



LAKE CONSTANCE – Where Germany, Austria & Switzerland Meet

“Hub & Spoke” Cycling Tour ~ 7 Night Stay in 4- Star Hotel

Situated on the Rhine River at the foot of the Alps, Lake Constance (or Bodensee as the locals call it) is Germany’s largest lake, sharing its border with Austria and Switzerland. Cycling around the lake is the perfectly fun way to enjoy its picturesque landscape, old castles, extraordinary medieval villages, manicured gardens, orchards, vineyards, rich culture, and history. Our “Hub” will be a lovely four-star hotel, and each day we will travel on a different “Spoke” in a new direction to enjoy all the sights and sounds this remarkable area offers.

Day 1: Arrival in Constance (Konstanz)

Meet Tour Director Stephanie in Zurich for an escorted train transfer to Konstanz or, arrive on your own and meet the group at the hotel. In the afternoon, join a tour orientation and bike fitting session.

Day 2: Constance to the Rhine Falls (50 km/31 mi)

Cycle to the best preserved medieval small town in Switzerland and admire the colorful facades and quaint alleys of Stein am Rhein. Continue riding to Schaffhausen where you’ll view *Rheinfalls*, the largest waterfall in Europe. Afterwards, you’ll board a boat that will bring you back to Constance.



Day 3: Constance to Arbon, (65 km/40 mi)

Today’s ride is an out-and-back along the scenic west lakeshore to Romanshorn and then Arbon where you will enjoy a cider tasting at the award-winning *Momö Cider Museum*. Take a stroll in the historic city before you cycle back to Constance.



Day 4: Unter- and Üblingersee, (60 km/36 mi)

Ride from Constance to UNESCO world heritage site *Reichenau*, the largest island at Lake Constance. The cycle tour continues via Radolfzell to Ludwigshafen and further along the shore to Überlingen, for a fascinating visit to the *Pile Dwellings Museum*. The archeological reconstructions there reveal a fascinating development of prehistoric cultures and their technologies, economy, and environment. You will ride to Meersburg to board the ferry back to Constance.

Day 5: Friedrichshafen, Lindau & Bregenz, (50 km/30 mi)

Take the ferry back to Meersburg to continue your journey along the eastern shore. You’ll begin riding toward Friedrichshafen for our first stop, a visit to the *Zeppelin Museum*. The centerpiece of the zeppelin displays is a full-scale, partial model of the airship LZ 129 Hindenburg, which was built in Friedrichshafen. Continue cycling until you reach the city of Lindau. After a peek at the historic town and its lighthouses, make your way to Austria with a stop in Bregenz.

After a gondola ride up the *Pfänder* (mountain) you will be rewarded with a panoramic view of the lake and 240 Alpine peaks! Board the ferry in Bregenz for a cruise back to Constance.

Day 6: Excursion to Salem, (40 km/25 mi)

After you ferry back to Meersburg, you will begin cycling to Salem. Visit the *Salem monastery*, which is one of the loveliest cultural monuments at Lake Constance and continue to *Affenburg*, for an entertaining stroll amidst the free-range forest home of 200 Barbary apes! You might wish to enjoy a beer in the Biergarten amidst the fifty pairs of storks that also call the forest home.



Day 7: Constance – Mainau Flower Island

Hang up your helmet and mosey over to *Mainau*, the flower island. Its features include an herbaceous garden of 700+ species; Germany's second largest butterfly garden, home to 120 colorful species; a stunning dahlia garden, and much more! You will have all the time you would like to stroll on the many foot paths. There are also several dining options to consider for lunch on your own.



