

Falkenstein (Vogtland) -- Fun And Education With Animals

I'll tell ya, that [Thirty Years' War](#) in 17th century [German history](#) was something else. If you've read many pages here on MyGermanCity.com you might have noticed that plenty [German cities, towns, and villages](#) were totally ransacked, leveled, destroyed, and even abandoned during this time from 1618-1648.

This widespread destruction was the norm; and the town of Falkenstein (Vogtland) in [Saxony](#) was no different.

However, the textile industry saved this grand town giving it a much needed boost to the local economy.

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Oh, I think I just channeled my history professor cousin there for a second. He would be so proud, I think? ;-)

I mention all this because it's a good set up to what you'll learn at this Falkenstein's *Heimatmuseum*, located at Schlossplatz 1. It's only open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2pm-5pm so prepare accordingly.

And because this started as an educational page, I'll continue (more lessons in the [G-ZINE](#), our newsletter). In German a *Heimatmuseum* is a local history museum; and *Samstag* is Saturday & *Sonntag* is Sunday.

There you go, feeling like a true German yet? I know I am. ;-)

Here's another German word for you: *Tierpark*. That's an animal game park, for which Falkenstein has one with everything from camels to bears. It's open *Montag bis Sonntag* (that's Monday to Sunday) from 10am-6pm.

No big deal if you're not fluent in German yet. At Falkenstein's festivals everyone speaks the same language — fun! Just remember the Falkensteiner Street Festival is in June, the Wine Festival is in August, and the Autumn Fair is on the 1st weekend of October.

Just when I thought the history stuff was over and we could kick back with some fun, I remembered a few more things to see here.

Like what? Oh, how about the historic Town Hall, the 19th century Holy Cross Church, and the old Hospital. There was even a 13th century castle here known as Valkenstein.

Plus, at the local cemetery there's a memorial to the town's Jewish residents & resistance fighters, and a Soviet Cemetery is in town, too.

I guess I started this page out educational, and I guess I'm ending it that way, too. On second thought, it's *Sonntag* and the *Tierpark* is open. Do you think they'll let us ride the camel? ;-)