

CONSTANCE

Lake Constance



A Walking Tour



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A WARM WELCOME TO CONSTANCE...

... the beating heart of the Lake Constance four-country region. With its historical centre, the Council of Constance and its fine, small museums, Constance has a uniquely tangible history, a vibrant present and a wealth of ideas and plans for the future. Art, culture, pleasure and water characterise the largest city on Lake Constance – the perfect place to walk, cycle, shop or just linger a while. Exciting cultural tours guide locals and visitors alike from significant locations in the history of Constance to modern locations on the banks of Lake Constance and the Rhine. Simply immerse yourself in the city, take an inspiring journey through the centuries on this unique tour and soak up the abundant sensory impulses.



KEY

 Council sites

 Barrier-free access



4 | HOTEL "ZUM GOLDENEN ADLER"

A WALKING GUIDE

1 TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE

Starting point for the walking tour. You can also get all sorts of useful information about Constance here.

2 FORMER HOSPITAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND HOTEL ZUR KRONE

In 1225, as an expression of their growing independence, the people of Constance founded a municipal hospital (Bürgerspital Zum Heiligen Geist), which consisted of several buildings. It served as a hospital until 1812 and is today a modern residential and business complex. In the post office's main counter hall there are medieval frescoes from the original building which are well worth seeing. The former Hotel Zur Krone and the former hospital building next door are now part of the Tertianum retirement home.

3 IMPERIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Prestigious commercial building dating from the time of the Kaisers. Built between 1888 and 1891 in the neo-Renaissance style. Today, it is an office of the Sparkasse Bodensee savings bank.

4 HOTEL ZUM GOLDENEN ADLER AND MARKTSTÄTTE SQUARE

The Hôtel de l'Aigle once occupied today's bank and office building. As the inscriptions on its neo-classical facade reveal, it was not only Kaisers and princes who frequented the hotel but also the great German poet Johann Wolf-



5 | IMPERIAL FOUNTAIN

gang von Goethe. Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, later Emperor Napoleon III, was also a regular guest. At the apex of the building's imposing oriel is a golden Napoleonic eagle looking out towards the south-west. A gift from Napoleon III, it represents the connection between Constance and Schloss Arenenberg in Thurgau. From here, the tourist hub of Constance – Marktstätte square – extends towards the west. Built on land reclaimed from the lake, it was originally called Markt am Gestade (market on the waterfront). Haus Zum Korb, on the northern side of the square, is a late medieval house with Gothic windows.

5 IMPERIAL FOUNTAIN AND HAUS "ZUM WOLF"

The imperial fountain (Kaiserbrunnen) was created by sculptor Hans Baur in 1897 but lost its original decorative figures in the 1940s. Professor Gernot Rumpf and his

wife Barbara redesigned the monument and concealed within it a number of allusions to Constance's past. A three-headed peacock, for example, symbolises the division in the western church and alludes to the historical background of the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418) when three Popes claimed the right to the Holy See. To the south-west of the fountain is Haus Zum Wolf, built in 1774, which has a rococo facade unlike any other in Constance.

6 HAUS "ZUM ROSGARTEN" (ROSGARTEN MUSEUM)

Housed in a medieval guildhall (for butchers, bakers, apothecaries, etc.), the Rosgarten Museum contains the most important collection of exhibits from the artistic and cultural history of the Lake Constance region. Alongside prehistoric and early historical items are valuable artworks from the Middle Ages as well as testimonies of everyday life right up to the 20th century. The history of Constance as a former Imperial and episcopal city is a particular focal point. The most precious exhibit is almost certainly a manuscript from the Richental Chronicle dating from around 1465. Written by local Constance man Ulrich Richental (see no. 30), it documents key events at the time of the Council of Constance from 1414 to 1418. Pretty courtyard with café.

7 TRINITY CHURCH AND FORMER JEWISH SYNAGOGUE

Dating from the late Gothic era, the present-day parish church (Dreifaltigkeitskirche) incorporates the last visible remains of the Augustinian abbey founded at the centre of Constance in 1268, which was dissolved in 1802 and pulled down a few years later. The furnishings (originally from St. Michael's Church in the Swiss town of Zug) are particularly worthy of attention, as are the frescoes which were painted in 1417/18 for King Sigismund, who resided at the church during the Council of Constance. The abbey



was the meeting place for the Spanish nation in 1417/18 during the Council of Constance and provided accommodation for a number of cardinals. A little way down from the church to the south-east is the former site of the 'great and holy synagogue of the Israelite community of Constance', which was criminally destroyed by the SS on 10 November 1938. In 1966 the plot of land where the ruins stood was built over in a no-nonsense way by a Jewish businessman. The new high-rise building now houses a small prayer room ♿ (accessible upon request) and the Dr Erich Bloch and Lebenheim Library (JUDAICA) of the Jewish community in Constance. The new synagogue of the Jewish community in Constance, which was officially consecrated on 10th November 2019, is located at Sigismundstraße 8.

8 BODANPLATZ UND BODANSTRASSE

Former cattle market and moat in suburbs of Kreuzlingen (Switzerland) and Stadelhofen (Germany). These were originally private gardens and green spaces in the city centre, and were not cobbled until the 16th/17th centuries. This was also a place where animals were sold for slaughter. A reminder of this tradition is the central fountain with the 'butcher', symbolising the guild of master butchers whose premises were at Haus Zum Rosgarten (see no. 6).

