

# Canton Schaffhausen (SH)

## ■ At a Glance



Schaffhausen is the northernmost canton in Switzerland, encompassing just 115 square miles (299 square km), with 33,275 German-speaking citizens who are predominately Protestant. The south side of this canton backs up against Canton Zürich along the Rhine river, while the rest shares the outer border of Switzerland with Germany. Schaffhausen joined Switzerland in 1501, and retains a great deal of its medieval charm even today. Over the years Schaffhausen has become known as a center of high trade and industry, brought about by 19th-century hydroelectric expansion within the city. However, 45% of this canton is still used for agricultural purposes, despite the high level of industry here, which remains fairly concentrated. This canton also has one of the highest rates of foreigners living within its borders, as a large number of asylum seekers – primarily Sri Lankan immigrants – have migrated here.

Schaffhausen is also the only canton in Switzerland to have experienced bombing during the Second World War. On April 1, 1944 nearly 100 citizens of the town of Schaffhausen were accidentally killed by Allied bombers who mistook the area as a German target. Less than one year later, on February 22, 1945, 16 people in Schaffhausen and nine in Stein-am-Rein were also killed in a similar bombing expedition. Some historians have theorized that the bombings were not mistakes, and were in response to Schaffhausen munitions factories supplying arms to the nearby Nazis. This theory, however, has yet to be proven, and records are still sealed regarding these events.

The **coat of arms** for Schaffhausen is represented by a black ram dancing on two legs against a golden background. This crest is believed to have been developed as early as 1396, but wasn't declared official until 1512.

## Schaffhausen

**S**chaffhausen is the capital of the canton of the same name, and is a busy modern town outside of its medieval city center. For years it has acted as a bridge between Switzerland and Germany, exporting and importing products. Goethe was a frequent visitor to Schaffhausen in the late 1700s, and he reportedly remarked that the inhabitants must be “very curious folk,” due to the great number of peep-holes that can be found throughout

the city. As a result, Schaffhausen was nicknamed Erkerstadt or the “City of Dormer Windows.” The city is 32 miles north of Zurich and just 17 miles north of Winterthur.

## ■ Information Sources

### Tourist Office



This is directly underneath the city’s big clock tower, on Fronwagplatz 4, just one block east of the train station. Here, you’ll find excellent walking maps of the Old City, along with other information. Open Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, Saturday, 10 am-4 pm, Sunday from 10 am-1 pm – July through September. From October through June it is open Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm, Saturday, 10 am-noon. ☎ 52-625-5141, fax 52-625-5143, [www.sh.ch](http://www.sh.ch).

### Train Station



This is at the northwestern corner of the Altstadt. Here you can find a currency exchange (Monday-Saturday, 7 am-7 pm, Sunday, 9 am-7 pm). You can also rent bikes, store luggage or rent lockers here.

### Post Office



The Schaffhausen post office is directly across from the train station, at Bahnhofstrasse 34. Open Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-6:30 pm, Saturday, 8 am-12:30 pm. CH-8200, Schaffhausen 1. ☎ 52-632-6222, fax 52-624-0295.

### Codes

The **postal codes** for Schaffhausen are CH-8200 to 8202, and the **area code** is 52.

## ■ Getting Around



One of the most fascinating ways to experience Schaffhausen is by boat. You can take trips up or down the Rhine from May through September, leaving from Freier Platz, at the south-east edge of the Schaffhausen Altstadt. This is also a great area for extended hikes along the river or through the nearby hills. The Schaffhausen Tourist Office can provide you with free maps of hiking and biking trails, and boat excursion information.

## ■ Adventures

### On Foot



No visit to Schaffhausen would be complete without a hike to the **Rhinefalls**. As Europe's largest and most powerful waterfall, it falls from a height of 70 feet (21 m) and reaches its highest flow during the month of July. The scenery around the falls is spectacular, with green forests and mist that arises from the grassy river banks below. To get there, walk 1.8 miles (2.9 km) from Schaffhausen to **Neuhausen** city center, where signs will guide you to the falls, just a quick five-minute walk away. There are walking trails all around the falls, but in the summertime, this area is overrun with tourists and souvenir vendors, so late fall or early spring are great alternatives.

