

More on Bodensee's culinary delights:
www.bodensee.eu/culinary



- 1. St.Gallen Bratwurst**
You should definitely try a St.Gallen “Olma” bratwurst – but please don’t add mustard to this tender yet crispy skin, top-quality veal and mouth-watering mixture of spices.
- 2. Swabian Maultaschen**
Maultaschen (ravioli) are made from pasta dough filled with sausage meat, onions and soaked bread rolls. To prevent a valuable piece of meat going to waste during Lent, sneaky 17th-century monks disguised it in the ravioli.
- 3. Riebel**
Riebel is a simple corn dish from Vorarlberg and the St.Gallen Rhine Valley where the borders of Liechtenstein, Austria and Switzerland touch. For a typical Riebel, corn and wheat semolina are boiled up in milk with a little salt until a sticky mash is formed.
- 4. Reichenau Vegetables**
Reichenau Island grows approximately 12,000 tonnes of vegetables each year. Particularly famous are the cucumbers, lettuce, lamb’s lettuce and tomatoes that are sold on the weekly farmers’ markets around the lake.
- 5. Seele**
Seele is a speciality from Upper Swabia similar to a baguette made from spelt flour and available in any bakery. It is particularly tasty with a little butter or grilled in the oven with delicious bruschetta style toppings.
- 6. Cheese**
The Bodensee Region boasts an impressive range of traditional cheeses. The alpine dairies in farms and village coops are deeply rooted in cheese production using the very best hay milk from local animals.
- 7. Höri Bülle**
Connoisseurs see the “Höri-Bülle” onion variety as a true delicacy. It is traditionally grown on the Höri Peninsula at Western Lake Constance. Not only is it mild and extremely tasty in many dishes, its red skin gives it an attractive appearance for braided wreath decorations.
- 8. Dünnele/Dinnele/Dinnete**
A Dünnele is a local thin crust flatbread made with cream and ham, or refined with smoked salmon, even flambéed with plums.
- 9. Bodensee Fish**
Whitefish, perch, pike-perch, and other lake fish are culinary highlights served around the lake year round.
- 10. Apples**
Apples are pressed into juice, deep-fried into apple rings, and baked into pies. In the spring, the delicate apple blossoms are a sight to behold.

Painters, poets and pioneers have always felt a deep connection to Bodensee for its natural beauty and cultural inspiration. 1,200 years of art and architecture define our rural and urban backdrop. You'll see it at the Bregenz Festival in Austria where a floating stage hosts world-class opera. The summer arts festival in Friedrichshafen is an open-air performance event and crafts market, where street artists from all over Europe entertain. Bodensee Region has a triad of UNESCO World Heritage sites, historic parks, science and archeologic museums and music festivals from hip-hop to classical.

Churches, Monasteries & Abbeys

Religious settlements came to the Bodensee in the 8th and 9th centuries with the Benedictine abbeys of St.Gallen and Reichenau. They were the most influential learning institutions and communities of imperial status. The 12th century Salem Abbey was the most prominent Cistercian complex in southern Germany. All of them left a huge legacy in the arts and sciences, medicine, and horticulture that shaped the cultural landscape we see today.

Castles, Palaces & Ruins

Many former military strongholds and pleasure palaces of the ruling elite are now open to the public to admire. The region's favorites include the baroque palace of the Counts of Montfort in Tettngang, the old and new castles in Meersburg, the fortress ruins of Hohentwiel built atop an ancient volcano, Arenenberg Castle, Kisslegg Castle, Munot Fortress, Vaduz Castle in Liechtenstein and many other hilltop guardians.

Museums & Exhibitions

Since the times of the Celts and Romans, the region has hosted different cultures who passed and settled at this strategic junction of trade and travel. Bodensee museums give you an insight of the past to the present from ancient Celtic stilt houses, the history of winemaking, renaissance art, medieval trades and life, beer and hops, poets and authors homes, vintage cars and tractors, aviation, technology and education.

