

In Eschwege, Celebrate The Johannisfest Like The Locals Do

Eschwege is more than 1000 years old and more than 1000 historical buildings bear witness of its rich history — what an equation!

The best thing you can do in Eschwege is to take a leisurely stroll through its historical center. Have a look at the 13th-century Gothic Neustädter Church St. Katherina, the *Hochzeitshaus* (Wedding House) from 1578, the Nikolai tower from 1455, and the former synagogue.

There are more than 1000 typical timber framed houses. If you want to be absolutely sure that you won't miss out on anything it's a good idea to take a guided tour.

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Dietemann is the symbol of the city and a pretty elusive personage. He only shows himself once every hour. Dietemann seems to reside at the castle tower, at least, that's the only place where he is spotted.

The castle, once the residence of the count that ruled the town and its environments, is now used by districts administration. It's well worth a visit if only to see and hear the Dietemann appear on one of its towers.

A good place to learn more about the town is the municipal museum which gives you an overview of the city's history and culture.

Remember how much fun it was to play with tin soldiers when you were young? If the answer is yes you will certainly enjoy the Tin Figurines Museum (*Zinnfigurenmuseum*). This part of Germany has been the center of the tin figurines industry for a long time.

If you happen to visit Eschwege in summer try to plan your visit around the traditional *Johannisfest*. For five days the city is turned in one big carnivalesque party. A local joke illustrates the importance of the *Johannisfest*. When asked how many seasons there are a citizen of Eschwege doesn't have to think long: "Two: before and after the *Johannisfest*!"