

Alfter -- A Town Dripping With History, Art, And Its Own Wine

The town of Alfter, in the [Rhein-Sieg-Kreis](#) district of Germany, was first mentioned in writing as long ago as 1067 — although there is significant historical interest dating back much further.

Located just west of [Bonn](#), Alfter has a rich history with evidence of Roman habitation stretching back to as early as the 1st century.

Indeed, a past mayor of the town, Heinrich Arenz, held such a passion for the area that he collected quite a range of artifacts during his lifetime. These include coins, pottery and even an old millstone, all of which were donated to the town on his death. These can now be viewed in the Town Hall.

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Visitors with an interest in history may also enjoy a day out at the enormous castle which dates back to the 12th century. Further afield, consider a visit to the old monastery wall dating back to a similar age and the striking red St. James church.

But it's not all about the history. Alfter is also alive with art. The nationally-recognized Alanus University opted to open a school of Performing and Fine Arts here in 1973. Ever since then the town has become a treasure-trove for culture. For example, the university building houses a gallery well worth a visit that includes paintings by a number of notable artists.

A variety of outdoor events also occur during the warmer months. It's well worth checking in advance to see what is coming up during your visit.

During a short walk around the town, with its half-timbered buildings and scenic views, you will find

a broad range of art — ranging from the classical to the modern. These pieces of art are carefully laid out across the town for your enjoyment, making for a fascinating stroll and great photo opportunities.

And after a casual walk around the town, what better way to end the day than with a glass of the locally-produced wine? Not surprisingly, given the suitable climate and Roman history, wine production has been an important part of the economy for many years and so it would be a shame to leave here without a taste, wouldn't it? ;-)