



A bit of Southern Germany

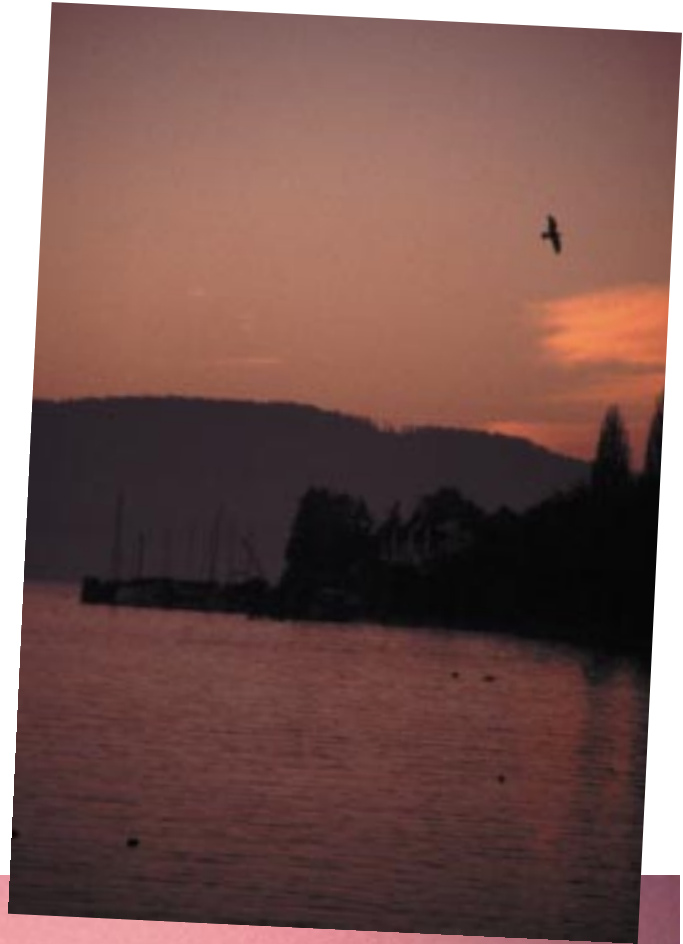
Rolf Brauch ~ October 1999

Cover: a recreation of a bronze-age stilt dwelling

Lake Constance (called Bodensee in Germany) just after sunset: on the east shore, at Überlingen. Looking north and across the lake towards Dingelsdorf.

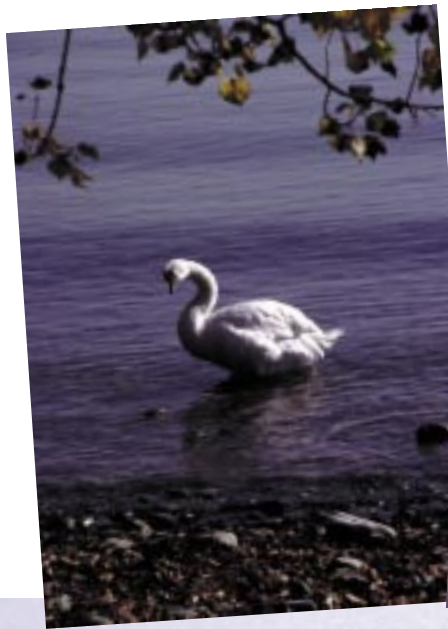
Visiting this late in October you can expect to encounter heavy fog which may not burn off until early afternoon. However, there is something to be said about having relatively few tourists about.

There are also the wonderful fresh apple and pear ciders and all kinds of fruit-based alcohols.



Picturesque Überlingen from the opposite shore.

Below: a few kilometres further south, taken from the bridge to the island Mainau - the entire bay filled with ducks, geese and swans.