9 HÜETLINSTRASSE, HAUS "ZUM PILGERSTAB" AND THE SWEDEN STONE

The first reference to the former Rossgasse dates back to 1312. It was once home to one of Constance's many public baths and still provides fascinating insights into life in a suburb. Huetlinstrasse is named after Karl Huetlin, the mayor of Constance between 1832 and 1849 and a key player in the 1848 revolution. The building on the south-west corner adjoining Kreuzlingerstrasse bears the name Zum Pilgerstab (The Pilgrim's Staff). This alludes to Constance's importance as a medieval centre of pilgrim-

age, as well as a stopping place for pilgrims en route for Rome, Jerusalem or Santiago de Compostela. To the south, at the junction with Otto-Raggenbass-Strasse, is the Sweden Stone (Schwedenstein). During the Thirty Years' War, the attacking Swedish forces were successfully beaten back here. The Schwedenschanze opposite is where Johann Georg Elser, the brave would-be assassin of Hitler, fell into the clutches of the Nazis in 1939 whilst attempting to cross the border.

10 FORMER CHURCH OF ST. JODOCUS AND ITS PILGRIMS' HOSPICE

The late Gothic parish and hospice Church of St. Jodocus (today a residential and commercial building) is clearly visible at the intersection of Falkengasse, Emmishoferstrasse and Kreuzlingerstrasse. Together with the former "Josenherberge" hostel, which lies behind it to the north, this collection of suburban buildings once formed a hospital complex. Not only did this accommodate passing travellers, it also took on some of the city's welfare work among the poor.

11 NORTHERN KREUZLINGERSTRASSE AND HAUS "ZUR FELSENBURG"

Whereas, until the 16th century, the south-eastern half of Kreuzlingerstrasse provided mainly for pilgrims (building names such as Zum eng[e]lischen Gruss [The Angelic Greeting] are evidence of this), the northern part towards the Schnetztor gate was Constance's tanners' quarter. Even today, the steeply pitched roof trusses on the houses on both sides of the street bear witness to their original use as craftsmen's premises. A fine example of this characteristic architecture is the Felsenburg, with its late medieval facade. The building opposite (no. 8) has an equally striking oriel, supported by a man carrying a tanners' knife.

12 KREUZLINGER TOR, EMMISHOFER TOR 🌟

When in 1414 Pope John XXIII made a grand entrance through Kreuzlinger Tor (which had not yet been completed), he could not have guessed that he would be leaving the town in disgrace a few months later through the same gate. As he became aware of the tides turning against him during the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418), he fled, disguised as a squire under the protection of Duke Frederick of Austria, through Kreuzlinger Tor or possibly Emmishofer Tor towards Steckborn, Schaffhausen and Freiburg on 20/21 March 1415. A short time later, he was apprehended in Breisach, deposed and imprisoned as Baldassare Cossa for a short period in the tower at Gottlieben Castle.

13 HUS STONE 🌟

The 350-hundredweight Hus Stone lies at the place where Bohemian reformers Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague were burned at the stake for heresy (6 July 1415 and 30 May 1416 respectively). After nearly 30 years of controversy and discussion, this memorial stone of dark limestone, which was financed by donations, was officially inaugurated on 6 October 1862. It represents “enlightenment, impartiality and mutual respect for differing religious views” (Joseph Fickler, April 1862). The memorial stone stood prominently in an almost undeveloped location until, after the Second World War, new buildings were erected around it. The site of the Hus Stone is the location for the annual memorial event for Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague on 6 July.

14 SCULPTURE: JAN HUS – PATH OF REDEMPTION 🌟

A monument to the reformers Jan Hus and Jerome of Prague was unveiled in 2015 to mark the 600th anniversary of Jan Hus’ death (6 July 1415). The 2.80 m sandstone sculpture represents a goblet with flames flickering out, and people seemingly arising from its centre. The sculpture belongs to a series of artworks in a number of Czech cities and in Constance that pay testimony to the two church reformers, who were executed at the Council of Constance.

15 “TRUTH” – JAN HUS MONUMENT 🌟

“WAHRHEIT” (truth) – This word appears when sunlight falls on the façades of the former Franciscan monastery. The artwork was unveiled during a 2016 ceremony in Constance marking the 600th anniversary of the Bohemian church reformer’s execution at the stake. The artwork consists of a tableau mounted on the façade with milled letters that project the word “WAHRHEIT” (truth) on to the wall during sunshine. The Czech counterpart “ZA PRAVDU” is located at the Bethlehem Chapel in Prague.



16 SCHNETZTOR

Schnetztor gate and its outer ward were built in the 14th century to mark the southern boundary of the town. Along with the Powder Tower and Rhine Gate (see no. 42), it is the only defensive structure from medieval Constance that is still in existence. On Löwenplatz square, south of the tower, you can clearly make out the foundations of the wall in the cobbles. A little further down, it is even possible to take a 'walk through the wall' to Neugasse.

17 HUS MUSEUM

This collection of buildings dating from the 15th and 16th centuries were thought for a long time to have been the lodgings of Bohemian reformer Jan Hus, who, together with his brother in faith Jerome of Prague, was executed during the Council of Constance. The building was acquired by the Prague Museum Association in 1923 and now

houses a museum. Jan Hus in fact resided a few houses further along at Haus Zur roten Kanne (now Hussenstrasse 22), the home of local widow Fida Pfister (see no. 19).

