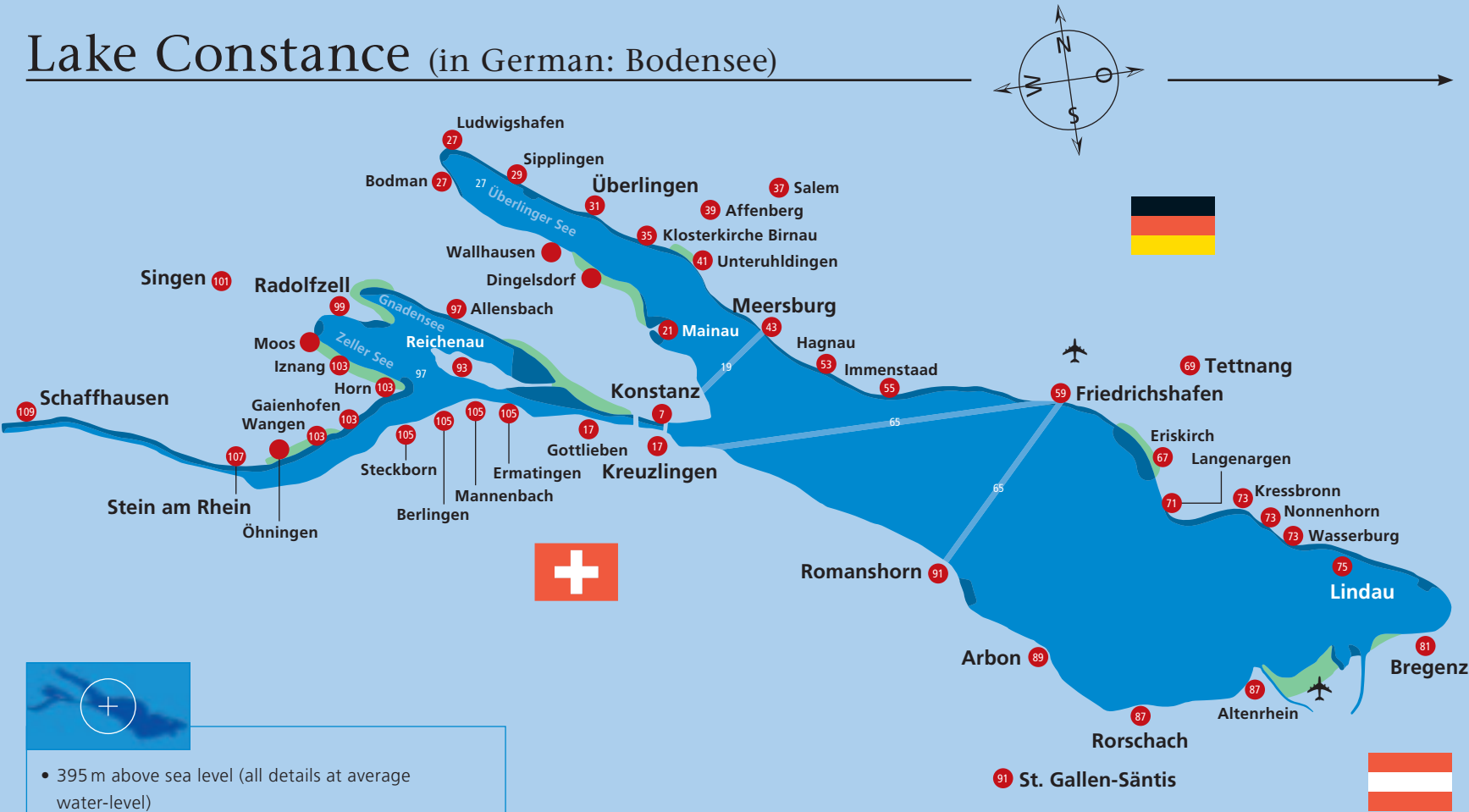


# Lake Constance (in German: Bodensee)



- 395 m above sea level (all details at average water-level)
- 536 km<sup>2</sup> surface area, 63 km long, up to 14 km wide
- Greatest depth 254 m, average depth 90 m, 48 billion m<sup>3</sup> volume
- Water balance per average year: inflow/outflow 11 billion m<sup>3</sup>, rain/snow 0,5 billion m<sup>3</sup>, evaporation 0,3 billion m<sup>3</sup>, extraction for drinking water 0,2 billion m<sup>3</sup>
- Biggest tributaries: Rhine (Alpenrhein), Bregenzer Ach, Argen, Schussen
- Biggest cities: Constance (Konstanz), Friedrichshafen, Bregenz, Lindau, Überlingen

Lake Constance belongs to the Rhine river system and has a catchment area of about 11,500 km<sup>2</sup>. It contains substantially more water than the rest of the Rhine and supplies over four million people with drinking water.

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# Lake Constance and its Names

Several finds from the Stone Age and Bronze Age prove that the area around Lake Constance has been populated for about ten thousand years.

More than 2,000 years ago the Romans conquered a small settlement on the eastern border of the lake and expanded it to form a trade and military base, which they named Brigantium. This base later became what nowadays is known as Bregenz. The Romans named the lake “Lacus Brigantinus”.