Day 8: Departure from Constance

Check out of the hotel. Best wishes for a pleasant journey home or to your next destination!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TOUR PRICE: €2095, VAT Inclusive, per person, DOUBLE occupancy

€2495, VAT Inclusive, per person, SINGLE occupancy

Included in the cost of the tour

- 8 days / 7 nights lodging in a 4-star Hotel in Constance
- 7 x breakfast, other meals on your own, tour director can assist with recommendations and reservations
- Service of Tour Director who will lead group rides
- Route sheets, bike map for guests who want to explore on their own
- Entrance fees for sites: Rheinfalls, Momö Cider Museum, Pile Dwellings Museum, Zeppelin Museum, Pfänder Gondola Ride, Affenburg Sanctuary, Castle Meersburg, Rose Garden Museum in Constance, Kunsthaus Bregenz, Montfort Castle tower
- City Tours in: Constance, Stein am Rhein, Friedrichshafen, Schaffhausen
- Scheduled boat, ferry and train rides as listed in itinerary
- Use of 24 speed Victoria Trekkingrad 2.7 touring bike, helmet, pannier bag
 - Unisex step through frame in various sizes
 - Shifter: Marke Shimano
 - Weight: 16 kg / 35 lbs.
 - Max. rider and gear weight: 130 kg (286 lbs.)
 - Saddle: Selle Royal Victoria

On request

- E-bike surcharge - \$175 per bike
- Special diets, please inquire



Arrival in Constance: The closest airport to the tour start is Zurich. From there you can board a train for the short journey to Constance. It is a short walk from there to the hotel. Directions will be provided as departure date approaches.

Internet: There is free WIFI in the hotel.

Bicycles: Included in your tour price is a 24 Speed Victoria touring Bike, ideal for the terrain you will cycle on. we will travel on. E-bikes are available for a surcharge. Keep in mind that e-bikes are heavier than touring bikes and require good bike handling skills. We do not recommend them for novice cyclists.

Bicycle Helmet: We require all guests to always wear a proper fitting helmet while riding on the tour. Helmets are included in the cost of the tour, but you are also welcome to bring your own.

Bicycle Locks: All bicycles are outfitted with locks. Please use them whenever you plan to leave your bicycle unattended for any length of time. You will be liable for damage or theft of the bicycle if it is stolen during an excursion because it was not locked properly. Bicycle insurance is available at check in for a nominal fee.

Itinerary Program: The above itinerary is subject to change. Alterations are sometimes necessary due to circumstances beyond the operator's control.

Physical Fitness and Bike Handling: To participate in and enjoy the biking part of the tour, it is important that you are in good physical condition and that you have the necessary bike handling skills. Group riding experience is encouraged but not a requirement. This tour is rated difficulty level 1-2 so novice cyclists may occasionally find it challenging. All guests are expected to keep pace with the group which travels at 10-12 mph. Guests who cannot maintain that pace will be asked to ride on their own, with maps and route sheets provided. Electric bikes are also an option (for a surcharge) but will need to be requested prior to the start of the tour. On this tour, we will occasionally need to share the road with car traffic, and we will have to cross busy intersections. The weather is variable, it may not always be sunny, and the winds may not always be calm. Even under poor weather conditions, you should feel safe and able to cover the day's distance on your bike. If for any reason, a guest cannot complete the day's ride, the guest can return to the hotel at their own expense.

About Stephanie Ventures

Our expertise is active, affordable, small group travel and we pride ourselves on putting a unique spin on our itineraries to ensure you will not find another tour experience out there quite like ours. Founder Stephanie Scott started the company in the US, with 35 years of experience in specialty food and wine, during which she designed plenty of fun, memorable events and travel adventures. She managed the title sponsorship of one of the most popular men's pro-cycling teams in the US for 15 years, but is content to ride her bike, at home and on tour, at a more leisurely pace. She believes that one of the best ways to see the world and meet its people is by traveling around it on two wheels, and she logged many kilometers on the bike paths of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria before launching her tour company in 2015.

Certified as a Tour Director by the International Tour Management Institute, Stephanie worked as a tour guide in San Francisco before founding Stephanie Ventures. She went on to host amazing bike & barge tours in the Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, and Italy. Fast-forward a few years and a pandemic, and in the dead of winter 2022, Stephanie sold everything she owned and ran away to Europe to realize her long-time dream of working and living there. From this new home base in Alphen aan den Rijn in South Holland, she designs a wider range of tours including new land-based tours in Europe and Scandinavia! Join her as she searches for panoramic views, history, local culture, regional cuisine, and much more! Be sure to bring your spirit of adventure, hearty appetite, and a good sense of humor!



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