

Friedrichstadt -- Greatness In A Small Package

Let's face it, Old World Europe wasn't exactly known for being, shall we say, religiously tolerant. But there were places that were more tolerant than others — places like the town of Friedrichstadt.

And you'd think a town that was a huge center for all different types of religions, not to mention a center for worldwide trade, would be... well, huge.

Guess what, it wasn't. Or shall I say, isn't. You see, Friedrichstadt is only 4.03 square kilometers. So you'll find all kinds of history and fun concentrated into one teensy-tiny package.

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Not being one to think like most others, I'd have to say a Night Watchman Tour of town is a fantastic way to learn about Friedrichstadt's more creepy side. Please, we're not talking horror movie creepy, but for 90 minutes you can hear all about what went on after sundown.

All right, not everyone has a dark side — so you can take a regular guided tour (in the daylight). This is a quick hour-and-a-half tour around town, learning quite a bit about all the religions that once called Friedrichstadt home. The town once had a thriving Jewish population; and the old synagogue is now a venue for all kinds of cultural events.

Many of Friedrichstadt's older buildings can be found along Am Markt — like the old District Courthouse and *Rathaus*. I like the old bridges, though. And with eighteen of them, you're sure to find your favorite one — preferably one of the pedestrian ones so you don't get run over.

The fun doesn't end here, because you still have the *Museum Alte Münze* to visit. In case you didn't know, that's the Ancient Coin Museum. And there's the old Mennonite Cemetery, too.

Don't let the town's diminutive size fool you, it is an absolute nature lover's dream. You're pretty close to the [North Sea](#), but it's the little canals that give the town its real character. Actually, you might think you're in the Netherlands with all the canals, so no wonder the Dutch felt at home here.

I digress, I was talking about the natural side of town. Like canoeing? You can do that here. Like camping? Yup, that can be done here, too.

As if that's not enough, think of the fun cultural events that await. Can you see yourself celebrating Christmas along the canals? How about coming for the *Lampionfest* in July? Or the super fun Dragon Boat races?

See, there's something for everyone in every season. No wonder Friedrichstadt was known for its religious diversity, everyone wanted to be here — and still do. ;-)