

PFAHLBAUTEN

UNTERUHLINGEN AM BODENSEE



TRAVEL THROUGH TIME

back to the Stone and Bronze Age



Rediscover Sunken Villages ...

Welcome to the **PILE DWELLINGS OF UNTERUHLINGEN**, one of Europe's largest archaeological open-air museums. Ancient history has been an exciting experience here for more than 90 years: we show 23 reconstructed houses from the Stone and Bronze Age (from between 4000 – 850 BC), replicas and original findings from excavations, making a fascinating submerged world visible again.

Our tour begins in the new **"ARCHAEORAMA"**, a walk through an underwater world with the help of our multimedia show. The tour then guides you over footbridges across Lake Constance into the villages of the lake dwellers.

Our special exhibit **"THE LEGACY OF THE PILE DWELLERS – Fascination World Heritage"** located in the main building of the Museum right on the shore of Lake Constance, contains around 1000 original finds which provide an insight into the lives of the pile dwellers (The exhibit contains both German and English texts).



*Important finds from the Pile Dwellings
at Lake Constance.*



Around 6000 years ago, during the **Neolithic Period**, the first farmers settled by the lakes around the Alps. They often built their villages directly by the water and protected themselves from the wet grounds and floods by building their homes on wooden stilts. The most likely reasons for the selection of this location was the close proximity to water, vital for survival, the lucrative fishing grounds, and the secure and central position close to important trading routes.



Towards the end of the **Bronze Age** (approximately 850 BC), a dramatically worsening climate pushed the settlers back inland into the surrounding hills. Since then, the remains of the sunken villages have been resting well protected at the bottom of the lake. Organic materials were also preserved under complete exclusion of air at the bottom of the lake, materials which would have long decomposed on land. Numerous finds of building parts have allowed for accurate reconstruction of the houses. Intact tools, bones, textiles, and even food remains have been salvaged by divers in complex underwater excavations. We are presented with a vibrant picture of life from thousands of years ago, something rarely possible for prehistoric eras. In 2011, the collection of 11 lake pile-dwelling settlements located around six Alpine countries were officially added to the list of **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.



Submerged World Heritage made visible ...



In the Pile Dwellings of Unteruhldingen, history has been reconstructed with the help of excavations and experimental archaeology.

1 The Stone Age houses “Riedschachen” (4000 BC)

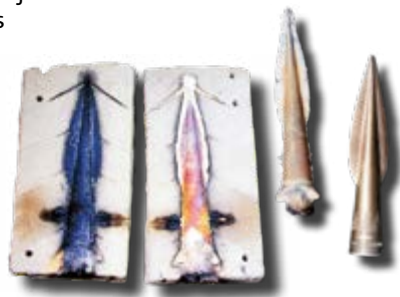


1922 – just four months after the founding of the Pile Dwelling Association, these two houses, which have managed to withstand both wind and weather for more than 90 years now, were reconstructed based upon finds originating from excavations in Riedschachen in Upper Swabia, the region in Germany located in the federal states of Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. In 1926, the German film company, Universum Film AG, shot their

first Stone Age film here at the museum. The silent movie, titled “Nature and Love” (Natur und Liebe) achieved great success across Europe.

2 The Bronze Age Village “Bad Buchau” (1050 BC)

Crafts in the potter’s house demonstrating some of the advanced techniques available at the time. Metal processing in the house of the bronze caster proving an early sense for shape and colour. The house of the village chief showing the early emergence of a hierarchical society. These were based on major excavations carried out in the 1920s in the Upper Swabia Federsee – mile-stones in archaeological discovery.



3 The Bronze Age Village “Unteruhldingen” (975 BC)

The settlement Unteruhldingen-Stollenwiesen was one of the most important in the late Bronze Age with over 80 houses. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Between 1998 – 2001, five houses were reconstructed here. The archaeologists’ work is explained through multi-lingual information panels whilst realistic productions illustrate the highly developed culture of the early farmers, artisans, and traders. Burial rituals for a tribal chieftain, valuable cult objects, and wall paintings lead us into the spiritual world of the lake dwellers.



The everyday life of a Bronze Age family takes place right before your eyes. Take some time to look at and listen to the many interesting stories told here.

4 The Stone Age Village “Sipplingen” (3500 BC)

Villages such as these were built by the first farmers here at Lake Constance. The theme-decorated houses contain replicas of archaeological finds. Many of the objects can be touched and handled in our guided tours. You can learn how Stone Age people worked the ground and what their diet looked like. The production of tools, jewellery, and clothing is also explained and demonstrated. Early inventions such as the wheel and the fish trap are also exhibited here.



5 The SWR TV Village

In 2006, the German Television Station SWR sent seven adults and six children “time-travelling” back to the Stone Age for two months. The original houses from the film set have been rebuilt and can be seen right here. They show us just how little living space people survived on during this period.



6 The Stone Age House “Hornstaad” (3912 BC)



This faithful replica of one of the oldest known houses at Lake Constance was rebuilt using the same techniques and building materials used in the Stone Age. It is a long-term

archaeological experiment. Comparisons with the original sites allow for interesting conclusions as to the construction and life expectancy of prehistoric pile dwellings.

7 The Stone Age House „Arbon“ (3376 BC)



This house is often used for academic research. Its construction, entirely of wood, differs from most other types of house at Lake Constance which were constructed using the wattle-and-daub technique and thatched roofs. The reconstruction from 1998 is the result of an international cooperation with archaeologists from the Canton of Thurgau in Switzerland.

8 The Stone Age Trail

How were holes drilled into stones 5000 years ago? What was it like to walk on paths through bogs? Try it for yourself in our “hands-on” family area. During holiday times, “Uhldi”, the Stone Age man can be seen cooking and building fires without matches or a lighter.

Opening times are listed at www.pfahlbauten.de



Things to know from our Museum Shop

TRAVEL THROUGH TIME Museum Guide

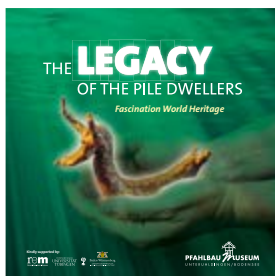
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**THE LEGACY OF THE PILE
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in German and English.

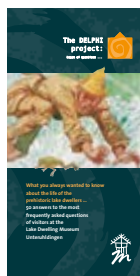
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You can find more answers in English at:
<http://www.pfahlbauten.de/delphi>

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Opening Times:

April to Sep.: daily 9 AM – 6.30 PM (last guided tour 6 PM)

Oct.: daily 9 AM – 5 PM, Nov.: Sa., Su., holidays 9 AM – 5 PM

March: Saturdays and Sundays 9 AM – 5 PM