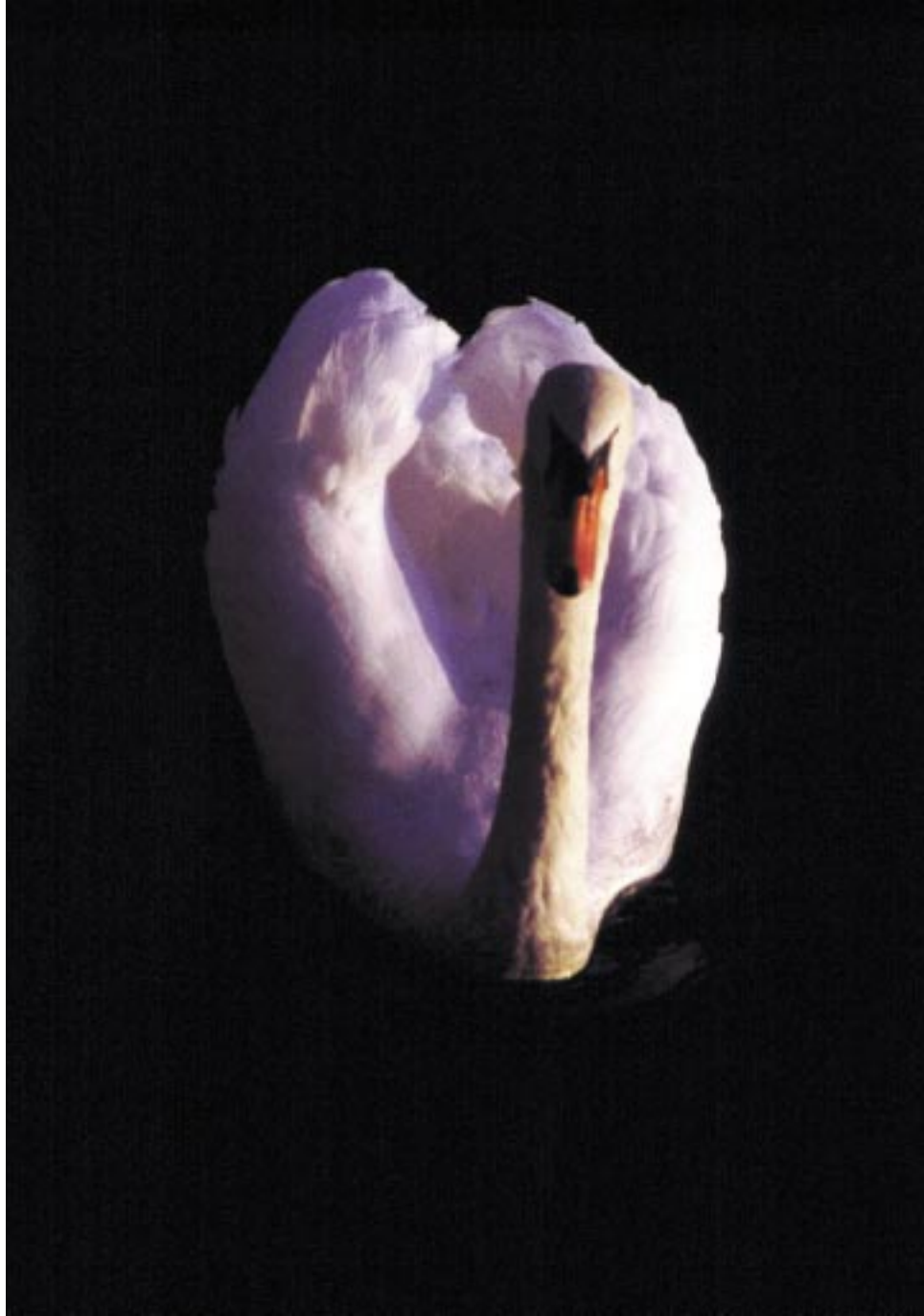


Some of the many things I find so attractive are the wonderful carved balconies and beautiful flower displays.



Palace on the island of Mainau.





Swan — taken just after sunset

Bees and butterflies feasting on the flowers on the island of Mainau.





