

Hartha -- A Jinxed Church In The Heart Of Saxony

Don't tell anyone but I think I'm a bit superstitious. I know this is a strange way of starting off talking about the town of Hartha (in German there's no "th" sound like in the word three in English, so its pronounced like Harta).

Again, what's that got to do with the price of tea in China? Or, shall I say, what's that got to do with the price of a Porsche in Germany?

Nevermind, it's late; and back to the superstitious thing.

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There's a church in Hartha that has had to be rebuilt four times on the same spot.

The town's first church was destroyed by a fire in 1506 (which means it was older than the early 16th century). Then another fire leveled it again during the 17th century [Thirty Years' War](#); and the third one built in 1636 wasn't up to the German standard of what a proper church should be. So, when they rebuilt in the 1860's the town's church was decorated with gorgeous artwork, an organ, and stunning stained glass.

Maybe they should have rebuilt it on another spot since this one seems to be a bit jinxed. Maybe it's me? ;-)

A constantly rebuilt church isn't all that this town in the [east of Germany](#) has to offer.

There's an Industrial History Museum with exhibits on "old" time cards, pictures, and tools. It's not all about the working history of the town, it also doubles as a *Heimatmuseum* (Local History

Museum); and you'll find it on Wappenhensch Straße.

If castles are more to your liking then go see the nearby 1000 year old Castle Mildenstein. This imposing castle is open year-round to visitors; although it is open more often from April to October.

Castle Kriebstein isn't as old, but this Gothic "schloss" is a sight to behold. This Burg too, is also open almost year-round (just not in December or January) to visitors.

I'd save the former Cistercian Monastery for last though. Guided tours of the monastery are available every Saturday and Sunday (at 2:30pm), but still open to visitors pretty much everyday year-round in case you'd rather wander around on your own.

Wait! Don't leave yet! I forgot to tell you about the 19th century *Paltrockwindmühle* and the viaducts. Don't balk! These are exceptionally romantic, especially surrounded by picturesque countryside.

Your experience in Hartha is certainly worth more than the price of tea, or a Porsche. ;-)