

Hohe Börde -- New, Romanesque Art, Elder

Politicians. They did it again. On January 1, 2010 they combined a few handful of towns and villages (most of which were established in the 10th and 11th century) into one cohesive new town: Hohe Börde.

What they should've done was vote to add *all* villages to the [Romanesque Route](#), or as it's called in German: *Straße der Romanik* — because it seems like there's a whole bunch of Romanesque art in this new town in [Saxony-Anhalt](#).

Some exaggerating is being done right now (ha-ha), but not about the village of Bebertal. It really *is* on the Romanesque Route, because of its Romanesque Marktkirche. And while it might seem a bit morbid, you shouldn't miss seeing the cemetery chapel.

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Over in the village of Bornstedt there's another Romanesque church, this time it's the Church of St. Mauritius. Another medieval church is found in the town of Irxleben.

Irxleben is awesome, not just because of its 12th century church. Who can resist taking lots of snapshots of half-timbered buildings, the stony *Bismarckturm* (Bismarck Tower), or the *Völkerschlachtdenkmal* (which is a “peace” memorial, not a “war” memorial).

You should visit Ackendorf too. Not just because of its graves of POWs and forced laborers at the village cemetery. But, because this village of only around 400 people is where you see the “real” Germany.

Ahh, I've come this far without mentioning any castles. Until now. ;-)

It's back to Bebertal where we'll find the Burg Alvensleben, a.k.a. *Veltheimsburg*. This one was built in the 13th century, over atop one that was built in 1180 — which in turn was built over an even older castle. Its age isn't what Alvensleben is known for. Nope, it's famous because of its extensive underground tunnel network.

You should have known I was gonna find a castle somehow, someway. ;-)

Not everyone is going to want to see a castle, or churches. This is why I'm glad that Hohe Börde has an extensive network of cycling and hiking trails. The countryside here west of [Magdeburg](#) is quite lovely.

Then take a ride along the *Holunderradweg* (Elder Cycle Route), which goes through a number of nice villages as well as along elder plants — enough to make you forget about life's little worries.

Speaking of worries, I wonder if the government is going to combine another two handfulls of villages. Oh well, I guess that gives me another excuse to find more medieval churches and castles. ;-)