You can also take a boat ride (in June, July and August from 10 am-6 pm, and in May and September from 11 am-5 pm) to the rock in the middle of the stream near the falls. You can climb up the rock to gain an even more impressive view of the Rhinefalls. Contact **Verkehrsverein** at Industriestrasse 39, CH-8212 Neuhausen am Rheinfl. ☎ 52-672-7455. Be sure to take in the nearby **Schloss Laufen**, which sits on a cliff directly above the falls on the south side. There are also **paragliding** and **passenger flight tours** over the Rhinefalls available from local vendors. If you're into **river rafting**, then contact **Rhein Travel**, Schlauchbootfahrten, CH-8455 Rudlingen. ☎ 01-867-0638.

### An Excursion to the Vineyards of Klettgau

Only a few minutes away by car lies the famous wine-growing region of Klettgau. Its green rolling hills make this area ideal for bike tours and hiking. What about a carriage ride through the heart-warming vineyards, followed by a wine-tasting party?

### On Water



For a lovely boat trip, board one of the many ferries in Schaffhausen for a trip to **Stein am Rhein**. Contact the Schweizerische Schifartsgesellschaft Untersee und Rhein from April through October. CH-8202 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-4282. If you are a bit more of a daredevil, than catch up with **Rhyfall-Mändli**, a local operator of speedboat rides that take you right up to the Rhinefalls. These are very popular and reservations are highly recommended. Open June to August from 10 am-6 pm, and in May and September from 11 am-5 pm. Cost is 65Sfr. ☎ 52-672-4811.

## On Wheels



There are also numerous bike paths in Schaffhausen that will bring you to the Rhinefalls and beyond to such villages as Rheinau (home to a Baroque monastery) or to Rüdlingen, where you can sample some of the locally grown wines.

## ■ Sightseeing



Walking through Schaffhausen's Altstadt – which is at the foot of the **Munot** battlements – you'll find historical architecture dating back to the Middle Ages. The Munot fortress itself dates from 1564 (it was built after writer Albrecht Dürer published a book in 1527 in Nürnberg describing such a place) and has a covered footbridge across a moat, a tower, a spiral ramp inside (one of only three in Europe) and a circular viewing platform. Admission is free to the Munot, which is open daily from May to September, 9 am-8 pm, and from October to April, 10 am-5 pm.

**Fronwagplatz** is the city center's long square, and here sit two distinguished medieval fountains – the **Metzgerbrunnen** and the **Mohrenbrunnen**. The former was built in 1524 and the statue that sits atop it is of a Swiss mercenary, while the latter was built 11 years later in 1535 and features a Moorish king. Also worth notice is the **Fronwagturm**, a lumbering tower that was once home to huge market scales. Now you'll find a clock and astronomical device built by Joachim Habrecht in 1564 with 10 different available readings. Nearby, at Fronwagplatz 3 is the **Herrenstube**, a Schaffhausen society house and a popular drinking establishment of local noblemen that was originally built in the 14th century and restored in 1984. Throughout this area you'll find medieval and Baroque facades on houses and buildings. Be sure to take a stroll down the **Vordergasse**, where you'll find Renaissance frescoes, dormer and bay windows, woodcarvings and local shops. Also, don't miss Schaffhausen's **Zum Ritter**, acclaimed as home to one of the best preserved Renaissance frescos north of the Alps, on the Vordergasse. This 1570 fresco depicts the virtues of Swiss knights (*Ritter* in German).

## Churches

**Münster zu Allerheiligen**, or Cathedral of All Saints, is one of the highlights of the Altstadt, dating back to 1049 (the original building was later replaced with the current structure in 1103). The Romanesque church tower and the adjoining Gothic cloister (the largest in Switzerland) are open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 am-noon, 2-5 pm. Outside of the cathedral wall is the circular path around the **Junkernfriedhof** (nobleman's cemetery). In the courtyard is the 1486 **Schiller Bell**. Legend has it that this

gigantic ringer inspired German poet Friedrich Schiller to write his *Song of the Clock*. However, Schiller never was in or even near Schaffhausen, leaving one to ponder why his name was connected to the bell in the first place.

**Kirche St. Johann** is a five-apsed Gothic church at the east end of the Vodergasse. Built in the 11th century, the structure has been expanded six times. Open April to September, Monday-Saturday from 9 am-6 pm, and from October to March, 10 am-5 pm, Monday-Saturday.

