

Bispingen -- Simple Pleasures In The Lüneburg Heath

Hah, people today think they're so smart and sophisticated. We think we got that "know it all" way of thinking, often wondering how people managed to survive centuries ago without electricity and modern-day machinery.

Okay, so some of that managed to help build the totally upside down *Verrückte Haus* in the town of Bispingen — but that doesn't mean modern day man has the monopoly on building smarts.

Throughout all of Bispingen's nine villages you'll find a whole bunch of steep-pitched roofs atop many of its charming cottages. Why? Because it helps to keep the snow from building up, that's why.

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It might mean nothing to you about the whole snow thing while you're here in the middle of summer; but they sure do make for a pretty village.

Bispingen's cottages aren't the only great architecture you'll find. The *Ole Kerk*, or as it's formally known, the *Alte Feldsteinkirche*, is a feat of 14th century building.

Much of Bispingen's history of architecture and culture can be learned over at *Dat Ole Huus*, an outdoor museum. The place itself is a piece of history, built in a Low German style.

Speaking of Low German, Bispingen's *Plattdüütsch* (Low German) name is *Bissen*.

Nevermind that, there's still much to see in Bissen. Bispingen. Whatever... ;-)

The place lies along the [Lüneburg Heath](#), so there's plenty of hiking trails (even the [Way of St. James](#) comes through) for anyone interested. Biking is a really big activity, with a whole bunch of marked trails ranging from a mere 16km to a staggering 250km (the *Wümme-Radweg*).

Either way you look at it, the scenery is fantastic — even if all you do is walk along the banks of the Luhe River. Or, just gaze at the natural landscape from the Wilseder Berg, the highest point around.

Still, you'll want to do more than that. You have ancient Bronze Age *tumuli* (graves) to find, wolves & bears to see at the *Wildpark Lüneburger Heide*, and party at Bispingen's *Erntefest* in early September.

A unique place in Bispingen is the Snow Dome, an indoor ski and snowboarding area that's super fun for the whole family. The simple Nordic Walking trails are just as good for family-friendly entertainment, as well.

You know, sometimes sophistication is totally overrated. Isn't it nice to go back to simple pleasures? Even better if you can do it in a place like Bispingen. :-)