

## Gladbeck Is A Combination Of History And Festivities

The most notable attraction in Gladbeck is the Wittlingen Castle. Containing something for just about everyone, there is a bird house, miniature golf course, and even a barbecue area. The castle is surrounded by water, making it remarkably appealing. That's why it's also called a Water Castle. And its restaurant with a playground proves adjacent for kids to wear off any extra energy.

There's even a museum in the castle. With chronological exhibits and displays, you can follow the development of the town. There are specific exhibits geared towards the school classes such as a coin collection of Roman coins, a cemetery dating back to the Bronze Age, collections of modern art, and various rooms relating to coal mining.

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Gladbeck also has a large range of religious inhabitants. There is even a Muslim minority that immigrated in the 1960's. This allows the town to offer many different churches, and even gives students the option of which type of lesson plan they chose — Catholic, Protestant or Philosophical.

Through out the year Gladbeck hosts numerous festivals and events. You can even catch a play from time to time. Check with the local tourism office or their town website to see upcoming events. You can choose to tour the town by bicycle or foot, there are various paths crossing through allowing you to absorb the culture first hand.

Anyone who likes a bargain will enjoy the common markets. They are held often, but in various locations; it is important to find out where they are being held. The town has built a new City Hall in the fall of 2006, and had featured a huge celebration.

For history buffs, there is also the *Maschinenhalle Zweckel* that was built in 1909. The machinery is

no longer in use, and since 1997 this engine house has become the site of the Foundation for Industrial Maintenance and Historical Monuments.