

# Trips in and from Konstanz

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## Konstanz

<https://www.constance-lake-constance.com/>

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[constance.com/ Resources/Persistent/17d49fc2239f0deffa4f58ad78f761ed8a701eab/MTK\\_Konstanz\\_S](https://www.constance-lake-constance.com/ Resources/Persistent/17d49fc2239f0deffa4f58ad78f761ed8a701eab/MTK_Konstanz_S)  
[tadtrundgang\\_2020\\_EN.pdf](#)

Located between Germany and Switzerland, quite in the geographic centre of Europe, Konstanz is the largest city around Lake Constance (85,000 inhabitants). Every historical epoch has left its archetypal traces: Niederburg, as the oldest part of Konstanz is called, is characterised by winding alleyways, 1000-year-old town houses and cosy wine taverns. Seestraße on the lakeside promenade has art nouveau houses with ornate turrets and bizarre roofs.

The strategically favourable location in the bay of Lake Constance was ideal for settlement. The first traces date back to the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The Romans also recognised the geographical advantage. To ward off the Alemans, they built a fort on the hill of the cathedral, which was presumably named Constanzia after Emperor Konstantin II.

### ***Worth to see:***

Cathedral of our lady

Council of Constance: a historic medieval warehouse

A weighty monument : Hus stone

ImperiaStatue: A courtesan as a landmark

Kaiserbrunnen fountain at the market place

Lenk fountain obere Laube

Niederburg: the oldest part of Constance

Rheintor-Pulverturm Schnetztor Tower

Seestrasse/ harbour promenade : relaxed walks along the Shore

Town Hall

Wallpaintings: Frescoes in Constance

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## Mainau

<https://www.mainau.de/en/home>

Probably the most famous touristic site of the area: famous for its flower and tree parks; allows moderate hiking; visit of the Barock church, the butterfly house and some spectacular views of the lake are possible.

**History/geography:** The island became property of the Swedish royal family, and earl Lennart Bernadotte made it his family home and a famous tourist attraction since WW-II. Its location in the lake provides for an exceptionally mild climate. The activities to generate a parc-like landscape with exotic trees and spectacular flower arrangements goes back over 200 years.

**Access:** Few kilometers from the center of Konstanz, in the lake part between Konstanz and Überlingen, directly under the University of Konstanz. May be reached by bus via Allmansdorf (Arrival with the city bus of Stadtwerke Konstanz: Ring line 4/13 and 13/4; The bus of the ring line 4/13 and 13/4 between

Konstanz/Laube via Litzelstetten, Wallhausen, Dingelsdorf and Dettingen stops near the entrance to the island of Mainau. [You can find the timetable here.](#)

**Good to know:** Guests who stay more than one night in Constance, pay visitor's tax and thus receive the Lake Constance Guest Pass, travel free of charge on the buses of the Constance public utility company.

Mainau can also be reached by ship from Konstanz harbour (BSB Line: <https://www.bsb.de/en>)

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## Rhine Fall

<https://rheinfall.ch/en/>

<https://www.bodensee.de/ausflugsziele/rheinfall>

At 23 meters high and 150 meters wide, the Rhine Falls is one of the largest and most water-rich waterfalls in Europe. Just a few kilometers from Lake Constance (50 km from Konstanz), the Rhine Falls are one of the region's major attractions.

It is located west of Untersee in Switzerland and attracts numerous travelers who can enjoy a fascinating view of the masses of water between the rocks from several platforms. Another viewpoint is the small castle of Wörth, which is located on an island in the Rhine. Don't miss out on the impressive natural spectacle of the Rhine Falls if you are on vacation at Lake Constance or in the surrounding area.

### Boat trips

Experience the cascading masses of water from a boat - with round trips of various lengths and trips over to Schloss Laufen, there are great opportunities to get close to the impressive waterfall.

A complete experience of natural spectacle, cultural heritage and gastronomy awaits you at Schloss Laufen am Rheinfall (south bank): both the view of the thundering Rhine Falls and the historic walls of the 1,200-year-old castle, which is a cultural heritage site of the canton of Zurich, are impressive.

Boat trips take place from April to October, although groups are advised to book in advance. The natural wonder of the Rhine Falls is presented along adventure trails laid out around Schloss Laufen.

Excursion boats sail from Wörth and from the banks of the Rhine right up to the waterfall and drop you off on the middle rocky island if you want to get off there. From here, steep steps take you to a viewing platform that offers a breathtaking view of the thundering waterfall. The excursion boat, which is steered by an experienced captain, will take you back to the banks of the Rhine through the surging and spraying water.

