

## Hammlinkeln Is The Old Frontier Revisited

Hammlinkeln is used to being on the leading edge. Not the leading edge of science, technology or art, but literally, physically on the leading edge.

The Issel river running by town has served as a border marker since Roman times. Charlemagne used it to mark the forefront of Christianity, and in modern times the Dutch and French have used it as a line. You can see the mark of the edge in the ruined guard stations and those still standing, watching and waiting for the next invasion.

At the moment, most of the invaders coming to Hammlinkeln are bringing their bikes, Nordic Walking sticks, and trekking shoes. Nearly two thirds of the town is classified as being within the High Mark nature park, which has miles and miles of trails. Almost any outdoor trail adventure you want is here in top condition.

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The mountains of the border allow for aggressive biking, while the river valleys provide long smooth stretches for power walking or gentle trekking.

Hammlinkeln is also known for the camping, and light water sports flourish along the rivers edge. It's relatively distant from other major towns, allowing guests to unplug a little and providing enough natural surroundings that you can look up at the stars at night and actually see them. The peacefulness of it all makes the area very popular in the summer months.

In the town itself are many small restaurants serving locally grown foods, as well as old churches and cemeteries where you can contemplate history. In the evenings you can go to the pubs and try the local beers and fruit wines. Music and cultural programs in the summers also draw guests into

town.

Otherwise, many would stay in the nature park, going to bed early so as to wake up early enough to make the most of another fine day out in the forest.