







INDEPENDENT BODENSEE TOUR

KEY STOPS ALONG THE WAY

-  Ermatingen
-  Schloss Arenenberg
-  Steckborn
-  Klosterinsel Werd



Day 1:

Constance → Stein am Rhein



Distance:

29 Kilometers



Terrain:


Flat

Points of Interest:

- ★ **Ermatingen:** Historic lakeside town with charming houses and great spots like Gasthaus Adler.
- ★ **Schloss Arenenberg:** A Napoleonic-era residence turned museum.
- ★ **Steckborn:** Medieval town with a 14th-century tower and self-guided tour signs.
- ★ **Klosterinsel Werd:** Peaceful island with a 10th-century chapel and monks.

Day 1:

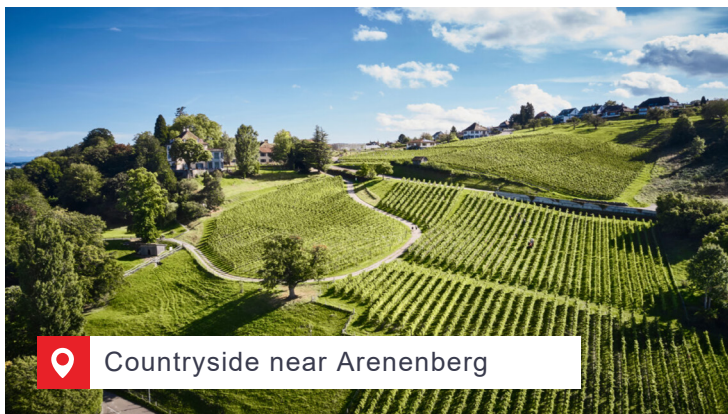


 **Ermatingen:** Historic lakeside town with charming houses and great spots like Gasthaus Adler.

You're off! The RideWithGPS application will get you out of town and onto the bicycle paths. It may seem a bit "urban" at the start, but you'll soon have clear views of the Bodensee after a few kilometers when you arrive over the border in Switzerland.

This part of Lake Constance that you're straddling is called the "Untersee" and has its own particular charm. Monks and nuns built monasteries, nobles constructed residences, and artists set up their studios. They all felt the magic of this hilly landscape.

If you look off to the right, you'll see the island of Reichenau, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage site! Indeed, you're surrounded by history and probably need help knowing where to stop first. This is understandable, and although we cannot list everything, we'll do our best to let you know what stands out to us.



 **Countryside near Arenenberg**

The first stop you might consider is Ermatingen, and you may want to stop at the Gasthaus Adler for a coffee. The building dates back to the 16th century and has hosted guests such as Alexandre Dumas, Thomas Mann, and Hermann Hesse. The town is full of charming half-timbered houses, as well as many fishermen's cottages. If it's not too early, you might even have time to try the Ermatingen Fish Salad, a healthy lunch made with various kinds of fish from the lake (perch, pike, whitefish). There's also a lakeside castle garden open to the public, featuring wonderful modern sculptures.

A few clicks from Ermatingen and you'll come to Schloss Arenenberg, once a residence of Napoleon's stepdaughter. It is now a museum where you can explore different rooms from the period and view personal objects from Napoleon's family.



The medieval lakeside town of Steckborn is just a few kilometers further down the road. Stop there, and you'll see a tower from the 14th century, now the town's museum. If it happens to be Thursday, it might be worth checking out, as you're able to climb up to the top on that day. You'll also find signs posted everywhere that allow you to do an easy self-guided tour. From here, you're now following more of the Rhine than the lake as you make your way toward Stein am Rhein.

One of my favorite stops is the peaceful island "Klosterinsel Werd," which you'll reach just before arriving in Stein am Rhein. Hard to believe that the island has been occupied since 5,000 BC! Cross the bridge and check it out. The chapel there is from the 10th century, and since 1957, the island has been occupied by a very small group of Franciscan monks. Sit in the shade next to the chapel—maybe you'll have the chance to greet a monk, or at least imagine what it must be like to live here on this quiet river island.

Of course, save some time to savor Stein am Rhein—your final destination. The center of town will definitely impress: a large variety of incredible facade paintings, charming alleyways, a tower, and lovely cafés lining the riverside.

For something extra special, you may consider the famous Castle Hohenklingen for supper, otherwise there are lots of different restaurants and cafés lining the river and in the old town.