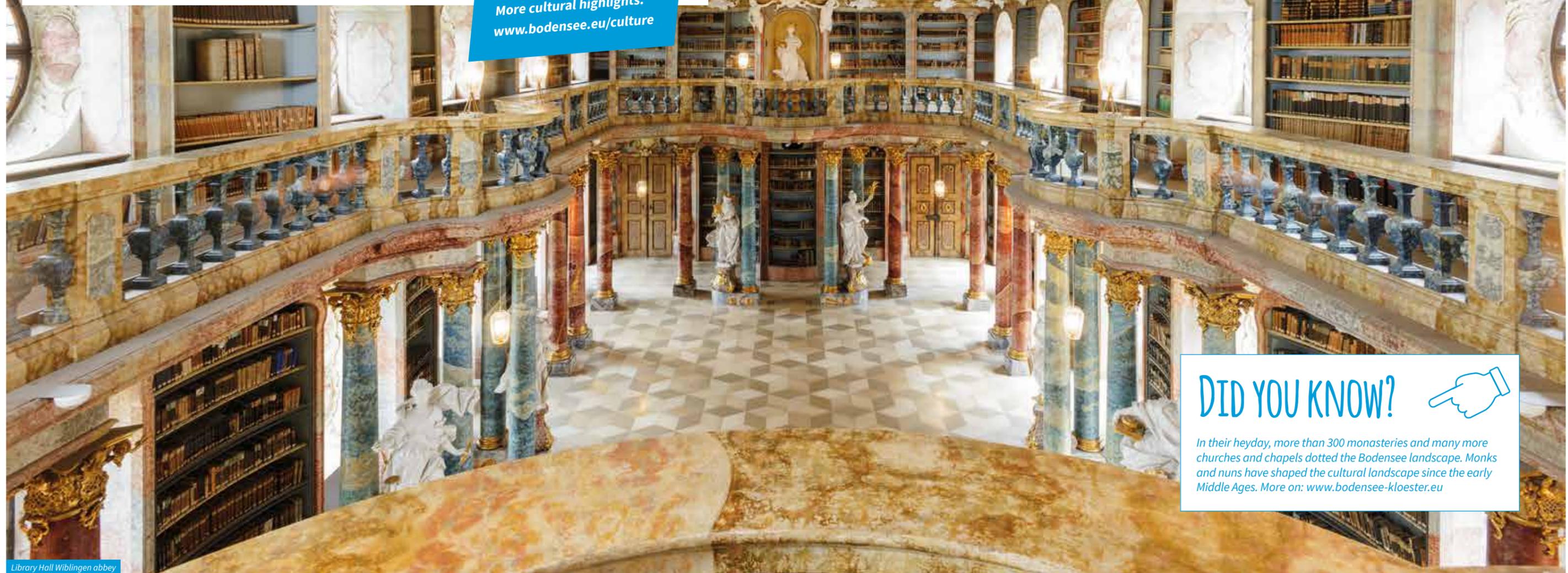
Baroque Heaven

Like a string of pearls, you can follow the Upper Swabian Baroque Route from the Swabian Alb to the Allgäu Alps, between the Danube and the Bodensee. The elaborate architecture and décor inspired by the Italian Renaissance arrived here in the 17th century with gusto. Some castles are still occupied by aristocracy whilst others are open to visitors. Dozens of baroque castles, palaces, abbeys and churches adorn this 500 km route.

More cultural highlights:
www.bodensee.eu/culture

A LIVELY CULTURAL SCENE

Treasures of the past



Library Hall Wiblingen abbey

DID YOU KNOW? 

In their heyday, more than 300 monasteries and many more churches and chapels dotted the Bodensee landscape. Monks and nuns have shaped the cultural landscape since the early Middle Ages. More on: www.bodensee-kloester.eu

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

The Bodensee Region is home to three big UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The abbeys of St.Gallen in Switzerland and Reichenau Abbey were the early incubators of European civilization. But before them, Stone and Bronze age cultures built elevated pile dwellings around the Alps, and one of them is a reconstructed village museum on Bodensee.



1. Abbey Cathedral of St.Gallen

The Abbey Cathedral of St.Gallen, abbey library and monastery buildings form the spacious Abbey District at the heart of the pedestrian zone in St.Gallen. This magnificent baroque complex rose from a simple hermitage founded in 612 by the legendary monk Gallus.

2. Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps

The name "stilt house or pile dwelling" is used to describe archaeological remains and artifacts of ancient civilizations discovered along alpine lakes, wetlands and river shores dating from 5000 to 500 B.C. There are more than 100 sites around the Bodensee and the Federsee in Upper Swabia. The open-air museum and reconstructed village at the Pfahlbauten Museum in Unteruhldingen and the Fischerhaus Museum in Öhningen-Wangen transport visitors back to the Stone and Bronze Ages.