## Landmarks & Historic Sites

**The Zum Ochsen House** (at Vorstadt 17) features a striking Renaissance fresco along with a five-paneled dormer window. Formerly a Gothic inn, the building was remodeled in 1608. The panels pay tribute to the five senses and show a woman holding a cake, a flower, a glove, a mirror and a medieval stringed instrument. Walk north from the Zum Ochsen House, past the **Zum Grossen Kafig House** (at Vorstadt 43) to the **Schwabentor** – the northern gate of the city. This tower was built in 1370, and during renovations in 1933 a plaque was added that shows a boy holding a pig under his arm while trying to avoid traffic, and the inscription: “Lappi tue d’Augen uf,” which means “Silly people keep your eyes open.” This was in reference to the traffic that had become heavy during those years as Schaffhausen grew into a more industrialized city.

## Museums

The **Museum zu Allerheiligen** is in the same complex as the **Münster zu Allerheiligen** and, while a great museum historically, is a bit hard to follow, offering little in the way of information. There is a lot of religious art, military history, and the like, but finding out who did what, why and where becomes the problem. This is worth a visit on a rainy day – though it is a frustrating experience overall unless you’re very patient, like dark, damp places and can speak German. Open May to October, Tuesday-Friday from 10 am-noon, 2-5 pm, Saturday-Sunday from 10 am-5 pm and from November to April, Tuesday-Sunday from 10 am-noon, 2-5 pm. Admission is free, [www.allerheiligen.ch](http://www.allerheiligen.ch).

**Hallen für Neue Kunst** (Contemporary Art Museum) presents works from 1960s artists to the present. Open May to October from 2-5 pm and on Sundays from 11 am-5 pm. Cost is 14Sfr. Baumgartenstrasse 23, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-2515, [www.modern-art.ch](http://www.modern-art.ch).



## ■ Where to Stay

**Rheinhotel Fischerzunft** is an ultra-modern hotel with unique charm and an excellent restaurant known throughout Europe. Located on the river, this one-time fishermen’s guild house features 10 distinct rooms. Open year-round, the restaurant is closed Tues-

days. (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$). Rheinquai 8, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-632-0505, fax 52-632-0513.

**Park Villa** is a historic mansion found at the edge of Schaffhausen's old town, featuring chandeliers, Persian rugs, and other stunning décor. (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$). Parkstrasse 18, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-2737, fax 52-624-1253.

**Kronenhof** is ideal for the business traveler, as well as the tourist. (\$-\$\$\$). Features a fine restaurant and bar. Kirchhofplatz 7, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-6631, fax 52-624-4589.

**Hotel Bahnhof** is a clean, comfortable and striking inn near the train station for the ultimate in convenience. Contains a stylish restaurant and cozy bar. Breakfast included. (\$\$). Parking available. Bahnhofstrasse 46, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-624-1924, fax 52-624-7479.

**Hotel Promenade** is a gorgeous building on the west side of the town, just outside of the Altstadt, and just north of the Rhine. Run by the Sonderegger family, this hotel offers all amenities, including a cozy restaurant featuring Swiss and international dishes with generous helpings. (\$\$). Fäsenstaubstrasse 43, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-630-7777, fax 52-630-7778.

**Gasthaus Löwen** is an old comfortable inn with nicely renovated rooms located 1½ miles (2.4 km) north of Schaffhausen center in Herblingen. (\$\$). Im Hösli 2, CH-8207 Herblingen. ☎ 52-643-2208.

**Youth Hostel Belair** is just half a mile west from the train station, and is open from March until the end of November. The hostel is a former manor house which dates back to the 16th century, and is quite impressive. You can rent bikes here too in this 87-bed facility. (\$). Randenstrasse 65, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-8800, fax 52-625-5954, www.youthhostel.ch/schaffhausen.

**Hostel Schloss Laufen am Rheinfall**, is an old castle sitting atop the Rhine Falls just 1½ miles (2.4 km) west of Schaffhausen center. It's open to anyone, but is used primarily by backpackers. It is easily reached by trail or train (the second stop from Schaffhausen). Reservations are recommended. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are available in the castle's Bannerstube at very reasonable prices (\$-\$\$). Open mid-March to mid-November. (\$). ☎ 52-659-6152, fax 52-659-6039.

## Camping



**Camping Rheinwisen** is on the south bank of the Rhine at Langwiesen, 1.2 miles (1.9 km) southeast of the center of Schaffhausen. Open May-September. (\$). ☎ 52-659-3300.

