Dialogue rather than armed force was a characteristic feature of the Council of Constance. Theological, political, and social issues of the period were mostly solved by discussion, whilst the rest of Europe was shaken by conflicts such as the Hundred Years' War. The Council’s biggest success was the termination of the schism and Martin V’s election as new unity pope.

Welcome to Constance

With its Council, the city of Constance has made history. Its historic old town, its unique location on Europe’s third largest lake within eyeshot of the Swiss Alps, its international atmosphere and the world famous flower island of Mainau will make your visit an unforgettable experience. In the surrounding area, UNESCO world heritage sites, such as the monastery island of Reichenau, the Abbey district of St. Gallen, or the prehistoric pile dwelling sites in Unteruhldingen are perfect for day trips. And a boat tour across the lake, on the “Lädine” for instance, will make your visit to Constance complete.

The Council of Constance

1414–1418

Three popes laying claim to the Chair of Peter, a divided Christianity, political conflicts all over Europe – in order to work out these problems, religious and secular rulers met in Constance between 1414 and 1418. Doubtless, the Council has been a unique event in the history of the city, and it has left its traces almost everywhere. Colourful frescoes, numerous works of art, places and buildings still bear evidence of the Council of Constance.

From 2014 to 2018, Constance invites the whole of Europe to come for a visit. Cultural, academic, and experience-oriented events make the Council of Constance, which took place from 1414 to 1418, come alive again. Historic events are linked up with present and future. In today’s Constance, historical evidence of the biggest medieval congress can be found everywhere. Colourful frescoes, numerous works of art, places and buildings still bear evidence of the Council of Constance.

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Aside from the theological aspects, politics, trade, sciences, and culture figured prominently at the Council. The secular rulers, who came to Constance, took far-reaching decisions, which still leave their imprint on today’s Europe. At the same time, the town became a hub of knowledge: University rectors and masters, artists and merchants made for a lively exchange of written work, songs and art.
**2016 - IMPERIA**

**LIVING MIDDLE AGES**

The year 2016 is dedicated to the beautiful Imperia and the “Living Middle Ages”. Courtesan Imperia greets every traveller arriving at the harbour of Constance. Unperturbed by the hustle and bustle of daily life, the imposing statue has been nonchalantly rotating around itself for more than 20 years.

Imperia symbols the many hundreds of harlots, who were counted by Ulrich Richental during the 14th century due to their travel. The two ecclesiastical and secular rulers she carries, the palms of her hands, are a tongue-in-cheek reference to a harlot’s far-reaching sphere of influence. The “real” Imperia lived in Rome from 1485 to 1511. The “real” Imperia lived in Rome from 1485 to 1511.

In his “Contes drôlatiques”, Honoré de Balzac placed “the world’s most demanding and capricious harlot” at the heart of the action around the Council of Constance. Artist Peter Lenk in turn used the literary character to create a monument, which caused quite a stir in town.

**A SELECTION FROM THE ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM 2016**

**THEATRE AND FILM**

- **January 21 – 24, 2016**
  - *Horizontal*:
    - Film festival about prostitution, in cooperation with Hydra e.V. and Scala Cinema Constance
  - *June 24 – August 4, 2016*
    - Konzilfestspiele (open-air theatre)
      - Umberto Eco: Der Name der Rose
      - Teresa Waller & Karl-Heinz Ott: Konstanz am Meer
- **From July 9 – August 13, 2016**
  - No e vili: Open-air theatre
- **July 15 and 16, 2016**
  - Konzilgebäude Constance: Münsterplatz Constance

**MUSIC AND ART**

- **year-round**
  - **Rural Life in the Late Middle Ages**
    - Rosengart Museum Constance
  - **Kunstfonds Konzil**
    - Art, Theatre, Performances
  - **July 7 – August 7, 2016**
    - What Was That Again?
  - **July 8 – August 14, 2016**
    - An Archaeological Quest- Bodanplatz
  - **July 15 and 16, 2016**
    - IMPERIAMARIE: The Fallen Angel
  - **October 6 – 12, 2016**
    - Illuminations

**EXHIBITIONS**

- **year-round**
  - Jan Hus - Courage to Think, Courage to Believe, Courage to Die
    - Hus Museum Constance
  - **From May 30, 2016**
    - Jerome of Prague
    - Exclusive Exhibition
    - Hus Museum Constance
  - **July 16 – December 30, 2016**
    - Der Name der Rose
    - The Tagermoos - A German Piece of Switzerland
    - Rosgarten Museum Constance
  - **January 21 – 24, 2016**
    - *Horizontal*:
      - Film festival about prostitution, in cooperation with Hydra e.V. and Scala Cinema Constance
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**STATUS OF IMPERIA AT THE HARBOUR OF CONSTANCE**

- Starting this summer:
  - Chairs of Constance

**ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN**

- **April 22 – 24, 2016**
  - The Robber Bruno or: Constance in Danger
  - Sprendshulle Constance
  - **May 16 – 20 & October 31 – November 4, 2016**
  - Illuminations

**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- **May 2 – 8, 2016**
  - HandWerkStadt
  - Handwerkskamer Konstanz
  - I.A. at municipal park and harbour jetty, Constance
- **May 28 – 29, 2016**
  - A Trip Into the Middle Ages
  - Camp life, medieval events, Schiapalz Konzil Constance
- **May – September 2016**
  - Boat tours on the “Lädine” Harbour of Constance
- **October 6 – 12, 2016**
  - Illuminations

**KONZIL 2.0 - EUROPEAN ENCOUNTERS**

- **April 23, 2016**
  - Science Slam "Innovation"
  - Building site "Bodenseeforum"
  - **May 25, 2016**
  - 17th International Ecumenical Church Congress at Lake Constance
  - **June 24 – October 03, 2016**
  - European Avant-Garde Around "No e vili"
  - **September 3 – 16, 2016**
  - Kulturforum Lutherkirche
  - **April 26, May 10, 24, 29, 2016**
  - Series of Lectures On Jerome of Prague
  - Konzilgebäude Constance

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE SEE:**

- [www.konstanzer-konzil.de](http://www.konstanzer-konzil.de)

**2014 – KING SIGISMUND – “YEAR OF THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS”**

2014, the opening year of the Council Anniversary was dedicated to King Sigismond, the patron of the Council. The “Year of the European Congress” also commemorated the many different people who came to Constance.

**2015 – JAN HUS – “YEAR OF JUSTICE”**

2015 commemorated the Bohemian reformer Jan Hus, who came to Constance in order to defend his teachings. On July 6, 1415, he was sentenced to death and burned at the stake. One year later, Jerome of Prague suffered the same fate.

**2017 – POPE MARTIN V – “YEAR OF RELIGIONS”**

In 1417, a new pope was elected in Constance. Martin V. 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of reformation and an opportunity to seek and intensify inter-religious dialogue in Europe.

**2018 – OSWALD VON WOLKENSTEIN – “YEAR OF CULTURE”**

2018, the final year, will be dedicated to Oswald von Wolkenstein, a widely travelled knight and minstrel, who performed at various European courts. The culture exchange in Europe will be the focal point of the Council Anniversary’s final year.