18 FORMER ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND HAUS "ZUM WEISSEN PFAU"

Under Bishop Conrad (934 – 975) and Bishop Gebhard (979 – 995), who were both later canonised, Constance established itself as a *Roma secunda* or 'second Rome'. Right up until the 19th century, visitors to the town were able to admire replicas of Rome's five great basilicas, starting with the church of 'St. Paul outside the walls' (see no. 22, *St. Lawrence*; no. 31, *St. Mary's Minster*; no. 37, *St. John's* and no. 43, *Petershausen Monastery*). Inside today's K 9 cultural centre, there are still many details preserved from the earlier church. Outside, the beautifully decorated high cross is a reminder of the cemetery there. The square in front of St. Paul's Church is bordered to the east by a modern department store. On its facade, you can make out the inscription *Zum weissen Pfau*, a reference to three houses which were pulled down (*Zum Weingarten* – The Vineyard, *Zum weissen Pfau* – The White Peacock and *Zur Nusschale* – The Nutshell). The 'Peacock' was considered one of the finest baroque houses in Germany. Examples of its sumptuous stucco ceilings can be admired in today's reconstructed building. During the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418), Jerome of Prague was imprisoned and interrogated several times in a tower near St. Paul's Church before being condemned as a heretic and burned at the stake on 30 May 1416 – the same fate that befell his comrade Jan Hus a year earlier.

19 HAUS "ZUM DELPHIN"

Jerome of Prague, friend and comrade of the Prague reformer Jan Hus (see no. 17), lived in this building, which dates from the early 14th century. Until his arrest, Hus himself lived at the nearby Haus Zur roten Kanne, home of the affluent local widow Fida Pfister (Hussenstrasse 22).



20 TOWN HALL BUILDINGS

(accessible via Kanzleistrasse or Augustinerplatz)

The town council offices are an amalgamation of several historical buildings. The courtyard is well worth seeing and captures the spirit of the Italian Renaissance. At the heart of the ensemble is the former linen weavers' guildhall (Zur Salzscheibe, entrance on Kanzleistrasse or Blätzle Platz), which was rebuilt in the late 16th century. The council chamber, however, is located within the walls of the late medieval Haus Zum Thurgau (entrance on Hussenstrasse). The paintings on the facade that faces Kanzleistrasse (1864) depict important scenes from the town's history, such as the Burgrave of Nuremberg assuming control of the March of Brandenburg in 1417. Equally illuminating are the frescoes in the first floor entrance hall (Carl von Häberlin, 1898). The town hall gallery hosts temporary exhibitions.



21 “ZUM GOLDENEN SCHWERT”

During the Council of Constance (1414–1418) no fewer than three English bishops stayed at the Haus zum goldenen Schwert (House of the Golden Sword) on what is now Wessenbergstrasse. According to the chronicle written by Ulrich Richental, the English delegation organised a grand 24-course banquet there for King Sigismund at the end of January 1415, which was accompanied by a performance of scenes from the New Testament.

22 OBERMARKT SQUARE

Together with Marktstätte (see no. 4), this was the most important square in the free imperial city of Constance and a medieval execution site. Obermarkt is bordered to the north by Haus Zum Egli and Haus Zum Kemlin (The Camel), both documented as taverns as early as 1419. The present name Hotel Barbarossa harks back to the Peace of Constance concluded in 1183 between Emperor Frederick I (Barbarossa) and the Lombard League of Italy. Next to it on the right is a late-Gothic building extending over several storeys. The facade frescoes, painted by Carl von Häberlin in 1906, allude to the Burgrave of Nuremberg being invested with control over the March of Brandenburg in 1417, as observed by Ulrich Richental and described in his chronicle. On the ground floor of the commercial building is a wooden pillar bearing the coat of arms and the name of the man who built it, Haffen von Lindow. Hence its name: Haus Zum hohen Hafen. The Malhaus and Fischgrat (Fish Bone) dominate the south of the square. First documented as the Gemalhus (House on Execution Square) in 1293, the Malhaus served as the living quarters for England's chief lay representative, Richard Earl of Warwick, during the Council of Constance, and was an apothecary's shop from the 14th century. Of particular note is the magnificent late-Renaissance oriel, which originally belonged to Haus Zum Strahl (Rosgartenstrasse 34). Completing the square to the west are Haus Zum grossen Merten with its richly decorated gable from 1601 (the Atzenholz family coat of arms) and,

on the other side of the harbour, the Protestant Church (completed in 1873). The remains of the former Chapel of St. Lawrence are concealed in the commercial building to the north-east and to the left of 'Feuergasse'.