HOTEL PRICE CHART	
\$	30-75Sfr (\$20-\$49)
\$\$	76-205Sfr (\$50-\$109)
\$\$\$	206-299Sfr (\$110-\$200)
\$\$\$\$	300Sfr+ (\$200+)

## ■ Where to Eat



**Gasthaus Adler** features regional and seasonal specialties. The cozy, wood-paneled dining room has seating for 70 people, while the beautiful outdoor garden terrace has room for 120 guests. Excellent fare and a large wine list at reasonable prices (\$-\$\$\$). Open Tuesday-Saturday from 8:30 am-11:30 pm, Sunday from 9 am-10 pm. Closed Monday. Vorstadt 69, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-5515, 52-625-5819.

### DINING PRICE CHART

Prices based on a typical entrée, per person, and do not include beverage.

\$	15-25Sfr (\$10-\$16)
\$\$	26-45Sfr (\$17-\$29)
\$\$\$	46-70Sfr (\$30-\$47)
\$\$\$\$	71Sfr+ (\$47+)

**Restaurant Gerberstube** is a former 17th-century guildhall that is run by the Guidi family, and considered to be the finest Italian restaurant in the region. Reservations are required for lunch and dinner. (\$-\$\$\$\$). Open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am-3 pm, and from 6-10:30 pm. Bachstrasse 8, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-2155.

**Mexican Restaurant Tequila** serves up hot and cold dishes in traditional Mexican style, and offers take out dishes, and a buffet in a fun and lively atmosphere. Run by the Keller family, it also features live music. Open Tuesday-Sunday from 5-11 pm, closed Monday. (\$-\$). Fischerhauserstrasse 57, CH-8200 Schaffhausen. ☎/fax 52-625-7020.

**Confiserie Reber** is a great little shop where you can pick up all kinds of tasty goods – fresh-baked breads, cakes, tortes and the like. Lis and Laurent Perriraz are the owners of this shop, which has been a baking business since 1896. (\$) Open daily 8 am- 6 pm. Vordergasse 21, CH-8202 Schaffhausen. ☎ 52-625-4171, fax 52-625-4195.

## Stein am Rhein

**T**his is a simple country town 12 miles (19 km) east and slightly south of Schaffhausen, sitting on the north bank of the Rhine river, at the western basin of the Untersee. This old village features half-timbered houses with ornate facades with detailed designs. The first bridge built over the Rhine by the Romans is here. You can catch buses into the German town of Singen from here, where you can pick up rail connections to most European cities.

## ■ Information Sources

### Tourist Office



The Stein am Rhein Tourist Office is at Oberstadtstrasse 10, and is open Monday-Friday, from 9-11 am, 2-5:30 pm. CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-741-2835. For information regarding adventure tours within the area, contact Tourismus Stein am Rhein, Chlingeweg 1, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎/fax 52-741-2044, [www.ostschweiz-i.ch](http://www.ostschweiz-i.ch).

### Train Station/Post Office



The train station is on the south bank of the Rhine at Bahnhofstrasse. It offers **bike rental** (Monday-Saturday, 6:30 am-7:30 pm, Sunday 7:15 am-7:30 pm) and a **currency exchange**. It is also home to the Stein am Rhein **post office** (open Monday-Friday, 7:30-11 am, 3-6 pm, Saturday 8-10:30 am).

### Codes

The **area code** for Stein am Rhein is 52, and the **postal code** is CH-8260.

### Internet Access



This can be found at **Kiosk Charregass**, near the Tourist Office. You'll also get good, cheap pizzas and snacks here too. Open Tuesday-Sunday from 10 am-11 pm. 12Sfr per hour. Oberstadtstrasse 16.

## ■ Adventures

### On Foot



Consider taking one of the footpaths up to the **Castle of Hohenklingen**, which is a fairly steep path among vineyards and woods. Located two miles (3.2 km) north of the city. The tourist office can provide you with maps and directions. The view from the top provides you with a fine look at Stein am Rhein and the Alps beyond.

### On Water



Countless boats make their way to Stein am Rhein on a daily basis, and full-day and half-day excursions are available.