The Rhine and Lake Constance shape the history of the waterways. This is not just about the transportation routes by ship, but also about fishing. You will receive interesting information about shipping traffic and the importance of Switzerland's waterways during a guided tour.

Travel info

By boat: <https://www.urh.ch/en/en/fahrplan-spring>

By car: <https://rheinfall.ch/en/information/arrival/by-car.html>

By train: <https://rheinfall.ch/en/information/arrival/by-train.html>

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## Stein am Rhein

<https://schaffhauserland.ch/en/regions/stein-am-rhein.html>

<https://www.steinamrhein.ch/>

Stein am Rhein - where Lake Constance becomes the Rhine

The small town of Stein am Rhein is famous for its well-preserved old town center with painted house facades and half-timbered houses, for which it received the very first Wakker Prize in 1972. Small, very scenic hikes are possible from the town, through vineyards, up to Castle Hohenklingen.

Is one of the best-preserved small towns in Switzerland. Late Gothic and early Renaissance dominate the townscape, and the painted facades of the pretty patrician houses in the winding alleyways are particularly famous. Stein am Rhein owes its origins to its location at the high Rhine mouth, where goods were transferred from the large Ledi sailing ships on the lake to the maneuverable Rhine barges.

Worth seeing:

The town hall, one of the most beautiful houses in the town

Krippenmuseum with a collection of cribs (child beds) from all over the world in the oldest preserved house in the town (1302).

Monastery museum

Lindwurm Museum

### ***Hohenklingen Castle***

In a beautiful location high above the small town of Stein am Rhein, we offer culinary and eventful highlights. Here you will experience personal hospitality and unforgettable moments in which you can let yourself be enchanted by the charm of the castle.

Hohenklingen Castle has towered over the enchanting little town of Stein am Rhein since 1200. After two years of total renovation, visitors can expect a perfect symbiosis of old and new. A perfect culinary experience for couples, families or companies - whether in the restaurant, the castle parlor, the knights' hall or the airy clerestory.

It is also possible to hike through the vineyards to the castle. Uphill in about 40 minutes (3KM), the path is marked with signs

<https://tourismus.steinamrhein.ch/de/home/detail/burg-hohenklingen-b96840d7-0dd3-4b95-bef1-0a256c26b0a5.html>

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## Reichenau

<https://www.reichenau-tourismus.de/>

[https://www.bodensee.eu/en/what-to-do/map-of-lake-constance/tourist-information-office-reichenau\\_poi353](https://www.bodensee.eu/en/what-to-do/map-of-lake-constance/tourist-information-office-reichenau_poi353)

Reichenau, the largest island on Lake Constance is a UNESCO World Heritage site for its early medieval churches (and associated book treasures). Besides, it is a great location for bike riding (once around the island (following arrows on the road) starting at a magnificent avenue of poplars. In summer, it offers some great beaches. Some go there just for the many fish restaurants, shopping ecological vegetable or for small hikes in the idyllic scenery.

## Informationen

Famous for its vegetable fields, vineyards and views over Lake Constance and the Rhine, the island is ideal for cycling and walking tours. There are also three churches in idyllic settings – the Minster of St Mary and St Mark with the Schatzkammer (treasury), St George’s Church with its Ottonian murals and the Church of St Peter and St Paul. Other attractions include the cosy restaurants serving traditional local dishes and a varied programme of events.

### *contact*

Tourist-Information Reichenau

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## St Gallen

<https://www.myswitzerland.com/en/destinations/stgallen/>

The old town center has a lot of atmosphere, especially the small quarter between the market square and Unterm Graben with its pretty alleyways with half-timbered houses, cosy restaurants and clothing stores. In the center of the old town is the monumental cathedral in opulent baroque splendor with the overwhelming monastery library. The monastery has been one of the dominant power centres of the wider lake of Konstanz region over centuries. It has played a role in the Christianization of the whole region and it has accumulated a large architectural wealth and a spectacular library (UNESCO world heritage)

Worth seeing:

**Stiftskirche with Abbey Library** (<https://www.stiftsbezirk.ch/en/stiftsbibliothek>)

Textile museum

Nature museum

Art gallery

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## Meersburg-Hagnau

<https://www.tourism-bw.com/city/meersburg-100ae8af9b>

<https://homeoftravel.de/top-sehenswurdigkeiten-meersburg-bodensee/>

Lush green vines, a mild climate and a huge lake. Even if it's hard to believe, this place is actually in Germany. Meersburg is the epitome of Mediterranean flair. The small town not only enchants visitors with its fantastic location on Lake Constance, but also has a fascinating history, interesting places and sights to offer. A castle straight out of a fairytale book, colorful houses and narrow alleyways await you here. Come with us to perhaps the most beautiful town on Lake Constance!

