

## **Dannenberg (Elbe) -- Very Historical With Many Cultural Activities**

This Dannenberg has a suffix at the end of its name. It's known as Dannenberg (Elbe), as not to be confused with any of Germany's other Dannenbergs.

Not likely to happen once you've visited the place. But, that's just my opinion.

I know, I know, everyone's got one, right?

The first thing you might notice about Dannenberg (Elbe) is its countryside. It lies within the Dannenberg marshlands which is now a protected area with a couple of artificial lakes with lots of local wildlife.

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One lake that's real popular is Thielenburger See with a nearby recreation center.

Yet, the marshlands aren't Dannenberg's landmarks. That's reserved for the Waldemar Tower, which houses exhibits on the town's floods and art exhibitions. It was originally Dannenberger Castle's donjon from the very early 13th century. Wow, that's a far stretch, isn't it?

Dannenberg's other landmark is St. John's Church; a Gothic brick structure that was built in 1245.

Although not the town's landmarks you'll still want to see the Town Hall (built 1780) and the Ohm's House, a triangular building from the 17th century that's now a cultural events center.

Oh yeah, cultural events. Brings me to Dannenberg's festivals. April is the best time to come if you

like Chamber Music with its Chamber Music Week. While in both April & May many other cultural activities.

September has the Night of Fine Arts and November brings gourmands for a Potato Festival.

For a less festive look at Dannenberg's culture, visit the Puppet Theater and the Fire Department Museum. I mean the *Feuerwehrmuseum*, since that's what they're called here in Germany.

There's also the St. Anne Cemetery with a plaque to Eleanor Prochaska and Theodor Körner, liberation fighters from the early 19th century.

Dannenberg's other cemetery is its Jewish cemetery with the earliest gravestone from 1776. But, the town's Jewish community was here from around the 1680's to the 1930's. The cemetery isn't marked, so you'll have to ask directions at the Tourist Office (located in the *Rathaus*).

From the looks of it, there's no way you'll confuse this Dannenberg with any others out there. But, again, that's my opinion — can't wait to hear yours.