

# Self-Guided Cycling Lake Constance & Rhine Falls

Trip Code: SGCO

Version:



CYCLE



SELF-GUIDED



LEISURELY



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover medieval Meersburg home to the oldest inhabited castle in Germany
- Cycle through Germany, Austria and Switzerland in just one day
- Visit the magnificent Rhine Falls and take a boat journey across to Reichenau Island

- Relax in the Spa town of Radolfzell, officially recognised for its health benefits

## AT A GLANCE

- Self-Guided
- 6 days cycling and sightseeing
- Luggage transfer
- Bike Hire Included
- E-bike upgrade available
- Daily departures available
- Join at Constance

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

# Introduction

Castles, cakes, lakes, mountains and bikes, what more could you want from your holiday? Well hopefully some sunshine too! This self-guided cycling trip explores the three countries divided by beautiful Lake Constance. At 63km long and 14km wide this glistening blue lake really is the gem of the alpine countries of Europe. On this one week self-guided trip you will not only cycle your way around the entire lake you will also get to visit the breathtaking Rhine Falls and take a relaxing boat journey to Reichenau Island. The area is steeped in history and thanks to its close proximity to neutral Switzerland the beautiful architecture of the lakeside towns you cycle through remains unscathed by 2 World Wars. You will have plenty of opportunities to visit the Disney like medieval towns of Stein am Rhein and Schaffhausen, relax at Romanshorn's outdoor swimming and recreation centre and enjoy the flora and fauna as you pedal along. And after a busy day exploring you will rest your head in fantastic family run 3\* hotels all chosen for their great locations and welcoming hospitality.

This region produces some fantastic wines and beers, after all you will be passing through Bavaria famed for its bierkellers. If, like us here are KE, you love to sample new cuisine you will love the many delicious specialities on offer around the lake. We have created this holiday on a bed and breakfast basis allowing you the freedom to taste the many local delights and we recommend the calorific kaiserschmarrn (a delicious shredded pancake usually served with apple sauce and a generous dusting of icing sugar).

## Is this holiday for you?

This self-guided cycling holiday is perfect if you love to explore new places on two wheels at your own pace. The route is mostly on designated cycle paths making it ideal for families too. With approximately 50km to cycle each day, and all day to achieve it, there is plenty of time to stop off along the way to enjoy the beautiful towns and villages. And the beauty of Lake Constance is, that apart from some ascent on days 2 and 7 the path is almost completely flat and if you would prefer an extra boost along the way we have e-bikes available too! This cycling holiday allows you to experience some idyllic scenery and culture, and the presence of the cycle paths makes it reassuringly safe.

# Itinerary

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Version:

## Holiday Information

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### What's Included

- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Self-guided information pack containing your map and route notes
- Luggage transfer
- Bike hire
- Bike accessories (panniers/ milometer/ puncture repair kit/ pump)
- Entrance in to Rosgarten Museum Constance with a coffee
- Boat trip to the Rhine Falls rock
- Boat trip from Gaienhofen to Reichenau with your bike

### What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Travel to/from Constance
- Visas (if applicable)
- Tourist Taxes may apply and are usually under 5 Euros per person per night
- Some meals as described in the Meal Plan
- Personal equipment
- Visitor city tax which is payable locally
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional

## Your Self-Guided Pack & Route Notes

Each self-guided holiday comes with comprehensive route notes and a map or pocket guidebook of the area you are exploring. The route notes contain information about the places you will visit and the local transport you might need, along with the detailed route notes for your daily walks or cycle rides. We even include some tips for the best places to stop for lunch.

You can expect to receive your Self-Guided Pack containing your route notes, a map or guidebook, and all your relevant documents, no later than 3 weeks before your holiday start-date. We will send your documents using a signed-for courier so that you can track your package and know that it is safely on its way to you. For bookings of more than 4 people we will send an additional Self-Guided Pack. If you do not need this additional pack please inform our Sales Team. Your pack will be sent to the lead booker, so please remind them to pack it before setting off.