3. Monastic Island of Reichenau

Reichenau now dedicates itself to vegetable farming, but the former imperial abbey was once the religious and cultural equivalent of an Oxford or Harvard from the 10th–13th centuries. It was a center of high academic arts with a famous scriptorium, master gardens and vineyards. Only three churches remain: the former medieval Benedictine abbey as well as two Romanesque churches with early Christian murals.

DID YOU KNOW?



More than 1,200 years ago, Reichenau monks drafted the perfect plan for a monastery complex that included craftsmen's houses, stables and gardens to ensure self-sufficiency according to Benedictine rules. After centuries gathering dust in the St.Gallen abbey library, these plans are now coming to life. It will be several decades before all of the buildings are finished. In the meantime, visitors have the opportunity to watch the craftsmen at work at "Campus Galli" near Messkirch.

DID YOU KNOW?



Deep Roots in Horticulture

For centuries, persistent gardeners have been sowing, planting and weeding castle grounds, park commons and residential gardens. The parks and gardens allow their visitors to take an exciting journey through the epochs from the Middle Age to the present – the whole region is a green living landscape. More on: www.bodenseegaerten.eu



More UNESCO:
www.bodensee.eu/unesco

OUT & ABOUT

Bodensee is for active nature lovers

More outdoor adventures:
www.bodensee.eu/active

The Bodensee Region is a place to spread your wings and go. Cycle the bike paths around the lake. Paddle along the shore in a kayak or canoe. Walk on well-maintained paths through the vineyards. Hike the volcanic hills in the Hegau region or ascend the Säntis peak (2,502m) and the "Vordere Grauspitze" in Liechtenstein (2,599m).



Cycling Dreams

Cyclists love the international Bodensee Region for its range of terrain and excellent network of roads and paths through rolling orchards and farmlands. There are many bikes shops and places to take snack breaks. The region offers hundreds of quiet paved roads and routes for all abilities.

The most famous route is the 270 km **Bodensee Bike Route** that circumnavigates the lake through Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Rated as easy, it's one of Europe's most popular and scenic. We recommend splitting the journey into 4 to 7 stages. Spring and fall are ideal times to ride.

A second route worth mentioning is the incredibly scenic **Danube-Bodensee Route**: This route leads from the world's highest church spire in Ulm to the shores of the Bodensee, linking the Danube bike route with the Bodensee bike route.

There are other marked routes that are ideal for all ages and abilities including the **Lindau panoramic tour**, the **Rhine Valley Bike Path** and the **Hegau Route**.



Cycling around Lindau



Hegau Route

© Schaffhauserland Tourismus

DID YOU KNOW?



The German Hiking Institute awarded the "Premium Hiking Trail" seal of approval to the **SeeGang** by the Bodensee, the **Bodensee LandGänge** and the **Hegau "skittles"** volcanic trail.



© Luftseilbahn Wasserauen

Äscher

Hike in four, they're right next door

The Bodensee Region boasts an outstanding network of hiking trails through vineyards, along the lake, through forests and villages. The lake is always there when you want to cool off.

Theme Trails

Theme trails in the hinterland around Bodensee offer shorter walks in exquisite settings of cultural importance. Hikers should check out the **Tettang Hops Path** (8 km), the **Weinfelden Wine Path** (9 km) or the **Altnau Apple Path** (2-4 km).

The **St.Gallen Panorama Tour** (9 km/altitude of 450 m) offers pleasure of another kind. Especially remarkable is the new **Liechtenstein Trail** (75 km/altitude of 674 m).

Hiking in the mountains

In a matter of minutes, a mountain railway whisks visitors up to the highest peaks around the lake, such as the **Pfänder** (1,064 m, Austria) and the **Säntis** (2,502 m, Switzerland). At the top, visitors are greeted by breathtaking views and extensive networks of hiking trails. Up in the clouds, the more than 400-km-long network of hiking trails stretches as far as the Principality of Liechtenstein. The region boasts more than 32 peaks that rise above 2,000 meters.



© Oberschwaben Tourismus GmbH

Take a seat

WATER OF LIFE

More on boat trips:
www.bodensee.eu/boat-trips

The Bodensee is the region's elixir of life from recreation and farming to drinking water and shipping. The lake is fed by meltwater from the Alpine Rhine and Germany's largest spring Aachquelle. 600,000 liters of water flow over the Rhine Falls every second at Europe's largest waterfall in Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

Navigation

For centuries, the Bodensee was busy with cargo boats loaded with goods, before cars and rail. Today, the lake boats transport leisure and commuter passengers. An impeccable schedule of passenger ships operates seasonal routes around the lake to three countries. Bikes can go on most routes. There's always drink and snack on the larger 'White Fleet' ships. The art nouveau paddle steamer Hohentwiel and motor ship MS Oesterreich offer elegant lake excursions that take passengers back in time. Year-round commuter connections operate between Constance–Friedrichshafen as well as the car ferries between Meersburg–Constance and Friedrichshafen–Romanshorn.