Around the year 260 the Alemannians invaded the northern areas around the lake. In order to secure the northern border of the Roman Empire, an existing base on the western outflow was upgraded to a fort. This was done



under the reign of the emperor Constantius Chlorus around the year 300 A.D. The fort was named Constantia and from this the city Constance (Konstanz) evolved, after which the lake is named in most foreign languages, e.g. “Lake Constance” and “Lac de Constance”.

In the twelfth century the Stauffer named the lake after their imperial

palace Bodama, which is the present day Bodman by the Überlinger See. This is how the names “Lacus Bodamicus”, “Bodamer See”, and finally the present day name “Bodensee” came into being.

We will now go on a tour around the lake and get to know its landscapes and towns, its churches, and other worthwhile sights.

“Lacus Bodamicus” on a map from the year 1702

p.4: A look at the Überlinger See and the Säntis Mountain with Spetzgart Castle in the foreground





# Constance (Konstanz)

We will start our tour in Constance, the largest and most well-known city by Lake Constance. Due to its favorable location on several trade routes, Constance, which used to be a Roman

settlement, became a bishop’s seat in the year 590. Old Constance was a fortified city on the left bank of the Rhine, however, already in the Middle Ages a wooden bridge was built to what nowadays is the district of Petershausen on the right bank of the Rhine.



- ★ Largest city on Lake Constance
- ★ Free city of the Empire during the Middle Ages and location of the Council 1414–1418
- ★ Approximately 82,000 inhabitants
- ★ University town with more than 16,000 students
- ★ Theater and philharmonic concert hall
- ★ Most famous landmarks: the Minster, Council Building, Imperia
- ★ Archaeological Regional Museum, Rosgarten Museum, Aquarium “Sea Life”, Lake Constance Nature Museum, and many more
- ★ “Bodensee-Therme Konstanz” and other recreational facilities
- ★ Annual “Seenachtsfest” in cooperation with Kreuzlingen

Seeing as the Swiss city of Kreuzlingen borders Constance to the south, the city expanded to the north with new suburbs being built on the right bank of the Rhine. Several bridges connect the different parts of Constance.

*Bottom: The Insel Hotel, a former Dominican monastery next to the city park*

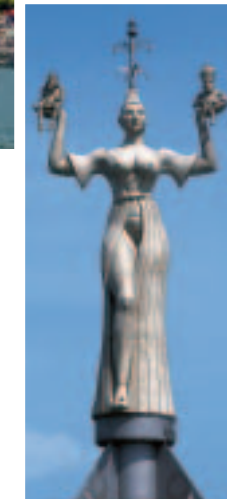


*Top: Bridge across the Rhine with a view of the minster and the Rheintorturm*

*Middle: Art Nouveau houses in the Seestraße*

*p.6: In Constance the Upper Lake leads into the Lake Rhine, which is crossed by many bridges*





## Constance Council Building and Harbor

In order to get to the banks of Lake Constance from the old town we have to cross the busy “Konzilstraße” and the railroad tracks. One building right by the harbor cannot be overlooked. This is the so-called Council Building. It was built in 1388 as a warehouse and depot for trade with Southern Europe and as a site for the “Konstanzer Leinwandmesse” (linen trade fair). Just a few years later it made history for four days.

The most significant gathering of the Late Middle Ages took place in Constance between 1414 and 1418: the

“Council of Constance”. This is where the church, which was divided at the time, was reformed. This is also where one pope was elected to replace the three existing popes and antipopes. The council usually met in the minster, but for the election 56 cardinals and envoys locked themselves in the first floor of the Council Building for a conclave between November 8 and 11, 1417 and elected the Roman Oddone Colonna to become Pope Martin V.

At the time Constance had only 8,000 inhabitants and during the conclave the city had to accommodate up to

20,000 foreigners at the same time. Among these were about 200 bakers, barbers, and tailors each, as well as 700 courtesans called “Hübschlerinnen”. In reference to this the Bodmanian artist Peter Lenk created the sparsely clad sculpture “Imperia”, which measures nine meters in height and weighs eighteen tons. Since 1993 she has been turning around her own axis at the entrance to the harbor and has become another landmark of Constance. She is holding Emperor Sigismund and Pope Martin V. on her hands and so symbolizes the power of the courtesans during the Council.

*Top left: The Council Building nowadays houses a restaurant and conference facilities*

*Middle: The Imperia awaits at the harbor entrance*

*Top right: Boats by Constance*

*p.8: Imperia and harbor entrance in the evening*





# Constance In the Old Town

From here we take the pedestrian underpass, which leads us to the “Marktstätte”, a somewhat oblong town square surrounded by houses that represent the past eight centuries. Seeing as Constance is so close to Switzerland, it was not bombed during the Second World War. Therefore, there are still many buildings, here and in other parts of

the old town, that bear witness to the great past between the thirteenth and sixteenth century. Constance was a free city of the Empire with self-confident merchants and citizens. The city had the right to mint coins as well as the right to levy import duties. Linen from Constance was a well-known article for European trading.

