

# Lake Constance

## Hotel-to-hotel and independent cycling

- Beautifully flat, flexible cycling: impeccably signed lakeside paths, poppy-dusted fields, vineyards and cherry orchards
- Interest-packed routes: Baroque churches, Gothic cathedrals, fairytale palaces, romantic castles
- Postcard-pretty villages, half-timbered frescoed towns, café-lined waterfronts and stunning mountain views
- ★★ and ★★★ hotels throughout; swimming possibilities every day
- Option to hop on/off local train to shorten/extend cycling days as you fancy



Overshadowed by the snow-capped Alpine peaks of Germany, Switzerland and Austria, and with its stunning turquoise shore shared between all three countries, Lake Constance is a unique jewel in the crown of central Europe.

Exploring by bike is by far the best way to travel here: a 300kms/186mi pancake-flat cycling path leads from country to country taking in daisy-strewn meadows, billowing wheat fields, Bavarian vineyards and picturesque marinas. The routes have been specifically designed by our local partner, and checked by our managers too. This is a region brimming with history and, en route, cultural highlights include fairytale castles in Meersburg, flower decked palaces in Konstanz and books dating over 1,000 years in St Gallen's UNESCO library! If you just feel like relaxing, there are sand and pebble beaches dotted all round the lake - and, with a backdrop of snow-capped Alpine peaks reflected in the crystal clear waters, the views are pretty special too!

But it is the flexibility that makes this holiday like no other in our program. We give you fully detailed cycling notes to take you from each hotel to the next. If, however, you wish to shorten, or lengthen your route at any point, you simply hop on the local train or boat – taking your bike with you – and tailor your journey to suit.

Places where you'll stay are an eclectic mix and include an old coaching inn, a converted riverside warehouse and a grand lakeside mansion.



## LAKE CONSTANCE | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive in Bregenz

You arrive at your hotel – a historic coaching inn – in the center of Bregenz. Explore the ancient cobbled streets of the old town before dinner on the courtyard terrace.

### Day 2 Bregenz to Arbon 37km/23mi or 41km/25mi

Stunning views of the snow-capped Alpine peaks this morning as you cycle west along Lake Constance's southern shore before crossing the mighty Rhine delta that straddles the border between Austria and Switzerland. It's an area of great natural beauty and a refuge for wildlife - keep your eyes peeled for kingfishers in the reeds. Your final stretch takes you around the lake to Arbon - pretty half-timbered houses and C16 castle - where you'll spend the next 2 nights.

### Day 3 In Arbon

It's easy to spend a morning exploring Arbon's historic old town with its well preserved buildings. After lunch at one of the many lakeside restaurants, hop on the train (option to take your bike too), for the 20 minute ride (10km) to historic St Gallen - a bustling market town packed with C18 merchants' houses and open air cafés. Visit the C8 Benedictine Abbey's fabulous UNESCO library, then blow the cobwebs away by freewheeling back down to the lakeside. There are lots of swimming possibilities, and it's easy waterfront cycling back to the hotel.

### Day 4 Arbon to Stein am Rhein 47km/31mi or 58km/38mi

Option to take the train to Guettingen this morning and shorten your route. Otherwise, pedalling clockwise around the lake, you'll pass numerous postcard-pretty, waterfront villages affording lots of panoramic sun terraces for coffee stops and lunch. In the afternoon, you coast effortlessly between sleepy harbours, the white sails from the boats reflecting brightly on the clear blue waters.

### Day 5 In Stein am Rhein

It's easy to spend the day in mediaeval Stein am Rhein with its C11 monastery, beautiful frescoed square and lovely chocolate shops! Alternatively, Schaffhausen, a lively German town full of street theatre in the summer, is ideal for a day trip. It is great for shopping, and has riverside cycle paths to Schloss Laufen – a tiny castle perched precariously above the tumbling Rheinfalls waterfall – the highest in Europe!

### Day 6 Stein am Rhein to Konstanz 45km/28mi or 59km/39mi

Freewheeling east this morning, you'll soon cross the border to enter Germany - look out for cormorant and red crested pochard in the Hornstaad Nature Reserve. Cycling along the "Gnadensee" you'll soon reach the UNESCO Heritage Site of Klosterinsel Reichenau, the first populated area on Lake Constance and home to an impressive 8C AD Benedictine Abbey. It's then onto Konstanz, unofficial regional capital.

