

## Breitungen (Werra) -- Blend Of Beauty In The Rhön

Another night of not sleeping has me sitting in front of my laptop, but the lack of shut-eye is worth it to tell all of you about the town of Breitungen. Located on the [Werra River](#), and in the [Rhön Mountains](#), this town of around 4,800 people is bound to appeal to both history and nature lovers from all over.

The historical side of Breitungen is a blend of architecture from different eras — but the most famous would probably be the Romanesque basilica that used to be a monastic church. The original Benedictine Monastery church would have celebrated its 900th birthday in 2012 had it not been destroyed during the [Thirty Years' War](#) conflict — at least the monks rebuilt.

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The Church of St. Michael was also a medieval church (built 1183), although it did undergo a Baroque makeover back in the 1730s.

However, as delightful as these two churches are, it's the Church of St. Mary that stole my heart. How could it not, considering the original church was here some 1200 years ago? So what if the original is gone, this one has artwork by none other than Albrecht Dürer.

Yeah, hard to follow up after something like that, right? So don't — go see the 800 year old Rußwurmsches Herrenhaus or Schloss Herrrenbreitungen (built in the 16th century) first.

I know, I know, some people like things a little more interactive, so for you wonderful people out there I'd send you off to the local *Aktivmuseum* where you can do exactly that.

Other kinds of activity here in Breitungen that are great to experience would be camping, or hikes

through the countryside. Come on over to the lookout tower with excellent views of the annexed [Thuringian Forest](#) — or you could take a Night Watchman Tour.

Party animal I can be, it was sad no festival was going on today. Do yourself a favor, plan ahead so you can come for such fun as the *Entedankfest* in October, the *Sternenmarkt* held right before Christmas, the Summer Festival in July, or the *Mittelaltermarkt* (Medieval Market) at the castle in September.

Ahh, no wonder I can't sleep — I should have been here for that. Next time, we'll come together, OK?