

Gangkofen -- 171 Lower Bavarian Ways To Say Wonderful

Holy cow, I can't believe that the [Lower Bavarian](#) town of Gangkofen is just over 108 square kilometers, made up of 171 (!) villages and hamlets. Tell me if I did the math wrong, but wouldn't that mean on average that each village is less than 1 square kilometer?

While you check to see if I got my arithmetic correct, I'll tell you all about Gangkofen. Deal?

OK then, let's start at the *Klosterbräu Seemannshausen*. At one time it was a monastery, more specifically from 1255 to 1802. Now it's a brewery with a beer garden.

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I will not keep going with the beer, I will keep going with the religious aspect of Gangkofen. And with this many shires, it isn't surprising that you'll find about just as many village churches.

These are but a few of the many that are worth mentioning. The St. George Chapel came along in the 16th century, the Sanctuary St. Salvator was a 15th century pilgrimage church, the Loreto Church was a mid-17th century design, the Church of Saints Simon & Thaddäus started as a simple Romanesque chapel but got a 19th century overhaul, and the 34 meter high tower of St. Vitus is over 500 years old.

However, it is the St. Martin Church (a late-Gothic design), built in 1450 in the village of Dirnaich, that is the show-stopper. Simply beautiful.

For just as many churches as you'll find here, that's about how many festivals they got. The Spring Festival is an April staple, followed by the Peter & Paul Market in June, the Arts & Craft Market in July, and the *Hoffest* and Medieval Days in August.

September is the month for the Harvest Market and *Drescherfest*, and October has the *Kirta-Markt*. November is for shopping at the *Elisabethmarkt*, and December for the obligatory Christmas Market.

Of course, the big winner in the festival department is the *Grangkofener Marktplatzfest* in June.

You know, with great festivals like these, and this many churches to see — who cares if I did the math right. Oh wait... I'm German... of course I do care if I did it right. ;-)