### Day 7 In Konstanz

You could easily spend the day exploring the narrow streets of Konstanz: visit the Altstadt, Munster and lively center crammed with quirky shops and museums. Alternatively hop on a boat to visit Mainau Island's palace and landscaped rose gardens. If you take your bike, you can pedal back at leisure along traffic-free lakeside cycle paths.

### Day 8 Konstanz to Friedrichshafen 25km/16mi

It is a short ride through oak forest to catch the 20 minute ferry ride (included) to fairytale Meersburg with its twin castles, steep streets and hillsides of vines. Then, pedalling south, it's a gentle coast into Friedrichshafen.

### Day 9 In Friedrichshafen

You have some superb wine tasting opportunities on your doorstep today - local Müller-Thurgau wines come from Riesling and Silvaner grapes for which Lake Constance is famous. Or visit Friedrichshafen's amazing Zeppelin Museum - full of fascinating knick-knacks, including an original menu and wine list from the Hindenburg!

### Day 10 Friedrichshafen to Bregenz 33km/21mi

Past the pretty village of Langenargn and through peaceful vineyards and cherry orchards en route to lovely Lindau, a gorgeous island village surrounded by cobalt blue waters with long distance views of razor-edged peaks across the lake. Lots of idyllic choices for lunch then, keeping the lake at your side, a final swoosh takes you back down to Bregenz. If time, perhaps, take the cable car up Pfander mountain, (1,050m), for a fantastic vista of your entire route – a real achievement!

### Day 11 Leave Bregenz



*"We are huge fans. Thank you for another lovely holiday!"*

Mrs Scott

## Dates and Prices

Departs every two or three days	Tour Only
<b>2012 departures</b>	
Apr 22-May 13	\$3,098
Sep 23-Oct 7	\$3,098
May 15-31, Jun 7-12	\$3,156
Jun 19-21, Sep 11-13	\$3,156
Jun 3-5, Jun 24-Jul 3	\$3,244
Aug 30-Sep 9	\$3,318
Jul 8-Aug 2, Aug 7-28	\$3,244
Jun 14-17, Jul 5, Aug 5	\$3,410
Sep 16-20	\$3,410
Child (any dates, see notes)	\$2,135

**Singles:** Add \$74 per night for a single room.

**Child:** Over 2 and under 12, sharing with 2 adults.

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$36 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Independent cycling, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

**Departs:** Every two/three days from Apr 22 to Oct 7.

**Duration:** 11 days (10 nights).

**Meals:** Continental breakfast and 8 evening meals.

**Other details:** Please note there is no free parking in Bregenz. We can pre-book car parking for you for \$160 or you should budget to pay locally approx. 120 euro/\$174 for 11 days. For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

### Nearest Arrival Airport: Zurich Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Bregenz train station at 14:53, (transfer to hotel, 5 mins, provided). **Return:** Bregenz train station by 10:06 (transfer provided).

**Rail options:** Zurich airport to Bregenz 13:28/14:53. Return: Bregenz to Zurich airport 10:06/11:32.

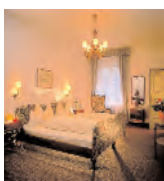
**Second Class Swiss Rail:** Add \$300 per person, round trip.

**First Class Swiss Rail:** Add \$430 per person, round trip.

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Bregenz station at 14:53, and back to Bregenz station departing hotel at 9:40.

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## LAKE CONSTANCE | WHERE YOU STAY



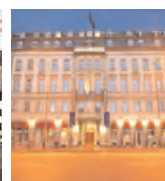
**Hotel Weisses Kreuz**  
★★★★  
Bregenz  
Days 1+10



**Hotel Seegarten**  
★★★★  
Arbon  
Days 2+3



**Hotel Rheinfels**  
★★★★  
Stein am Rhein  
Days 4+5



**Arcadia Hotel Halm**  
★★★★  
Konstanz  
Days 6+7



**Hotel Buchhornerhof**  
★★★★  
Friedrichshafen  
Days 8+9

For extra nights we recommend Bregenz and Konstanz.

Further details at [www.breakaway-adventures.com](http://www.breakaway-adventures.com)