Water Sports

You could stay on the beach all day but the water calls you to go in deeper. Try stand-up paddling, sailing, wind-surfing and canoeing along the shore.

DID YOU KNOW?



Bodensee is the largest drinking water reservoir in Europe and supplies up to five million households every year. Around 125 million cubic meters of drinking water per year come from a 60-meter depth.

WATER VARIATIONS



ICE ICE ... MAYBE?

The lake freezes completely every 70 years, according to statistics. This is what we call "Seegrörne" in German. The first Sea Frost was recorded in 875! Since then, Bodensee has frozen over 33 times, the last time in winter 1962/63.

Liebesinsel

© Achim Mende



FOGGY GOGGLES

In late fall and winter, fog descends upon the lake into multiple layers of gray creating a special atmosphere ideal for photography and nostalgic feelings of wellbeing.

Heiligenberg



SNOWY VALLEYS

Even in the valleys below and along the lake-shore, we also welcome the precious white fluff. It turns our villages into snow globes of winter wonder. Maybe the snow doesn't stick as long, but we enjoy any chance to make snow angels and snowmen.

St.Gallen

© St.Gallen-Bodensee Tourismus

A winter flirt:

WARMS YOUR HEART!



Bodensee Region is a quintessential summer holiday, but for those who appreciate the winter season, this is one of the best times to visit for value and activities.

More on winter: www.bodensee.eu/winter

Warm and Relaxing

Bodensee Region offers three thermal baths, each one located directly at the waterfront in Meersburg, Überlingen, and Constance. There are three thermal baths on Bodensee located directly on the waterfront in Meersburg, Überlingen and Constance. The Upper Swabian Spa Route offers additional soaking opportunities with moor baths, hot springs and extensive sauna landscapes.



Thermal spa in Überlingen



Constance Christmas Market

Birdwatching – As far as wings can fly

Every year, huge numbers of birds journey to warmer climes and many land at the lake area for the winter. These protected gathering places include Wollmatinger Ried, Eriskirch Ried, EU Federsee Nature Reserve, the Rhine Delta and Ruggeler Ried.



Birds, Birds, Birds



Skiresort Malbun

Skiing

All four countries offer world-class skiing with guaranteed snow close to the Bodensee. Nearby ski resorts in Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein offer trails for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sleigh rides. Pfänder Mountain in Bregenz is charming and easily accessible whereas Malbun is a familial, rustic resort in Liechtenstein.

Christmas Markets

If you pick one destination for a Christmas Market make it Bodensee Region. We have more markets in one location than anywhere else — all connected by passenger ships! The markets light up the holiday season with festive gift stalls, delicious food, steaming rum and wine drinks. They run from late November through Christmas on town squares, baroque castles and promenades along the lake.



© Thurgau Tourismus

01

Hidden Gems

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



02



03



04



05



06



07



08



09



10



11



12

1. Get in touch with the stars in a **Thurgauer Bubble Hotel**
2. Watch how the apple juice gets bottled at **Mosterei Möhl, Arbon**
3. Take a selfie far above the rock edge at the **Karren-Kante**
4. Enjoy the ancient **Hohentwiel volcano** with Germany's highest vineyard
5. See the entire country of Switzerland in an hour at **smilestones miniature world**
6. Swim in the beautiful swimming ponds "**Drei Weiern**" in the city of St.Gallen
7. Experience a real **shaking forest** near Lake Federsee
8. Walk in the footsteps of Otto Dix and Hermann Hesse at the **Höri-Peninsula**
9. Go on a **lama and alpaca trek** in Triesenberg (Liechtenstein) or Western Lake Constance
10. See where the Rhine leaves Bodensee at **Werd Island**
11. Explore nature, humans and technology at **inatura** in Dornbirn
12. Discover how chocolate is made with love at **Maestran's Chocolarium** in Flawil

ARRIVE & GET AROUND

Access and local transport



By airplane:

Bodensee Airport Friedrichshafen
Zürich Airport
Memmingen Airport
Munich Airport
Stuttgart Airport



By train:

Via Karlsruhe, Munich and Stuttgart in Germany
Via Zürich in Switzerland and Innsbruck in Austria



By coach:

Many coach lines have direct connections to Constance, Friedrichshafen, Lindau, Bregenz and St.Gallen from many European cities.