23 ROW OF HOUSES ON WESSENBERGSTRASSE / SANKT-STEPHANS-PLATZ / MÜNZGASSE

The building on the south-western corner consists of two houses, Haus Zum vorderen Mohren (on Wessenbergstrasse) and Haus Zum hinteren Mohren (on St. Stephen's Square), where there has been a pharmacy since the mid-18th century. Further west, in the background to the left, is the brightly painted Hotel Graf Zeppelin, built in 1904 with the name Zum deutschen Haus (The German House) and which, for a short time, also served as the Upper Rhenish Bank. Opposite, to the right, is the central nave of the late-Gothic Franciscan Church, which was converted

into a civic hall in 1844. A relief by Johannes Grützke depicting the people's revolution of 1848 can be seen on the former chancel wall. Adorning Haus Zum Esel, at the north-eastern end of Wessenbergstrasse, is a baroque mural by Carl Jakob Stauder entitled 'Flight into Egypt'. It gives a clear impression of the bright colours typical of Constance's houses up until the 19th century. To the right, on the corner of Münzgasse, is Haus zum hohen Hirschen, a beautiful patrician town house from the 14th century whose pretty Gothic oriel faces out onto Münzgasse. During the Council of Constance, it was the home of Cardinal Francesco Zabarella, who died in Constance in 1417 before the council was concluded.

24 THE HOUSE WHERE HENRI DUFOUR WAS BORN

Guillaume-Henri Dufour, a general, politician and engineer and the most famous founding father of modern-day Switzerland, was born in 1787 in the late-Gothic Haus Zum Falke. The son of Geneva emigrants, he spent several years in Constance and later maintained close relations with the Bonaparte family who lived at Schloss Arenenberg in nearby Thurgau.

25 FORMER FRANCISCAN MONASTERY AND THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF ST. STEPHEN'S SQUARE

The second monastery of the Mendicant Order ('barefoot monastery') in Constance, built around 1250 (see nos. 7, 36 and 44). The refectory and chapter house served as meeting places for the English and German nations during the Council of Constance. Because the cardinals and other groups also convened here on various occasions, the Franciscan monastery can be considered the most important meeting place of the Council together with the minster. After the Reformation, it was remodelled and rebuilt in the baroque style (1688 – 1727). The dissolution of the monastery in 1788 brought about a change in its use, first as a barracks and later as a town hall and public baths. Today the buildings serve as a civic hall and school.



The present-day pharmacy Haus Zum Tiergarten, located to the south-east of St. Stephen's Church and now part of Wessenbergstrasse, is a superb example of a patrician house from the baroque era. It was built, or possibly only remodelled, by the famous Austrian architect Peter Thumb, who also designed the library at the Abbey of St. Gall in St. Gallen and the Pilgrimage Church at Birnau.

26 ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH AND THE NORTHERN SIDE OF ST. STEPHEN'S SQUARE 🌟♿

(accessible via north side)

Late-Gothic in its present form and with an interior that has undergone several renovations, the church is thought to date back to an early medieval building from the 7th century. There may have been a cemetery chapel on this site in late Roman times (4th century). During the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418) the church served as a

meeting place for the Papal court, the Rota Romana. The church was reformed between 1527 and 1549, which led to the destruction of many of the original furnishings and holy treasures. From 1550 it was refitted in keeping with the Catholic faith. Numerous structural alternations have been made to the building since 1770.

Noteworthy features inside the church include:

- Chancel: pews dating from around 1270 and arched windows with late-Gothic stained glass. Tabernacle by the Dutch sculptor Hans Morinck (1594). Baroque figures of the apostles from the neighbouring Franciscan church (see nos. 20 and 22). Ceiling frescoes by the episcopal court painter Franz Ludwig Hermann (post-1770).
- Central nave, on the pillars: cycle of the Apostles dating from the Renaissance. On the upper windowed walls above the nave, frescoes from the 19th century.
- North aisle: frescoes dating from the late 15th century and an epitaph from the times of the Council of Constance.
- Gallery: neo-baroque organ screen from 1936.
- Further notable features dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

Beyond the church to the north are a number of beautiful residential and commercial buildings dating from the Middle Ages and early modern period. These include (from east to west): Haus Zum Ritter, Zum weissen Bock, Zum schwarzen Bock and Die vordere Katz. The latter served as a prestigious entry portal (see no. 29) for Constance's patrician guild 'Zur Katz', whose estate extended as far as Katzgasse. Next to it on the left is the former 'Episcopal Hospital' or 'Small Hospital'.



27 LANZENHOF

A patrician family residence dating from the 14th century, named after the Lanz von Liebenfels family. Barbara of Cilli, wife of King Sigismund, stayed at Lanzenhof in 1415 during the Council of Constance. Between 1686 and 1698 and 1713 and 1715, it accommodated the uprooted University of Freiburg. Numerous alterations have been made to the buildings since this time. It is now home to the public prosecutor's office and contains Gothic and neo-Gothic frescoes which are well worth seeing. Viewings by prior arrangement only.

28 'TRIUMPHAL ARCH' OR LENK FOUNTAIN

The fountain was created by Bodman artist Peter Lenk, one of the most famous contemporary sculptors in the Lake Constance region, whose work primarily explores our obsession with cars and how people in today's so-

ciety choose to spend their leisure time. His caricatures of more than 30 familiar and lesser known people are instantly recognisable and symbolically bridge the gap between past and present. Even the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418) is incorporated as a motif. Lenk presents the deposition of the Pope in 1414, as described by Ulrich Richental, as a counterpart to the modern-day 'Popemobile' (see no. 51).

29 ARTS CENTRE AT THE MINSTER AND WESSENBERG GALLERY

An ensemble comprising several medieval houses and a new building. With its facilities and new multi-functional rooms, this is a major focal point for the arts in Constance and the surrounding area. This fascinating complex is home to the municipal library, the Wessenberg Gallery and art association, the adult education centre and a café-restaurant. Also hosts temporary exhibitions.