## ■ Landmarks & Historic Sights



The town hall (**Rathaus**) is hard to miss in the city center (**Rathausplatz**), a large square that is home to a number of half-timbered houses and buildings. The Rathaus was built in 1540 along the Hauptstrasse (Main Street). Two miles (3.2 km) north of the town sits the **Castle of Hohenklingen**, while the **St. George Kloster** is one of the best-preserved Benedictine churches around. Originally built in the 11th century, it is now the home of the **Kloster-Museum St. Georgen**, displaying fine art and local historical artifacts. The interior is filled with stunning murals by 16th-century artists. Admission is 3Sfr. Open March to October, Tuesday-Sunday from 10 am-noon, 1-5 pm. ☎ 52-741-2142.

## ■ Museums

**Historische Sammlung** (Historical Museum) can be found inside the Rathaus on the second floor and is available by appointment only for a viewing fee of 3Sfr. If you're into medieval armor and weapons, as well as stained glass and porcelain, you'll like this exhibit. ☎ 52-741-2142.

**Wohn Museum Lindwurm** is found in a 19th-century structure that was once a meeting place for local officials. This museum gives insight into how inhabitants of Stein am Rhein once lived through exhibits and artifacts. The farm exhibition often features live animals as well to complement their displays. This museum also presents an open-air play known as *No e Wili* (*Still Another Time*) every 10 years (the next presentation is in 2005). Open March to October, Wednesday-Monday from 10 am-5 pm. Admission is 5Sfr. ☎ 52-741-2512.

## ■ Where to Stay



**Hotel Rheinfels** sits directly on the banks of the Rhine river in a perfect medieval setting (it was built in 1448). Inside, you'll find suits of armor and tons of antiques, paintings and stately wallpaper and carpeting. Most of the bedrooms overlook the water, but be sure to request this type of room when making your reservation. Run by Edi Schwegler-Wick, who cooks in this popular restaurant. (\$-\$\$\$\$). Open mid-March to mid-December. Breakfast included. The restaurant is open daily except for Wednesdays. CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-741-2144, fax 52-741-2522.

HOTEL PRICE CHART	
\$	30-75Sfr (\$20-\$49)
\$\$	76-205Sfr (\$50-\$109)
\$\$\$	206-299Sfr (\$110-\$200)
\$\$\$\$	300Sfr+ (\$200+)

**Hotel Chlosterhof** is just east of the Rathausplatz on the Rhine and was once a show factory. The 69 rooms are of various shapes and sizes, and of-

fer all modern amenities. Many of the rooms look upon the Rhine, and **Le Bateau**, the in-house restaurant, serves up gourmet meals, while **Le Jardin** is a popular in-house café with the locals. (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$). Oehningerstrasse 201, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-742-4242, fax 52-741-1337.

**Hotel Adler** is known for its outstanding façade, with Rhenish legends depicted in traditional medieval style, while inside the 25 rooms are comfy and stylish. Built in 1461, but an addition was added in 1957 that doesn't have the character of the original building. (\$-\$\$\$). Rathausplatz, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-742-6161, fax 52-741-4440.

The **Youth Hostel** offers 121 beds from March through mid-November. (\$) Hemishoferstrasse 87, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-741-1255, fax 52-741-5140, www.youthhostel.ch/stein.

## Camping



This is popular in and around Stein am Rhein. On the eastern side of the village you'll find **Grenzstein**, ☎ 52-741-5144, fax 52-741-4552; and **Hüttenberg**, ☎ 52-741-2337. Both are open year-round. **Wagenhausen**, open from April to October, is on the western side. ☎ 52-741-4271, fax 52-741-4157.

## Where to Eat



**Sonne** is considered to be the best restaurant in town, next to the **Rheinfels Restaurant**. Featuring Swiss and French fare, the Sonne is housed in a 15th-century building that is a perfect blend with the fine cuisine you'll find prepared by owner/chef Philippe Combe. Wild game, locally caught fish and river crabs are the specialties, along with a generous wine list. Reservations required. (\$-\$\$\$\$). Rathausplatz 127, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-741-2128.

### DINING PRICE CHART

Prices based on a typical entrée, per person, and do not include beverage.

\$	15-25Sfr (\$10-\$16)
\$\$	26-45Sfr (\$17-\$29)
\$\$\$	46-70Sfr (\$30-\$47)
\$\$\$\$	71Sfr+ (\$47+)

**Spaghetteria** serves up inexpensive pasta dishes and is home to the world's longest piece of spaghetti. (\$-\$\$). Open mid-March through October, Sunday-Thursday from 9 am-11 pm, Friday and Saturday from 9 am-midnight. Schiffflände 8, CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-741-2236.

