

### **Konstanz – the city**

Konstanz is a city unlike any other, although some might call it more of a town than a city, it doesn't fail to have the liveliness of any larger city. Being right along the shore of the Bodensee (or Lake Constance), Konstanz boasts a number of beautiful attractions including Insel Mainau, an island just north of the main part of Konstanz, and the beautiful harbor with ferry and boat rides to just about anywhere on the lake or Rhein river in the area. As Konstanz lies right on the border of Switzerland, the mountains are also just a short train ride away for those who like an extra adventure.

Now all of these are wonderful attractions if you're on a trip to Konstanz, but one of the main points that I know most students would be interested in is the night life. Although from the outside Konstanz may appear a bit sleepy, it is far from that. Having two universities within the city's borders there is constantly events being put on and students looking for entertainment. Whether it be a sommerfest put on by the applied sciences school or a sponsored party by the main university, Konstanz is never lacking excitement. Outside of those events there is also always great deals at the bars and clubs in Konstanz as well, from Bingo at Shamrock Pub or Student nights at Berry's students can easily find something to occupy their time on the weekends with.

### **-Studying**

As many of the locals would say "We go to school where others go on vacation." And I have yet to find a more accurate statement to describe studying in Konstanz. Many people say that when you go abroad you eventually hit a point where you start to miss home and your own university, but I can say with 100% truth that I never experienced that moment during the 5 months I spent in Konstanz. During my time there I was fortunate enough to study at HTWG Konstanz, the applied sciences university, and with all of the support from the amazing international team almost never had any struggles. The student life in Konstanz truly is an unrivaled one.

### **Traveling – Italy, Turkey, Switzerland**

Between attending classes and experiencing everything that Konstanz had to offer, I found myself with some extra time and with other European countries being so near, the choice to travel seemed like an obvious one. Because of Konstanz's proximity to Switzerland, that was the most common trip I made but was just as spectacular each time.

The main highlight of Switzerland, of course, was the mountains. Which offered many opportunities from kayaking on the lake between the mountains, to paragliding from the top of them. Switzerland definitely has some of the most beautiful landscapes out there and is definitely worth the trip-although it should be noted you may spend a bit more in the country as it is a bit pricey.

Although Turkey and Italy both required a flight to get to my destinations they definitely did not lack any interesting sights or experiences. While in Turkey I was able to go to both Kapadokya and Istanbul, both places with some of the most unique attractions I've seen. With Istanbul's lively culture and incredible historic buildings, the three days spent there were packed full of adventures. As for the

Kapadokya region, the rock formations and carvings of the area are truly incredible to see – and I would highly recommend an ATV tour.

Finally, Italy; a country with a very rich history and the remains to prove it. Seeing the Colosseum in Rome and Pompeii in Southern Italy was eye opening and an incredible glimpse into Italy's past. Finishing every evening looking out over Sorrento and Mt. Vesuvius wasn't a bad way to end the trip either.

### **How to travel cheap in Europe**

When studying abroad the key to being able to do everything is being able to do it all for cheap, so I've compiled a list of some of the best tips to keep your trips cheap.

- Fly on the cheapest airlines – RyanAir and EasyJet are good ones. Although they may not have deluxe seating or full meals they will get you where you need to be without breaking the bank.
- YOUTH HOSTELS – If you're traveling with friends or alone...book a bed in a youth hostel. They're cheap and generally safe if you look into them beforehand. It's also a great way to meet fellow travelers!
- Ask the front desk – for sight-seeing ideas, local food suggestions, best clubs, or anything else you can think of. Youth hostels especially will have great, cheap suggestions for most things.
- Couchsurfing – if you don't want to spend any money on lodging look into couch surfing, or staying on people's couches for free in the area you want to travel.
- Make connections – Studying in another country gives you the opportunity to meet people from all over the world that you may not have met otherwise. Take advantage of this as much as possible, befriend everyone you can, learn about other cultures, because in the future when you want to travel again you'll be able to reach back out to those same people to visit their home country.