Should your self-guided trip be part of a longer adventure requiring you to leave home more than three weeks before your holiday start-date, please inform our Sales Team so that we can make alternative delivery arrangements.

## Self-Guided Families

Our Self-Guided Holidays are perfect for your next family holiday and are suitable for children of all ages.

Our partner hotels and accommodations are able to provide cots for young children, and some offer family rooms. We can also arrange hire of children's bikes and tag along bikes for most of our self-guided cycling trips and with trips such as Lake Constance and the Danube offering routes on designated cycle paths you can rest assured in keeping your family safe.

As a parent we trust that you know your own child's capabilities, so please read the itinerary details to ensure the distances covered each day are suitable for your family. If this is a first time walking holiday for your family, a centre based trip is a fantastic option as it allows you to easily opt out of a days walking if a day of building sand castles, swimming in the pool or visiting museums is calling instead.

Please discuss this further with our sales team who will be happy to assist in picking the best trip for your family.

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The trip starts and ends at your hotel in Constance (Konstanz). All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. The nearest airport for this trip is Zurich Airport with many departures from regional UK airports.

Transport connections from Zurich to Constance are extremely good. If you are flying into Zurich Airport you can take the direct train from Zurich Flughafen to Konstanz. The journey takes an hour and half and the trains operate every half hour. It's the perfect time to sit back and relax as you soak in the beautiful scenery.

## Meal Plan

This trip is on a bed and breakfast basis to allow you the most flexibility during your holiday.

## Food & Water

Water from the taps is perfectly drinkable on this holiday - please use this to fill your personal bottles for your daily activities. We do not encourage the purchase of single-use plastic bottles.

There is far more than bratwurst and schnitzel when it comes to food in this region. It is the mixing pot where German, Swiss and Austrian cuisine meet, creating a delicious menu just waiting for you to sample. The lake itself provides a bounty of fresh fish with most restaurants offering a Felchen special, a delicious white fish caught from the lake. If you prefer a meat dish why not try Styrian fried chicken or try the Spatzle noodles in a delicious cheese sauce.

And let's not forget the fantastic wines the region offers such as Muller Thurgau and Blauburgunder (Pinot Noir) with many of the vineyards open for tastings and guided tours. And if your preferred tippie is a nice cold beer after a day on the bike the region is also home to some fantastic breweries, including Ruppen in Constance where they make beers using hops grown locally.

Part of the joy of being on a self-guided cycling holiday is being able to dine out wherever you fancy and stop off and sample the many cafes, wineries, breweries or even some fresh fruit from local markets as you explore each day. This region has many gastronomic treats waiting for you to enjoy.

## Accommodation

On this trip you will stay in hand selected 3 and 4 star rated hotels all of which have been chosen for their warm hospitality, excellent facilities and superb locations. All the hotels have well-appointed rooms with Wifi and offer a fantastic continental breakfast to keep you fuelled along your bike ride. Your accommodation for this trip is on a bed and breakfast basis staying in double or twin rooms, some of which will have Austrian style twin beds as is traditional in this area (two beds within one bed frame and separate bedding).

It is possible to arrange additional nights accommodation if you would like to extend your time in this beautiful area. Please speak to one of our sales team for further information.

During high season you may be booked into an alternative accommodation of a similar standard in the area.

## Bike Hire

All bikes have 27 gears and come equipped with a pannier and handlebar bag for your daily essentials plus a milometer, a bike lock, pump and repair kit. We strongly recommend you to bring your own helmet with you for the best comfort.

We also recommend packing a gel seat for extra comfort or a pair of padded cycling shorts, whilst the cycling is leisurely and there are plenty of opportunities to stop and explore it is always nice to have some padding for a comfortable ride.

We are also able to arrange tandem bikes, children's bikes, trailers and child seats. Please ask our sales team for details.