Notable features inside include:

- The spacious foyer with late medieval frescoes on the south wall and original vaults above the cellar staircase.
- Wessenberg House (the home of Ignaz Heinrich von Wessenberg, the last Vicar general and administrator of the Diocese of Constance, 1774 – 1860). Together with Schloss Arenenberg in Thurgau, it was the most important reception venue in the Alemannic-speaking region in the first half of the 19th century.
- The romantic tower house in the courtyard. Today, the building is home to the BildungsTURM (culture tower), which is used for exhibitions.
- The late-Gothic Haus Zur Katz (the house where the Constance patricians held social gatherings, built in 1424 and modelled on the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence) with its frescoes and reception rooms. On 19 October 1417 Duke Henry of Bavaria carried out an attack here.





30 ZUM GOLDENEN BRACKEN

Ulrich Richental, the chronicler of the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418), lived with his wife at the Haus Zum goldenen Bracken. At the time of the council, Richental, a local citizen and son of a former town clerk, was around 55 to 60 years old and had no children. Although he didn't belong to the inner circles of the Council of Constance, he was involved in its organisation and carried out diplomatic duties before and during the council. He wrote a kind of journal detailing the daily events and did not hesitate to pay money in exchange for exciting stories. His observations, put together bit by bit, are one of the most important historical sources for the Council of Constance, and they also shed light on people's everyday lives at that time. An original manuscript from the chronicle can be found at the Rosgarten Museum (see no. 6).

31 MINSTER OF OUR LADY AND MÜNSTERPLATZ

(accessible via south side, only some rooms accessible)
Cathedral of the Diocese of Constance, which was dissolved in 1821. From the ruins of the late Roman fort that stood on the same site, a first cathedral church emerged by no later than the 7th century, and then underwent repeated alterations. The Romanesque columned basilica, inaugurated in 1089, underwent numerous alterations and renovations after the Reformation. The last of these was the addition of the neo-Gothic spire in 1853. In 1955 the cathedral was granted the title of 'minor basilica'.

During the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418), this was where the church plenary meeting was convened, which on 6 July 1415 condemned the Prague reformer Jan Hus to death for heresy.



31 | MINSTER OF OUR LADY



29 + 31 | MÜNSTERPLATZ & ARTS CENTRE

Notable features inside include:

- Crypt: dating from the 9th/10th century with the four original gilded medallions from the outer wall of the chancel. The largest in this store of treasure, unique in the Christian world, is the 'Majestas Domini' that dates from around the year 1000.
- St. Maurice's Rotunda: a circular structure built in around 940 as a replica of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. In its centre, the Holy Sepulchre, restored in the 13th century. The starting and finishing point for great medieval pilgrimages, e.g. on the Swabian Route to Santiago de Compostela. Decorative figures and frescoes from the Gothic and Renaissance periods.
- Cloister: sections dating from the 13th to the 15th century. Late-Gothic frescoes in St. Sylvester's Chapel.
- St. Conrad's Chapel: dating from the 13th century.
- St. Thomas' Chancel: late-medieval staircase known as the 'Schneegg', richly decorated with figures.
- East chancel: Gothic pews with ornate woodcarvings. Romanesque Madonna from the 13th century.
- Central nave: Romanesque monolithic columns from the 11th century, pulpit from 1680.
- Welser Chapel: masterpiece of late-Gothic sculpture.
- Westwork: Renaissance organ case (early 16th century) and frescoes dating from various periods.
- Entrance hall: wooden doors with important carvings depicting scenes from the life of Jesus (1470) and 'Great Christ of Constance'.

There are many more fascinating features inside the cathedral. However, some of these can only be seen on one of the regular guided tours. Accompanied tours are also possible at other times, by prior arrangement. It is well worth climbing up the cathedral tower to enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views from the top. On Münsterplatz (Cathedral Square), you can see the ruins of a late-Roman fort (built in around 300 AD). The underground exhibition here is only accessible as part of a guided tour.

32 EPISCOPAL PALACE

Today's neo-classical palace was built in 1831 to house the museum association and has served as the cathedral presbytery since 1959. It was built on the foundations of the Bischofspfalz, the seat of the bishops of Constance, that was torn down in 1829/30. It also served as a residence for high-ranking visitors to the town including Hohenstaufen Emperor Frederick Barbarossa and Frederick the Great, as well as Pope John XXIII, whose demands were such that the palace had to be specially renovated at the start of the Council of Constance. After Pope John XXIII was deposed, the council's newly elected Pope, Martin V, moved into the building. After the Council of Constance, the bishops of Constance stayed at the palace up until 1526 before moving on to Meersburg. From that time on, the palace was only home to the episcopal chancery and became visibly run down until the dissolution of the diocese between 1821 and 1827.



33+34 | CHRIST CHURCH & MUNICIPAL THEATRE

33 FORMER JESUIT COLLEGE AND CHRIST CHURCH

Founded in 1604 during the Counter-Reformation, an educational institution for pupils of the Jesuit Order, also known as the 'Societas Jesu'. After its dissolution, it became a Humanist grammar school. Its chapel is a prime example of the ecclesiastical architecture of the late Renaissance and early baroque period in southern Germany. Today, an Old Catholic Church of Christ and public administration offices. Viewings are usually only possible by prior arrangement.