**Le Papillon** is a perfect cozy stop for a late night drink, in the Hotel Chlosterhof. With views of the river and with a wood-panelled interior, this is a great spot for romantics. Open nightly from 6 pm to whenever. Oehningerstrasse 201. CH-8260 Stein am Rhein. ☎ 52-742-4242.

# Canton Thurgau (TG)

## ■ At a Glance



Thurgau is 391 square miles (1,013 square km) of mostly rolling countryside and flatlands that stretch along the shores of the seemingly never-ending Lake Constance. The canton sits in the northeastern corner of Switzerland on the south side of Lake Constance (The Bodensee) and is bordered on the west by Canton Zürich and on the south side by the canton of St.

Gallen. Lake Constance is the second largest lake in Switzerland after Lake Geneva, stretching 162 miles (261 km) along the border of Switzerland, Germany and Austria. It is nine miles (14 km) across at its widest point, and in the summer is a popular spot for swimming, fishing, boating, sailing and windsurfing.

Thurgau first became part of the Swiss Confederation in 1803, and can trace its history back to the Roman times (Roman settlements have been found in the Thurgau region of Arbon). With a population of 209,362 German-speaking, mainly Protestant citizens, Thurgau is often referred to as “Mostindien” or “Cider India” by the locals, in reference to the great number of apple orchards that abound in the area. Locals often say that there are more apples than people in Thurgau – hence Cider India as a reference to India’s high population. Here you can take long hikes through the flowering orchards of Upper Thurgau in the far eastern edges of the canton. You’ll see many half-timbered houses with red beams and white panels set magnificently on huge stone bases.

There are eight regions within Thurgau: **Diessenhofen** sits at the far northwestern edge of the canton, while **Steckborn**, **Kruezingen**, and **Arbon** lie against the shores of Lake Constance. **Frauenfeld** – home to the canton capital city of Frauenfeld – sits at the far west, while **Weinfelden** is smack in the middle and **Bischofszell** is at the far eastern edge, just below Arbon. **Münchwilen** is the southernmost section of the canton. Throughout the canton you’ll find an overabundance of monasteries, fruit plantations, wineries, forests and meadows worth exploring on foot.

The **coat of arms** of Canton Thurgau is defined first by a diagonal line that runs from left to right, with the right background in white and the left background in a deep emerald green. Two prancing golden lions sit within each section of the shield, representing the counts of Kyburg.

## Frauenfeld

This is the capital of Canton Thurgau – a small village west of Kreuzlingen that sits on the banks of the Murg River. Frauenfeld is also home to most of Thurgau’s cantonal museums.

### Information Sources

#### Tourist Office



The Tourist Office of Canton Thurgau can help you with maps, hotels and excursions. Thurgau Tourismus, Gemeindehaus, CH-8580 Amriswil. ☎ 71-411-8181, fax 71-411-8182.

#### Post Office



Frauenfeld post office is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 am-6 pm, Saturday, 8-11:30 am. Rheinstrasse 1, CH-8500, Frauenfeld. ☎ 52-728-9540, fax 52-728-9545.

#### Codes

The **area code** is 52 and the **postal code** is CH-8500 for Frauenfeld.

### Getting Around



You might want to opt for the **Thurgau Day Pass**. At just 27.50Sfr, this covers all types of travel within the canton (rail, bus, boat) for one day. Available at the Tourist Office.

### Adventures

#### On Wheels



You might want to take a drive east on Highway 7 to the town of Lipperswil if you have children, where you’ll find the amusement park known as **Conny Land**. There is a good children’s zoo here and lots of attractions for the little ones. Open daily from 9 am-6 pm.

#### Sports



One of Switzerland’s 11 racetracks is found in Frauenfeld, and includes a 1,500-meter turf course and a 1,500-meter steeplechase course. Both tracks are slightly less than one mile. The Swiss Derby is held here annually in June. The track is also home to a pleasant restaurant and bar area. Rennenverein Frauenfeld.

Bahnhofstrasse 61, CH-8500 Frauenfeld. ☎ 52-728-9225, fax 52-728-9226.

## ■ Landmarks & Historic Sites



**Thurgauische Kantonsbibliothek** is the main library for the canton of Frauenfeld, and is just five minutes from the main train station. Promenadenstrasse 12, CH- 8501 Frauenfeld. ☎ 52-724-1888, fax 52-724-1899.

