

Höhr-Grenzhausen -- Outstanding Gateway To The Westerwald

I was a bit skeptical when it came time to see Höhr-Grenzhausen in the [Rhineland](#). Never expecting to literally fall in love with the town!

Just a stone's throw (10km) northeast of [Koblenz](#) and known as the gateway to the [Westerwald](#), I was pleasantly surprised by the friendly people and a truly outstanding town.

Höhr-Grenzhausen is renowned for its ceramics, which is why you'll find the *Keramikmuseum Westerwald* here. Oh, that would be the Westerwald Ceramics Museum in English-speaking books. If you like this, you'll LOVE the International Ceramics Market & Museum Festival held here in early June with artisans coming from all over Europe.

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After a visit to the museum you really need to see the ruins of Burg Grenzau. Built in 1210, this poor castle has seen better days, but that's all part of its charm. Pieces of it collapsed in the 18th century and its triangular donjon is one of a kind in Germany.

Don't worry about pieces of Castle Grenzau falling on you when you stay at the Burghotel Grenzau. This historic hotel, converted from a half-timbered house, sits right at the bottom of the castle's hill. It's a super nice view to wake up to every morning!

I almost forgot about another museum in Höhr-Grenzhausen. I don't know how, because the Local History Museum a.k.a. *Heimatmuseum* is pretty awesome. Open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, the museum has exhibits on daily life — like games, toys, and even an oldtime grocery store (don't you just miss those in our today's mega market world?).

The Romans also left their mark in Höhr-Grenzhausen with the Castellet Ferbach, a UNESCO world heritage site.

When you're done sightseeing, take a walk or bicycle ride around town or within the Westerwald itself. Better yet, try Nordic Walking. Then treat yourself to a sauna or massage at one of the two wellness hotels in town which alone attract 100,000 visitors annually!

I don't think there's a better way to end a day. Oh wait, maybe there is when you shop at the town's obligatory Christmas Market at the end of November. ;-)