## **Upgrade to an E-bike**

If you are looking for a bit of extra support whilst in the saddle, you can upgrade to an e-bike to make your ride even more leisurely.

Equipped with a battery and motor, these electric bikes give you a helping hand whilst you are pedalling, making it easier to climb hills, and travel further with less effort and more comfort.

E-bikes are available on this holiday at an additional supplement of £255. Just request this upgrade option with our sales team at the time of booking.

## **Baggage Allowance**

Your main luggage will be transferred between each of your hotels while you are out on your bike. We ask that you please ensure your luggage is under 20kg and that your luggage is ready for collection each morning.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

### Europe

Your passport must meet 2 requirements. It must be:

- less than 10 years old on the day you enter (check the 'date of issue')
- valid for at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave (check the 'expiry date')

For the latest details on visiting countries within the EU or the European Economic Area (EEA), please check the UK Government website

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Health & Vaccinations

### Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations.

### GHIC / Medical cover

UK residents should carry a free Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). This entitles you to state provided medical treatment when you're visiting an EU country or Switzerland. This is not a substitute for medical travel insurance which is vital when travelling overseas.

### Severe Allergies

Please inform our KE Sales and support team of any severe allergies you may have before travel. We will always do our best to help but we are unable to guarantee an allergy free environment on our KE trips. We advise that you always carry your own treatment for the allergy with you such as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' if required. We also recommend that you discuss this with your accommodation on arrival so that they can better assist you.

## Preparing for your Holiday

The advantage of a self-guided cycling holiday is that you decide the pace. This trip is designed for leisure cyclists and does not require you to be in peak fitness. Having said this it is always sensible to get some additional exercise before going on an active holiday. After all, the fitter you are the more enjoyable your cycling will be. You should be comfortable with cycling 40-50 km a day on easy cycle paths and we advise to dust off your bike and head out on a few rides before your holiday.

## Climate

Lake Constance and surrounding area has a moderate maritime climate with the lake's huge expanse of water heavily influencing the climate, keeping spring cool and autumns mild, often with a beautifully atmospheric morning fog over the lake. Summers are pleasantly warm for cycling with average temperatures in July and August around 25 degrees.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travelaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

Laurels of Lake Constance by Marie Chaix



## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

# Equipment Information

## SelfGuided Cycling Equipment List

- Cycling shorts
- Cycle helmet
- Functional base layer
- T-shirts
- Scarf
- Hat
- Windproof jacket
- Fleece / extra layer
- Rain protection
- Rucksack (approx. 20 l)
- Small first aid kit for your rucksack
- Sunscreen

- Water bottle or hydration pack
- Camera (batteries/memory card)
- Mobile Phone (ensure your data package covers your destination)
- Handlebar mount that is compatible with your smartphone
- Power bank
- Waterproof phone cover
- Sun glasses
- Personal wash kit
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping to avoid the use of plastic bags
- Tupperware for picnics

## Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

Please note our 'from price' listed is based on 4 persons on twin or double occupancy, however we can quote for any number of travellers, including solo travellers, contact our sales team for a quote.

All of our self-guided holidays are sold on a Land Only basis allowing you the flexibility to choose the travel method which best suits you. You may even wish to make this holiday part of a bigger adventure or pair it with one of our other holidays. We can arrange additional nights accommodation before or after your self-guided trip, ask our sales team to find out more about this.

Our sales team will be happy to provide you a quote for scheduled flights or alternatively you may wish to book your own flights with a low cost carrier from your nearest regional airport.

Please DO NOT book your flights before you have received your booking confirmation and your deposit has been taken.

We offer some transfers to your hotel from the nearest airports, please refer to the 'joining arrangements and transfers' for further details for this trip.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE?

Unlike most tour operators we have included cycle hire in the cost of your trip allowing you more spending money for all the delicious local delicacies! E-bike upgrades are also available to make your ride a whole lot easier.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 23/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change