The old fortifications have disappeared and only the “Schnetztor” on the southwestern corner of the old town as well as the “Pulverturm” and the “Rheintorturm” in the north by the Lake Rhine remain.

The historic “Altstadt” or old town is bordered to the west by a well shaded avenue, the upper and lower parts of

which are called the “Obere -” and “Untere Laube” respectively. In 1990 a triumphal arch was built on its median strip, the “Konstanzer Triumphbogen”, with which the artist Peter Lenk caricatures our society, in particular our obsession with cars and the way we spend our leisure time.



*Top left: The city hall is the former guild house of the linen weavers of the sixteenth century*

*Top right: The only preserved city gate is the Schnetztor in the southwest of the old town*

*Bottom: The Lenk Fountain on the Untere Laube caricatures the car mania of our society*

*p.10: The Marktstätte in the center of the old town*





## Constance The Minster

The minster square is situated at the highest point of the old town. In the year 1052 the bishop's church collapsed and subsequently construction began on the Romanesque Minster "Unsere Liebe Frau zu Konstanz" which means "Our Dear Lady of Constance". In the course of the following centuries it underwent several changes through the addition of Gothic and Baroque parts. Among one of these additions is the neo-Gothic top of the tower, which was added during the nineteenth century. With its height of 76 meters it literally towers above the rooftops of the old town of Constance.

For a long time Constance was the largest diocese in Germany and the minster was an important place of pilgrimage on one of the pilgrim's routes to Santiago de Compostela. Unfortunately, we can only visit very

few of the numerous Middle Age church treasures as most of them were destroyed during the Reformation under Ulrich Zwingli.

*Top: View of the Renaissance organ of the minster*

*Bottom left: The Mauritius Rotunda, during the Middle Ages an important stop on the Schwabenweg pilgrimage path to Santiago de Compostela*

*Bottom right: One of the four Gold Discs of Constance in the crypt of the minster*

*p.12: New Gothic tower of the minster*







## Constance University and HTWG Konstanz

In 1964 the federal parliament of Baden-Württemberg decided to establish a so-called reform university. In theory such a university would offer lectures in small groups, students would receive intensive guidance by tutors and would take part in research work done by professors. The



### University of Constance

- ★ Established in 1966 as a reform university
- ★ 14 departments and approximately 100 study courses with a focus on natural sciences, humanities, and administrative sciences
- ★ 11,500 students
- ★ Since 2007 “University of Excellence”

### University of Applied Sciences for Technology, Commerce, Design (HTWG)

- ★ 18 bachelor and 12 master courses
- ★ 4,700 students

idea became reality when lectures started in the fall of 1966 with 7 professors and 57 students. They were held in the “Inselhotel” on a provisional basis.

Today the actual number of students far exceeds the initially planned maximum of 3,000. There are approximately 11,500 students on the “Campus auf dem Gießberg”. Paths were kept short in the complex of buildings above Überlinger See. Furthermore,

by using different architectural styles and a lot of “Art on the Construction Site” a barren landscape of concrete blocks was avoided.

The FH Konstanz, now the University of Applied Sciences (HTWG) is significantly older than the university. It originated from the “Technikum Konstanz” (technical college), which took up its lectures in 1906 with 4 lecturers and 28 students.



*Top and middle left: Buildings of different styles and colors are interconnected*

*Middle right: Central forum of the HTWG*

*p.14: One of the many spots for breaks between lectures*





## Kreuzlingen and Gottlieben

Before we leave Constance in the direction of Überlinger See we are going to have a look at these two Swiss neighbors.

During the nineteenth century Kreuzlingen was still a tiny village with a history which was closely connected to that of Constance. It was only in 1928 that the present day city came into being when several neighboring municipalities were joined together. The former convent St. Ulrich together with its “Ölbergkapelle” to the east and the convent’s summer residence, Seeburg,



### Kreuzlingen

- ★ Swiss sister city of Constance
- ★ Approximately 21,000 inhabitants
- ★ Lake Museum on navigation and fishing history, Puppet Museum and several more museums
- ★ Theater, concert hall, planetarium
- ★ Ice rink, swimming pools etc.
- ★ Annual “Seenachtsfest” in cooperation with Constance

on the banks of the lake were part of this amalgamation. The “Kornschütte” in the Seeburgpark houses the Lake Museum with expositions on navigation and fishing on Lake Constance.

To the west of Kreuzlingen at the end of the Lake Rhine lies Gottlieben, which is one of the smallest communities in Switzerland. The castle from the thirteenth century, where the singer Lisa della Casa lived until her passing in 2012, is hidden behind several tall trees.

Three renowned gourmet restaurants are definitely less hidden in their picturesque halftimbered houses. Not only do they offer a good meal but also a beautiful view of the Lake Rhine and the Wollmating Reed, which lies on the opposite side.



*A look at Kreuzlingen*



*In the church St. Ulrich in Kreuzlingen*



*Bottom left: From the shipping pier one has a view across the Lake Rhine to the Wollmating Reed*

*Bottom right: The Drachenburg in Gottlieben is one of the most famous gourmet restaurants in the region*

*p.16: The Seeburg was the summer residence of the monastery St. Ulrich and nowadays is a restaurant*