The island of Mainau, also called the Flower Island, is dedicated to horticulture. There are many stunning displays of exotic flowers, plants and trees from around the world.

The area's exceptionally mild climate enables the growing of bamboo, palm and fig trees.





*A peek into the past...
a recreated door of a bronze-age stilt dwelling*



Recreated village of bronze-age stilt dwellings

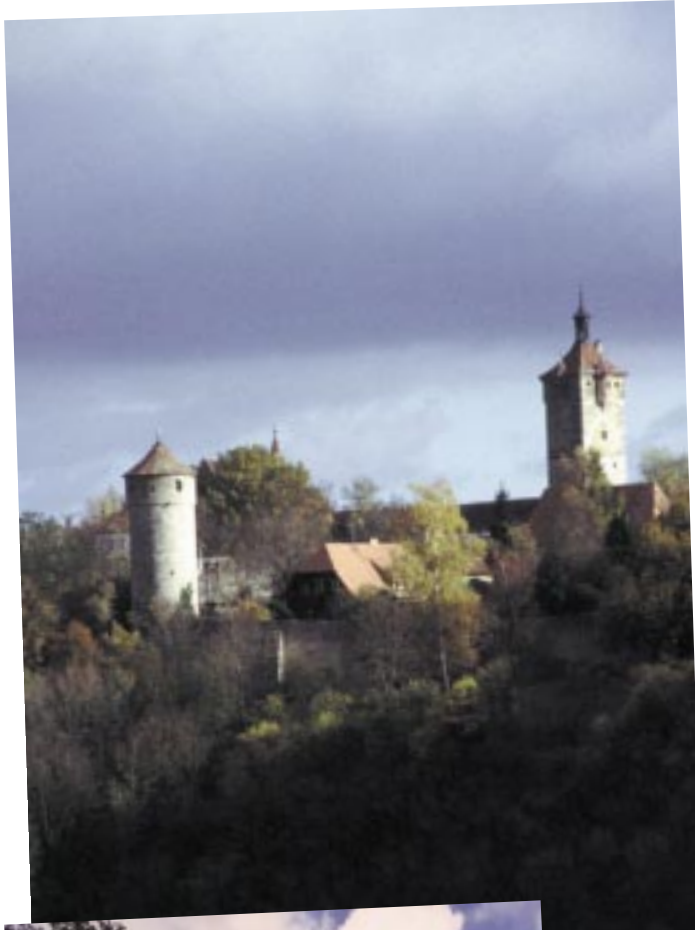




Picturesque Überlingen has many houses dating back over 600 years and a castle-cum-palace dating from the middle-ages.

Old building in the inner city have been meticulously restored — with many converted to shops and restaurants.