**The Plättli Zoo Frauenfeld** is in the southernmost part of the Frauenfeld, and is open daily year-round – in summer from 9 am-7 pm, and in the winter from 9 am-5 pm. Admission is 10Sfr for adults and 5Sfr for kids from ages four-15. The zoo features tigers, lions, leopards, camels, owls, monkeys and lamas, and includes a petting zoo for children, and a small kids play area that has bumper cars. There is also a decent restaurant on the grounds, offering seasonal specialties such as grilled dishes, salads, vegetarian fare, rösti, cheese fondue and wild pig. Open Monday-Friday, from 8:30 am-midnight, and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 am-11 pm. (\$-\$\$). You'll find the zoo and restaurant at Hertenstrasse 41, CH-8500 Frauenfeld. ☎ 52-721-1648. The restaurant phone is ☎ 41-52-720-8191, fax 52-721-8845.

Just about a mile northwest of Frauenfeld in the little town of Warth, across the Thur River, is the **Ittingen Monastery**, which was founded in 1152. It was destroyed by a fire in 1524, but the church was rebuilt in 1549-53 and then refurbished during the 1700s. The renovation from that era has left behind a beautiful example of the Baroque style of architecture.

**Wellenberg Castle** is just east of Frauenfeld on Road 14 in the small village of Weinfeld, where you'll find a 13th-century castle, which is the seat of the cantonal parliament for six months out of the year (the other six months the cantonal parliament is held in the capital of Frauenfeld).

## ■ Museums

The **Thurgau Canton Museum** is housed in an 18th-century castle in the upper part of the city, while the **Cantonal Nature Museum** is in the old village center, near the library. Both museums are OK, but if your time is limited, go to the Wellenberg Castle instead.

## ■ Where to Stay



**The Feldbach Hotel** is one of the finest hotels in the area, a few kilometers north of Frauenfeld in the seaside town of **Steckborn**. From Frauenfeld, travel east on Road 14 for about two miles (3.2 km), and then follow the signs north to Steckborn, a quick 15-minute trip. Here you'll see the Feldbach Hotel on

the Untersee shoreline. It's a beautiful, restored 13th-century convent with an ornate Baroque tower that you see as you enter. The hotel offers free bike rentals for guests and it caters to disabled travelers as well. Worth the trip. CH-8266 Steckborn. ☎ 52-762-2121, fax 52-762-2191.

HOTEL PRICE CHART	
\$	30-75Sfr (\$20-\$49)
\$\$	76-205Sfr (\$50-\$109)
\$\$\$	206-299Sfr (\$110-\$200)
\$\$\$\$	300Sfr+ (\$200+)

The **Youth Hostel Rüegethholz** has 38 beds and is open from January 1-16, from February 16-October 31, and from December 1-31. (\$). Festhüttenstrasse 22, CH-8500 Frauenfeld. ☎/fax 52-721-3680, www.youthhostel.ch/frauenfeld.

## ■ Where to Eat



**Roter Ochsen** (The Red Ox) serves up excellent Swiss food in a clean, white-walled dining room. This is worth a visit. (\$\$). Open daily. Zurcherstrasse 224, CH-8500 Frauenfeld. ☎ 52-721-1257.

# Kreuzlingen

This is a unique town in that it connects with a similar city (Constance) set neatly on the border of Switzerland and Germany. The town of Constance was, in fact, part of Switzerland until 1805. Kreuzlingen is best-known for its **St. Ulrich Kloster Church**, which is home to a Holy Cross that was brought to this area in the 10th century, and is housed in the Church Tower. The current structure was built in the 17th century and the Baroque interior was completed in the 18th century. After several fires throughout the ages, the building was renovated in 1967. This church chapel has ornate woodwork and figurines representing biblical characters and scenes from the 18th century.

## ■ Information Sources

### Tourist Offices



The Tourist Office is in the TCS travel office at Hauptstrasse 39, CH-8280 Kreuzlingen. Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30-noon, 1:45-6 pm, Saturday, 8:30 am-noon. ☎ 71-672-3840, fax 71-672-1736. For information regarding **Lake Constance** and the region, contact **Tourismusverband Ostschweiz** (The Tourist Association of Eastern Switzerland) at Postfach, CH-9001 St. Gallen. ☎ 71-227-3777.

## Post Office



Located on Nationalstrasse 3, the Kreuzlingen post office is open from Monday to Friday, 7:30 am-6 pm, and on Saturday from 8 am-noon. ☎ 71-677-9911, fax 71-677-9915.

