

Georgensgmünd -- Modern Art, Jewish History, Educational Trails

The hard to pronounce town of Georgensgmünd lies within the Nuremberg Metropolitan Region in [Middle Franconia](#). The funny part? You won't be thinking of any place other than Georgensgmünd once you're here.

Actually, I can't think of anything other than Georgensgmünd's massive statue of St. George and the Dragon that greeted me right when I entered this town.

St. George's influence doesn't end here as the church of St. George is Georgensgmünd's landmark. It's a Baroque styled church from the 1750s that was built over its medieval original. You can't miss it, it has a green-tiled roof.

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Another landmark of the town is its ancient looking *Wasserrad*, a six meter tall Water Wheel that was built in 1983 in honor of the town's prehistoric industrial era. You find it at the former Paper Mill (called *Papiermühle*).

You can't miss the Church of St. Wunibald, either. It's got this incredibly steep triangular tower.

Georgensgmünd's three other churches all come from the 15th century: St. Peter with its pink coloring and clock tower; St. Oswald a bit lonely out in the countryside that holds services on the 2nd Sunday of the month; and St. Mary's, built in 1441, that's got this ornately painted tower.

As if walking from church to church isn't enough, it ain't over yet. The *Skulpturenweg* is 2.4 kilometers of 15 sculptures, and hiking out to the *Druidenstein* is a must. It's believed that ancient

Celts used the stone for both animal and human sacrifices.

At least the *Planetenweg* (Planet Trail) is meant to be biked, not walked. It goes on for 7km taking you from the sun to Pluto — that's not really a planet anymore, but I ain't splittin' hairs here.

Georgensgmünd also had a large Jewish population for just about four centuries. There's an old Jewish cemetery (the last funeral took place in 1946), and an 18th century Wash House (called the *Taharahauss*) that's now a Jewish Museum of sorts.

And, from the name of it, the town even seem to have a castle. The *Markgrafenschlößlein* is a manor house of sorts, a half-timbered house (& a cultural monument) in dark yellow & white that was built in 1666.

This is a town of cultural events, as well as history. Every year on the second Advent weekend is the town's Christmas Market, one Sunday in June is the *Wasserradfest*, and on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month is Georgensgmünd's Farmers Market — where you can buy everything from sausage to pottery.

See why I said you wouldn't be thinkin' of anywhere else other than Georgensgmünd, even if it is a challenge to get out of an English speaking mouth? ;-)