The small town of Meersburg is surrounded by the beautiful landscape of Lake Constance. With a population of just 6,100, the town is nevertheless a popular excursion destination. The influences of the different eras are impressive. From the medieval castle to imposing baroque buildings and contemporary wine culture, there are many interesting places to visit here.

Nature lovers and families will also get their money's worth here. The town is located directly on Lake Constance. Numerous attractions such as the outdoor pool and bathing spots invite you to linger and enjoy. A visit to the town is particularly worthwhile in spring and summer. Not only can you visit the historical sights, but you can also cool off in Lake Constance and enjoy the blossoming nature.

**Worth to see:**

Meersburg Castle is the oldest inhabited castle in Germany.

Meersburg State Winery

New Meersburg Castle: Baroque splendor on the shore

The Vineum Bodensee is a wine experience house

Zeppelin museum

Also interesting: The most beautiful old towns & historic places in Germany

Location: market square

Special feature: oldest part of the town

Must-do: Visit the town hall

The lakeside promenade in Meersburg invites you to enjoy the cozy atmosphere of the town. Numerous benches stretch along the lakeside promenade on Lake Constance. The excursion boats and ferries also leave from here at the harbor.

<https://www.outdooractive.com/de/route/wanderung/hagnau-am-bodensee/am-bodenseeufer-entlang-von-hagnau-nach-meersburg/1362061/>

**Good to know:** You can also take a hike to the nearest town of Hagnau. You can choose the high trail through the vineyards or the lakeside path along the lake or both as a circular route. It is also possible to return by boat or bus.

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## Hohentwiel

<https://www.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en/fortress>

<https://www.singen-kulturpur.de/Hohentwiel-Geschichte.867.html>

<https://www.wetter.com/hd-live-webcams/deutschland/singen-festungsrue-hohentwiel/214cbfc8a5e8422cadcf5145ad1a5d9a/>

The Hohentwiel castle is right above Singen, in the district of Konstanz. The Hohentwiel is an extinct volcano in the volcanic landscape of Hegau. On its summit, the Hohentwiel fortress ruins towers at an altitude of 696 metres and offers a wide view over the Hegau, the volcanic area west of the Lake Constance. It offers a nice 25 minute hike from the general parking up the steep hill.

The Hohentwiel fortress has been an important strategic point for centuries and played a decisive role in many conflicts and wars in the region. Today, the Hohentwiel fortress ruins is a popular tourist destination that attracts thousands of visitors every year. The fortress ruin itself is one of the largest fortresses in Europe and an impressive example of medieval architecture. Visitors can explore the different sections of the fortress, such as the Zwinger, the casemate vault and the water tower.

<https://www.festungsrue-hohentwiel.de/en/visitor-information/how-to-find-us>

From the parking Landesgartenschau: walk the almost 10 minutes to the upper parking lot and then the remaining 15 minutes up the mountain to the castle. Different approaches are possible from the south as well, including longer hikes over several volcanoes.

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## Unteruhldingen / Pile dwellings

<https://www.pfahlbauten.de>

<https://www.pfahlbauten.de/en/>

<https://www.pfahlbauten.de/en/your-visit/arrival/>

The pile dwellings were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011 due to their outstanding preservation under water. In Europe, there are more than 2000 sites of this type in lakes and moors. They are highly valued in archaeological research as significant remains of settlements from the Stone and Bronze Ages (5th - 1st millennium BC). The Lake Dwelling Museum was founded in 1922.



**Unteruhldingen**, centrally located on Lake Constance, seemed an ideal location. Three village complexes were quickly built, and

just 10 years later the museum was world-famous. From 1989, a fundamental revitalisation and redesign began step by step. A new museum building, modern experimental houses and educational facilities were added. As an extracurricular place of learning and cooperation partner of various universities and archaeological institutions, it is now one of the most recognised and most visited open-air museums in the European network.

With up to 60 employees, 23 reconstructed pile dwellings, several exhibition rooms and educational activity areas, it fulfils its mission with up to 300,000 visitors a year.

### **Opening hours:**

from 23 March 2024:

daily from 10:00-17:30 for individual guests and groups

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## Äscher

Pretty famous restaurant / mountain hut about 70 km from Konstanz. They have winter break until end of April (<https://aescher.ch/en/>). It is a great area for hiking.