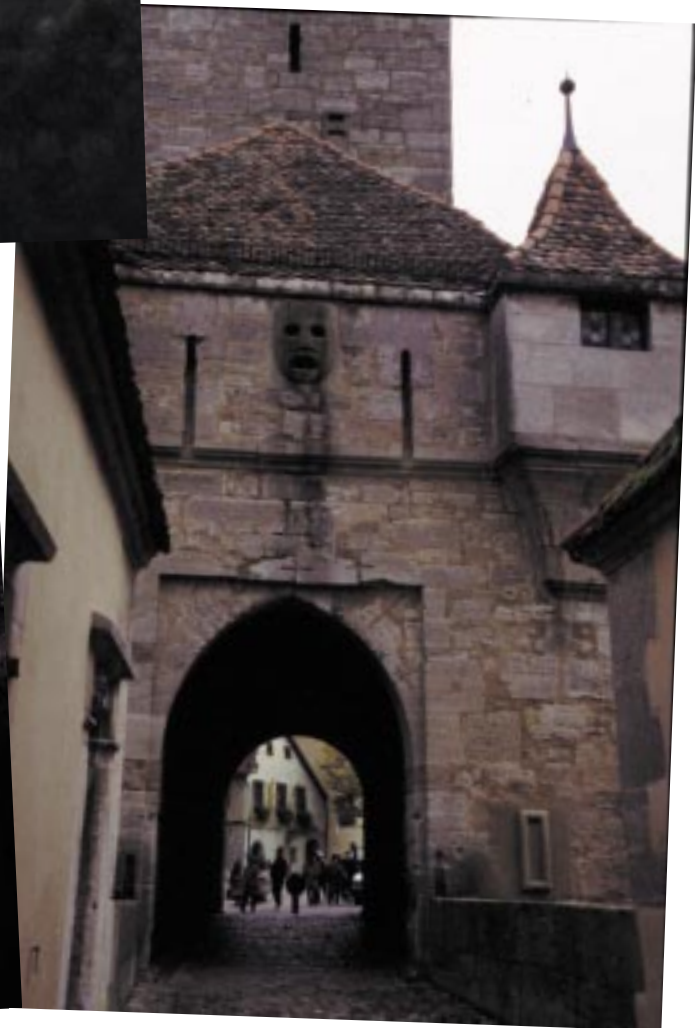
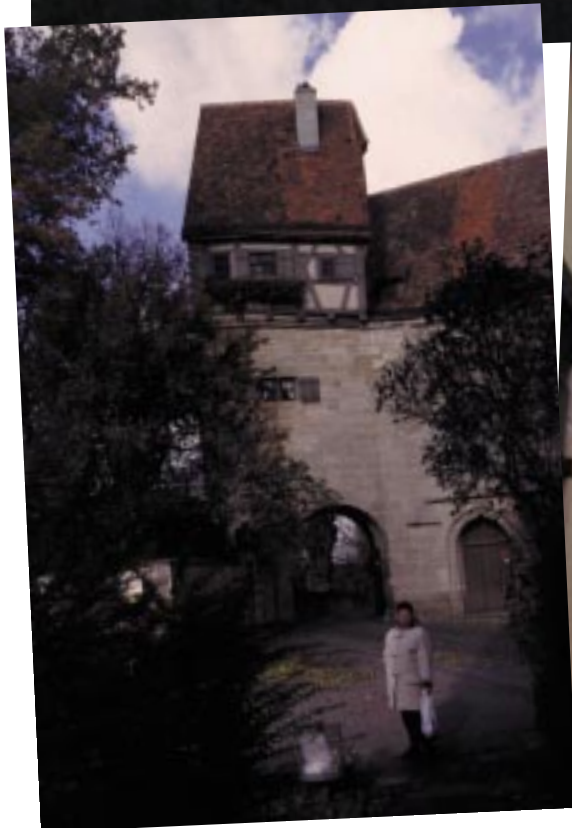




On the return journey north to Frankfurt we drove through Bavaria and stopped overnight in the incredibly beautiful walled city of Rothenburg.

The city sports two sets of walls — the outer wall sports a roofed-over guard-walk and magnificent guard towers and gates every few hundred yards. The inner wall has the beautiful clock towers seen on the left.

Allow several days to see this city properly. The double-crust rye-bread baked here is to die for — try a fresh-baked 5-lb loaf.





Inner wall gate-tower



The outer wall guard-walk.

Rothenburg is very small and you easily walk it from end to end in under 30 minutes. There are several car-parks surrounding the city — only local traffic is permitted.

There are numerous gift-shops, bakeries and restaurants and a number of small but expensive hotels — best to find a B&B outside of the city.





Rothenburg has several churches/cathedrals magnificently painted and decorated.

This carved altar should be on your must see list.





Irma and Rolf on the island of Meinau in Lake Constance.

Lake Constance (known as Bodensee in Germany) is the second largest lake in western Europe. The Rhine river runs right through it.

The lake is bordered by Austria, Germany and Switzerland. Because of its extraordinary mild climate the region surrounding the lake has developed into an extraordinarily productive fruit and wine area.

*For more photographs and travelogues visit:
<http://www.rolf.ca>*