34 MUNICIPAL THEATRE (STADTTHEATER)

A former Jesuit College building, built in 1610. Plays have been performed here since the 17th century. This long tradition makes the Stadttheater in Constance one of the oldest theatres in the German-speaking world.

35 CATHEDRAL DEANERY (DOMPROPSTEI)

Built on the site of the 'Small Hospital' (see no. 26) in 1609 as an administrative and official building for the prince bishop. Later the residence of the Von Fingerlin family and headquarters of the Baden Seekreis district. Of particular note inside are the chapel (Russian Orthodox) and splendid rococo hall. Today used as state notary offices. Viewing by prior appointment only.

36 ZOFFINGEN DOMINICAN CONVENT

Founded in 1257. The only convent in Constance to survive secularisation, because it had run a girls' school from 1775 until 2017/2018 (see no. 41). The delightful convent church is an oasis of calm and contemplation amid the hustle and bustle of the Niederburg district.

37 FORMER CANON SEMINARY OF ST. JOHN

The fourth stopping point on the Roma secunda (see no. 18), established under St. Conrad in the 10th century. Served as the parish church for the Niederburg district until its dissolution in 1813 (see no. 41). It has undergone major alterations since then and is now used, among other things, as a restaurant.

38 HAUS "ZUR KUNKEL"

The canon seminary originally belonged to a cleric from the nearby Collegiate Church of St. John. Exquisite Gothic frescoes can be seen throughout the house.

→ Courtyard entrance: the virtues fighting against the vices (north-west wall; 14th century).

→ Second floor: Parsifal cycle (southern side wall; post-1320), 'Weavers' frescoes' showing linen production and silk working (northern side wall; post-1320), 'Sensory organs of man' and 'Samson's battle with the lion' (eastern side wall).

Together with the frescoes in the former Dominican Monastery (see no. 44) and Trinity Church (see no. 7), the paintings at Haus Zur Kunkel are among the finest examples of Constance's extensive collection of secular and religious frescoes. Viewing only as part of a special guided tour arranged by the Tourist Information Office.

39 BLARER CANON SEMINARY

First documented as a residence in 1267. This prestigious building did not, however, acquire its current appearance until the 17th century. A court building from 1846 (first the Baden Hofgericht, today the regional court). The interior was redesigned after a fire. Especially noteworthy is the beautiful Renaissance portal with its artistic representation of St. James.

40 TETTIKOFER HOF

From 1418 onwards, the prestigious residence of several patrician families in Constance. The late-Gothic portal dates back to 1483, the prominent oriel from the Renaissance period.

41 DOMINICAN CONVENT OF ST. PETER AN DER FAHR AND NIEDERBURG DISTRICT

The Dominican Convent of St. Peter an der Fahr has its origins in a Beguine community (mid-13th century), whose sisters later adopted the Rule of St. Dominic. In 1785 it merged with the neighbouring Zoffingen Dominican Convent (see no. 36). The convent, with its school for girls until 2017/2018, was the spiritual centre of Niederburg. Constance's oldest district, Niederburg extends from





42 | RHINE GATE TOWER



43 | SEESTRASSE

the Rhine in the north to Münsterhill in the south. The term 'an der Fahr' comes from the German for 'ferry' and refers to a ferry crossing that once existed here. With its rambling lanes and its pretty houses, many dating back to the 13th century, Niederburg is one of the most beautiful parts of Constance. It is well worth taking an evening stroll here, stopping at any of the numerous wine taverns.

42 RHINE GATE TOWER, POWDER TOWER AND THE NORTH-WEST BANK OF THE RHINE 🌟

Northern town gate erected in around 1200 to protect the medieval bridge (see no. 16). In front of it stands a baroque Nepomuk sculpture (replica). Downriver you'll see the Powder Tower (Pulverturm), which was built in the early 14th century and forms the north-west corner of the town fortifications. Also used for a time as the town's prison. It is thought the robber baron Jörg von End was interned here at the time of the Council of Constance. Once the Council of Constance had come to an end, a number of Jews were imprisoned here with the consent of their protector King Sigismund, who hoped to pay his council debts with their release fees. Opposite the Rhine Tower (Rheintorturm) is the 'Neptun' rowing club's Bauhaus-style boathouse; to its left is the officers' mess of the 6th Baden Infantry Regiment of Kaiser Friedrich III. A little further down is the spa and indoor swimming pool opened in 1937. The buildings which begin further westwards belong to the 'Stadt am See', a residential and business area that is currently being developed on a former brownfield site. As well as heritage-listed buildings, it is also home to a mosque with a traditional minaret.



43 | ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



44 | STEIGENBERGER INSELHOTEL

43 FORMER PETERSHAUSEN MONASTERY AND ART NOUVEAU BUILDINGS ON SEESTRASSE

To complete St. Conrad's vision of a *Roma secunda* (see no. 18), Bishop Gebhard (Conrad's second successor, later also canonised), founded the Benedictine Monastery of Petershausen on the opposite side of the Rhine in the year 983. It was modelled – both in name and position – on St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome. After a devastating fire, the monastery was rebuilt in the 12th century and served as the residence for Sigismund and his Hungarian horsemen during the Council of Constance. A three-week 'council within a council', an assembly of Benedictine clerics, also took place here. Its aim was the reorganisation of the Benedictine Order, to allay the many grievances that prevailed at the start of the 15th century. Between 1763 and 1769 the monastery was completely redesigned in the baroque style and was dissolved soon afterwards (1802). It then served for a short time as a Baden palace. After that, the site was used as regimental headquarters for army units stationed in Constance (from the mid-19th century until the withdrawal of the French troops in 1978).