<https://aescher.ch/en/>

<https://switzerlandbylocals.com/en/aescher-mountain-inn-walk-to-the-most-beautiful-place-in-the-world-with-photos/>



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## Danube valley / Sigmaringen

<https://www.donaubergland.de/donautal/> (German site)



Sometimes called the Swabian Grand Canyon, the upper Danube valley between Beuron and Sigmaringen (70 km from Konstanz) is a paradise for hiking, biking, climbing and canoeing.

**History/geography:** The valley is cut about 100 m into the limestone rock. Many castles and castle ruins on the rocks, as well as the large Benedictine monastery at Beuron contribute to the scenery. A real castle visit is possible in Sigmaringen (this is the home castle of the German emperors of the Hohenzollern family). <https://en.hohenzollern-schloss.de/>



**Access:** Beuron can be reached by train. A car is most practical. Within the valley, there is a very nice bike path (off the road) from Beuron to Gutenstein (or Sigmaringen). At Hausen im Tal, one can rent canoes and paddle down the river for 10 km. Well, and the valley is also famous with (moto)bikers because of the scenic and very curvy road.

**Good to know:** There are dozens of hikes, but a nice one that is not much uphill is from Beuron to Fridingen (keeping mainly south of the river)

<https://www.outdooractive.com/en/hikes/beuron/hikes-in-beuron/1452355/?i=1452355>

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## Bregenz - Pfänder

<https://visitbregenz.com/en>

About 1 h drive by car takes you to Austria on the East end of the lake. The capital of the federal state of Vorarlberg is Bregenz. It is particularly famous for its open-air opera on a floating island in the lake. The second highlight is the Pfänder mountain above the town.



(<https://www.pfaenderbahn.at/de/>). It can be reached by a 90-120 min hike or a cable car. The view can be spectacular, and one can visit a small zoo with alpine animals.

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## Jogging

If you want to go for a run in the morning, here are three options that you may adapt to your needs:

### **Red options:**

#1: Cross the Rhine bridge to the North, then follow the waterfront promenade to the East to the park at the East tip of the peninsula (Hörnle). It is a public swimming place with a fence, but free access.

#2: From "Hörnle" you can continue on the waterfront trail to another park in Staad (close to the ferry boats)

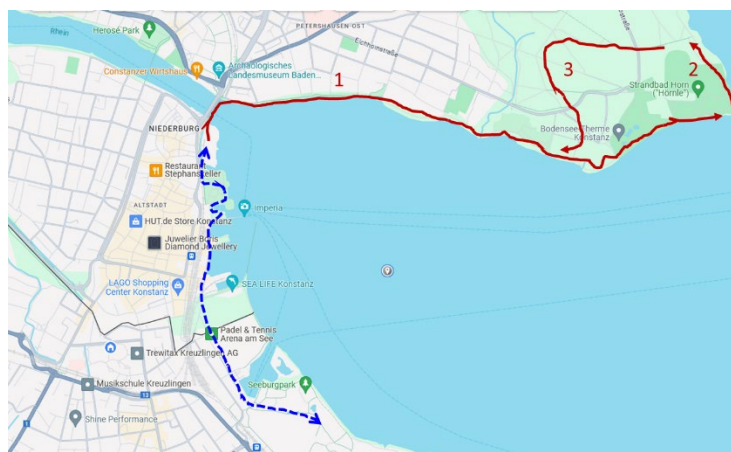
#3: The forrest West of "Hörnle" has a fitness circuit and it also has some ups and downs. There are loads of hiking and running paths. If you get lost, head South, until you hit the water.

### **Blue options:**

Head south along the water. Pass the SeaLife Centre. Shortly after, you cross the German-Swiss border (there is no control, it is just a grass plain with some paths and some sculptures along the border). Pass the ice skating rink and the harbour in Kreuzlingen to enter the large lake park of Kreuzlingen. You can continue to a nice Yacht harbour (Bottighofen), chose variants tracks within the park, and perhaps pass the little children zoo. Return any time along the same track...

### **Other options:**

You may cross the Rhine and follow the streets up to the University. There will be street lights all the way (running possible also late in the evening). The University is pretty uphill... Around the University, there is a large forest area with lots of running and mountain bike trails.





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## Biking/cycling

Endless possibilities and many bike trails..... and many dedicated websites (1 million people cycles around the lake every year).

***A nice trick for a small (smart) round around the lake (easily doable in a day without a sore backside and thighs)***

Take the cycle track from Konstanz/Kreuzlingen to Romanshorn (Swiss side). Take the ship from Romanshorn to Friedrichshafen (German side). Cycle from Friedrichshafen to Meersburg. Take the ferry boat from Meersburg to Staad. Cycle the 3 km from Staad back to Konstanz