

## Ebermannstadt -- Quite Peaceful Despite The Beer War

Just 25 kilometers southeast of [Bamberg](#) in [Upper Franconia](#), the town of Ebermannstadt had been burned down in 1430, was occupied by the Swedes during the [Thirty Years' War](#), the Prussians in the mid-18th century, occupied by the French in the late 18th century... but it was the Beer War in 1510 that had me laughing.

A beer war? Really, the townsfolk of Ebermannstadt were literally fighting it out with neighboring Pretzfeld for the right to brew beer.

C'mon, this is [Bavaria](#). There's enough beer for everyone, no need to fight over it. ;-)

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Thankfully, no one is duking it out in Ebermannstadt, making it quite a peaceful place to do some sightseeing and enjoy this resort town.

On the weekends a steam railway line runs a train to nearby towns — not that I want you to leave, but making it even easier to get here. Then, there are the guided tours of the town's observatory.

Would you look at that — I think it's the Mars!

Nevermind, I'm going to see something closer: the *Burgstall Schlüsselstein*. This 12th century castle wasn't so much destroyed, but simply abandoned. Not much of anything remains, but it does have a most excellent lookout point to see the picturesque countryside.

Another castle might look really old, but it's not. The Feuerstein Castle was made to look like a medieval one, but built during the 1940s. It was used for a number of Nazi activities — and given a

Red Cross banner to avoid attack as it was used as a research facility. Having survived the war years it's now a youth center.

A visit to Ebermannstadt's *Heimatmuseum* (Local History Museum) would be a good idea to learn more about the castles and everything else. However, if you're just looking for a good time, the town can accommodate.

There is a Fair held in October, and one held at Corpus Christi. The Christmas Market doesn't come along until December though, and one of the most popular festivals is the *Altstadtfest* (Old Town Festival) in August.

In between festivals you can always enjoy the [Franconian Switzerland](#) Nature Park. This natural area is a bustle of breweries, local flora & fauna, caves, and culinary treats in the heart of [Franconia](#). It's quite easy to lose yourself on one of its hiking trails.

With all this, how anyone had time to fight over beer is completely beyond me. ;-)