The complex is now home to numerous institutions:

- The Baden-Württemberg State Archaeological Museum with its extensive collections on the history of south-west Germany (convent building; east and central wings). 
- Constance city archives in the western section of the same building. 
- The Constance Music School (prelature). 
- The police headquarters (barracks).
- Various municipal offices.
- Administrative offices of Constance district authority (new building).

To the east of Sternenplatz ('Star Square', named after a medieval tavern), Seestrasse features some of the finest examples of residential art nouveau architecture anywhere in south-west Germany.

**44 FORMER DOMINICAN/PREACHERS' MONASTERY
(STEIGENBERGER INSELHOTEL)**  

Monastery of the Mendicant Order founded in 1235, associated with famous German-speaking mystic Henry Suso. The former church nave (today a banquet hall) contains a wealth of early-Gothic and high-Gothic frescoes; some are among the oldest in Europe (pre-1276). Exceptional medieval cloister with frescoes painted in the late-19th century by Carl von Häberlin. After the dissolution of the monastery (1785), the building served as a textile printing works and banking house of the Macaire family. It was also the birthplace of airship pioneer Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (1838). A hotel since 1875; for a short time after 1966 was also the seat of the newly founded University of Constance. During the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418), the Italian and French nations convened here (in the refectory and chapter house

respectively). In 1415, Manuel Chrysoloras, the highly respected Byzantine scholar and teacher of many Italian Renaissance humanists, was laid to rest in the chancel of the monastery church. Prague reformer Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake in Constance, was held captive for several months in the tower, which can still be seen today.

45 OLD TOWN HALL (ALTES RATHAUS) 

Originally built in 1484, today's building underwent several alterations and extensions in the years that followed. Especially noteworthy is its late-Gothic double portal, which is crowned by a plaque bearing the coat of arms of Ulrich Gryfenberg (Imperial coat of arms flanked by the town's two patron saints, Conrad and Pelagius, and the coats of arms of the diocese and town of Constance). In 1414, in the previous building, town officials welcomed King Sigismund into the then council chamber on his arrival at the Council of Constance.

**46 ZOLLERNSTRASSE WITH ITS ROW OF
MEDIIEVAL HOUSES**

On the northern side is the Stadler printing and publishing house, built in 1905. To the east is the Haus Zum guten Hirten (The Good Shepherd) with its door relief of the same name dating from 1608 and, further down, the studio and house belonging to the famous Baden court painter Marie Ellenrieder. The facades on the southern side show the remains of arcaded passageways, which point to their original use as part of the upper fish market (see no. 47).



47 HOHES HAUS

The oldest high-rise medieval building in Constance was built in 1294, and, with the pointed arches of its upper windows, clearly reflects the artistic form of the Gothic era. However, the interior has fragments of frescoes which can be classified as late Romanesque. During the Council of Constance, Hohes Haus was home to Burgrave Frederick of Nuremberg of the House of Hohenzollern. In 1418, it was the venue for the marriage of Frederick to the daughter of the Silesian Duke Ludwig of Brieg. There is a painting of the wedding on the northern side (a copy from the Richental Chronicle) and an illustration of a fish market on the eastern side (both from 1935). Other murals that refer to the Burgrave of Nuremberg and the Council of Constance can be found at Haus Zum Hohen Hafen on Obermarkt square (see no. 22).

48 HAUS “ZUM GOLDENEN LÖWEN”

Painted in around 1580, the frescoes that adorn the outside of this characteristic building give a vivid impression of how colourful late medieval houses once were. Although many are reconstructions, it is easy to imagine the high artistic standards of the original decoration.

49 HAUS “ZUR ALTEN KATZ”

Prior to moving into their new palace right beside the cathedral, the patrician guild ‘Zur Katz’ owned this delightful property in what at the time was Sammlungs-gasse (the oriel is a free reconstruction). After 1424, the building was sold to Constance’s Jewish community. They set up a prayer room inside which existed for only a short time. According to medieval writings, there were Jewish quarters between what are today Münzgasse and Salmannsweilergasse and also in Rosgartenstrasse (see no. 6). There is now no visual evidence of this.

50 KAUFHAUS AM HAFEN

The Konzilgebäude (Council of Constance building) was erected between 1388 and 1391 as a grain store and warehouse and hosted the Constance canvas fair for a time. During the Council of Constance (1414 – 1418) the conclave convened from 8 to 11 November 1417 in the first floor of the building and elected Cardinal Otto Colonna, under the name Martin V, as the sole Pope. In the 19th century, the upper hall was used for an exhibition of commemorative artefacts on the Council of Constance, and as a result, the building became known as the ‘Konzil’ (Council). Altered several times since that time, the ‘Konzil’ has been used as a venue for concerts and events since the beginning of the 20th century.