By car:

A81 and A96 in Germany
A1, A4 and A7 in Switzerland
A14 in Austria

NICE TO KNOW



Currency

€/Euro in Germany and Austria
CHF/Swiss Franc in Switzerland and Liechtenstein
Credit cards are generally accepted, but small shops and tickets for public transportation can only be paid in cash.

Pass Control

When travelling around Bodensee Region you might cross the border several times. On the Swiss border there are routine pass controls, so guests should always carry their ID card with them.

Roaming

Since Switzerland is not part of the EU, high roaming costs might appear.

Additional information:
www.bodensee.eu/plan-your-trip

THE BEST HOLIDAY VALUE: BODENSEE CARD PLUS

The Bodensee 4-Country Holiday Pass

Pay once and enjoy 160 services free of charge, including boat trips on Bodensee! Cardholders easily discover attractions in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Numerous land, mountain and water activities are included — from classic sights to new destinations.

The Bodensee Card PLUS is valid for 3 or 7 separate days of your choice. You can use the card on any separate days during the season.

Buy your Bodensee Card PLUS here:
www.bodensee-card.eu



TRAVEL TIMES AND DISTANCES AROUND LAKE CONSTANCE

	Friedrichshafen	Ravensburg	Bregenz	Vaduz	St.Gallen	Schaffhausen	Lindau	Singen
Constance	24 km / 15 mi 1:15h*	40 km / 25 mi 1:15h*	68 km / 42 mi 1:20h	97 km / 60 mi 1:15h	47 km / 29 mi 0:45h	93 km / 33 mi 1:20h	49 km / 30 mi 1:30h*	32 km / 20 mi 1:05h
Friedrichshafen		20 km / 12 mi 0:25h	40 km / 25 mi 0:35h	88 km / 55 mi 1:00h	40 km / 25 mi 1:25h*	82 km / 51 mi 1:10h	21 km / 13 mi 0:20h	66 km / 41 mi 1:00h
Ravensburg			52 km / 32 mi 0:40h	100 km / 62 mi 1:10h	96 km / 60 mi 1:10h	94 km / 58 mi 1:20h	30 km / 19 mi 0:30h	78 km / 48 mi 1:10h
Bregenz				54 km / 34 mi 0:40h	41 km / 25 mi 0:40h	120 km / 75 mi 1:20h	20 km / 12 mi 0:20h	105 km / 65 mi 1:35h
Vaduz					70 km / 43 mi 0:45h	150 km / 93 mi 1:30h	68 km / 42 mi 0:45h	125 km / 78 mi 1:45h
St.Gallen						83 km / 52 mi 0:50h	58 km / 36 mi 0:50h	100 km / 63 mi 1:15h
Schaffhausen							101 km / 63 mi 1:30h	21 km / 13 mi 0:25h
Lindau								83 km / 52 mi 1:15h

*including ferry

DITCH THE CAR!



The Bodensee Ticket – Train | Bus | Ferry is the perfect accompaniment to your Bodensee Card PLUS.

The ticket rate includes unlimited travel around Lake Constance by train, bus and ferry: stay mobile and arrive at popular Bodensee Card PLUS destinations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland totally relaxed. Save money and valuable holiday hours.

GUEST PASSES

Depending on where you stay on the Bodensee, we offer all-inclusive cards, discount cards and purchase cards which allow free travel on public transport and discounts at local sights, among other holiday benefits.

- ✓ Echt Bodensee Card (The German shore)
- ✓ Bodensee Card West (Western Lake Constance)
- ✓ Lake Constance-Vorarlberg leisure pass (Austria)
- ✓ Oskar – the eastern Switzerland guest pass (Switzerland)
- ✓ Liechtenstein museum and experience pass (Principality of Liechtenstein)

FACTS & FIGURES



You probably know Lake Constance is nestled at the heart of Europe where Germany, Switzerland, Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein meet. But did you also know these interesting things about the region?

Territory

With three nations bordering Lake Constance, the waters are divided up as follows: Germany: 55% Switzerland: 34% Austria: 11%.

Size

Lake Constance is the third largest lake in Central Europe. Average water depth covers a total area of 572 km².

Dimensions

Lake Constance has a max length of 63 km and max width of 14.8 km. Max depth is 254 m in the Upper Lake and 147.4 m in the Überlingen Lake.



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