## Codes

The **area code** for Kreuzlingen is 71 and the **postal code** is CH-8280.

## ■ Getting Around



This canton is a cyclist's paradise, with lovely bike paths throughout the region. There are also countless hiking paths. The Tourist Office can provide you with maps and routes for both types of exercise.

## ■ Adventures

### On Water



There are countless swimming pools and free public beaches in Kreuzlingen, as well as the **Sailing School of Kreuzlingen**, ☎ 71-688-8020. You should also check out the beaches here, which are some of the few with sand in the country. Sunbathing is done on the grassy areas just west of the shoreline. Public beach information is at ☎ 71-688-1858.

## ■ Landmarks & Historic Sites



Just west of Kreuzlingen on Road 13 lies the town of **Tägerwilen**, which will be a point of interest for wine enthusiasts. This is the birthplace of Hermann Müller (1850-1927), who produced the Müller-Thurgau grape, which is a cross between Riesling and Sylvaner. In **Tägerwilen** you'll also find the churches of **Cosmas** and **Damian**, and looming boldly above the village is the **Schloss Castle**, built in 1661. Near the castle is the **Constance Palace of Bishops**, which was rebuilt in 1876 and 1894 after its destruction in 1499.

## ■ Museums

The **Puppenmuseum Jeannine**, or Doll Museum, is in the Tenant's house of **Schloss Girsberg** and contains 500+ rare dolls from throughout history. Attached to the Doll Museum is the **Graf-Zeppelin Erinnerungszimmer** (Count Zeppelin Memorial), which pays homage to the count who lived here from 1890 to 1900 while working on his air

balloons/dirigibles at Girsberg. Open March 1-January 6 on Wednesday and Sunday, from 2-5 pm, or by appointment.

**The Feuerwehrmuseum** (Fire Brigade Museum) gives a curious introduction to the history of fire-fighting in the area, but you must make an appointment to visit it. Löwenstrasse 7, CH-8280 Kreuzlingen. ☎ 71-677-6370.

**Rosenegg Heimatmuseum** features furniture, weapons and important papers from Kreuzlingen's history. Open May to October on the first Sunday of the month, from 2-4 pm. Barenstrasse 6, CH-8280 Kreuzlingen.

**The Lake Museum** is on the north end of the town in **Seeburg Park** (a refuge for fallow deer and fowl). This museum tells the story of Lake Constance, complete with shipping models and fishing history. Open November-March on Sunday from 2-5 pm, and in April-October on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, 2-5 pm.

**The Planetarium** was built in June 2002. Open daily from 9 am-5 pm. Admission is 12 Sfr for adults, 10Sfr for youngsters. ☎ 71-677-3800, fax 71-677-3801.

## ■ Where to Stay



**Hotel Krone** is a 300-year-old inn that offers a quiet romantic spot in a beautiful tiny village just outside of the northern edges of Kreuzlingen. (\$-\$-\$). Seestrasse, CH-8274 Gottlieben. ☎ 71-666-8060, fax 71-666-8069.

HOTEL PRICE CHART	
\$	30-75Sfr (\$20-\$49)
\$\$	76-205Sfr (\$50-\$109)
\$\$\$	206-299Sfr (\$110-\$200)
\$\$\$\$	300Sfr+ (\$200+)

**Schlössli Bottighofen** is a castle that was built in 1640. It sits on the shores of Lake Constance. Simple-looking on the outside, it is anything but that on the inside – being meticulously and tastefully decorated. Open year-round, with two in-house dining areas. (\$-\$-\$-\$). CH-8598 Bottighofen. ☎ 71-688-1275, fax 71-688-1540.

**Hotel Schiff** is slightly farther north of Kreuzlingen on Road 13 and is a relatively new hotel that appears to be more Italian than Swiss. The stucco design contrasts nicely with the blue waters of the Untersee. This hotel is handicapped-accessible and has two dining rooms that serve up excellent locally caught fish and provide a good list of local wines. (\$-\$-\$-\$). Closed February. CH-8268 Mannenbach am Untersee. ☎ 71-663-4141, fax 71-663-4150.

**Zum Blauen Haus** is a restaurant and piano bar in the historic Gebuden area of Kreuzlingen. (\$-\$-\$). Hauptstrasse 138, CH-8280 Kreuzlingen. ☎ 71-688-2498, fax 71-699-1406.