51 | IMPERIA

51 'IMPERIA' HARBOUR STATUE

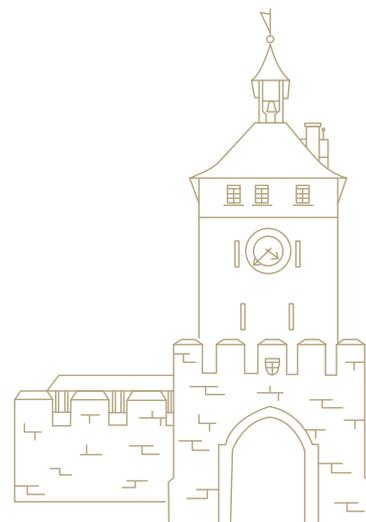
This statue by sculptor Peter Lenk (see no. 28) is nine metres tall and weighs eighteen tonnes, and is inspired by a 16th century Italian courtesan of the same name. Honoré de Balzac, the famous French novelist, transported this historical figure to the time of the Council of Constance in his literary work 'Les Cent Contes drolatiques'. Imperia holds aloft King Sigismund in her right hand and Martin V, the Pope elected by the Council of Constance, in her left. Lenk portrays them as grotesque figures who have unlawfully taken possession of the insignias of power.

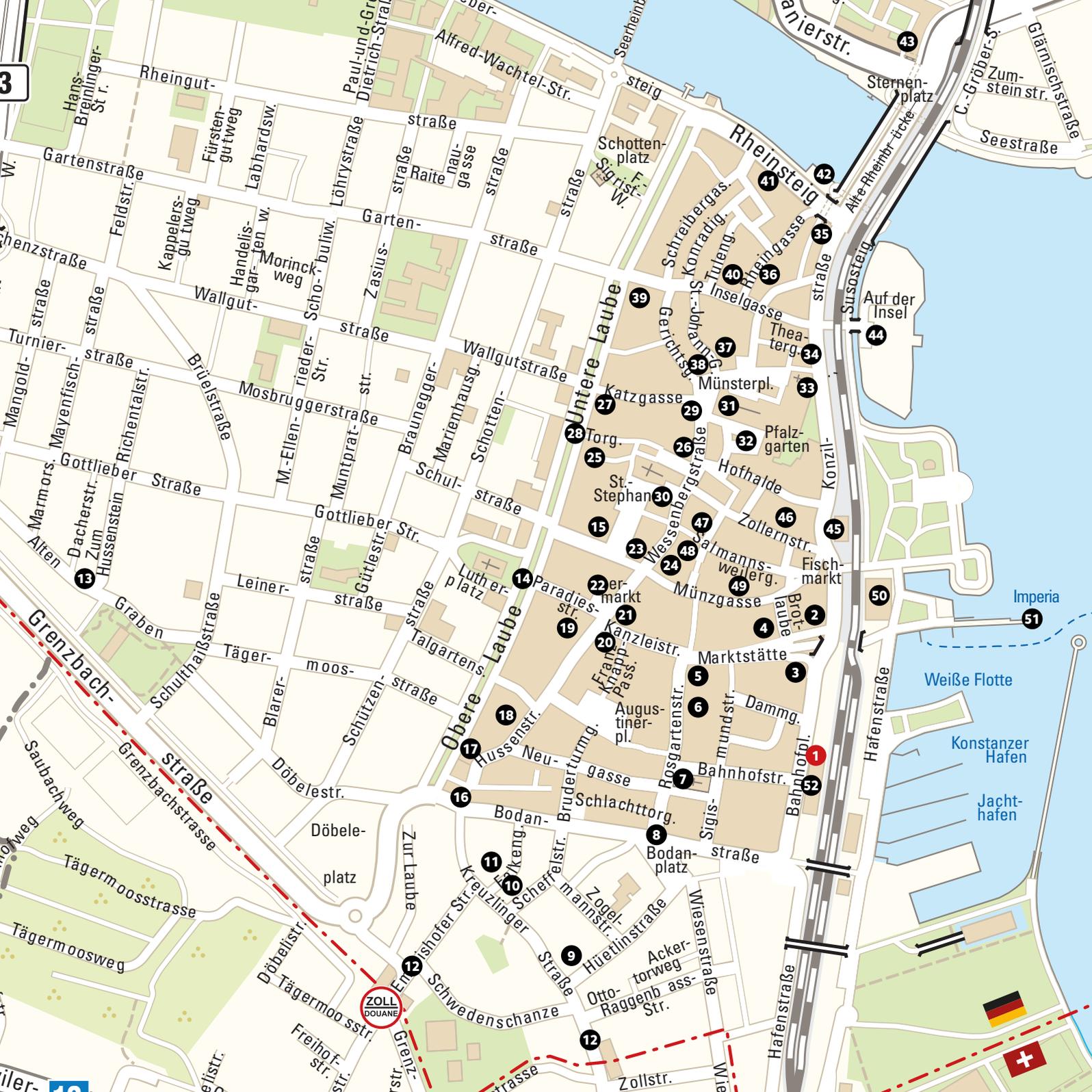
52 MAIN RAILWAY STATION

Built between 1860 and 1863, the station with its neo-Gothic tower reflects the strong links between Constance and Florence in the Middle Ages. The station building is yet another in Constance (see no. 29) that was modelled on Florence's Palazzo Vecchio with its beautiful wall paintings depicting the city.



52 | MAIN RAILWAY STATION





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