

Kandel -- Just Perfect In The Bienwald

There are a few things that are constant in this ever changing world of ours. First, the sun will rise in the East and set in the west (at least in the northern hemisphere). Second, it will inevitably rain when you're having the best "hair day" of your life. And third, Germany will have more forests than one can possibly count.

Oops! I'm going off on some tangent (again). But, you see just when you thought you knew all of Germany's forests, you learn about a new one; like the Bienwald along the town of Kandel in the gorgeously pastoral [Palatinate](#).

Hmm, are you wondering which one Germany has more of: [scenic routes](#) or forests? Well, let's leave that answer for another Web page...

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Where was I? Oh, yeah, Kandel and its Bienwald (a.k.a. Bien Forest).

The town itself sits just to the west of the Bienwald (so is France and its Alsace). And there are many hiking and walking trails throughout the forest. If you're worried about getting lost, take a guided tour instead of venturing out on your own.

But, I don't think a guided tour is going to stop at one of the grill huts for an afternoon picnic. On second thought, who wouldn't want to stop for some German bratwurst and wine. I know I wouldn't turn it down. ;-)

Some of Kandel's other sightseeing includes a visit to the St. George Church, the St. Pius Catholic Church, its Baroque Town Hall from 1773, and the oldest half-timbered house in town — the

Schafhaus. Which is right next door to the *Dampfnudeltor*, both are from 1660.

Speaking of *Dampfnudel*, this is a local specialty you definitely need to give a try.

Thank your lucky stars if you're in Kandel during one of its festivals or markets. The 2nd Sunday of March is the annual Bienwald Marathon, the May Fair kicks off on the last Sunday of May, and the City Festival is every August.

I won't forget to mention the Gallus Market in October (last weekend) and the Christmas Market, too.

It's all right if shopping isn't your thing, try the *Waldschwimmbad* outdoor pool instead. With its 40 meter long waterslide, it's bound to be a lot of fun for everyone.

Still not enough? How about tennis, archery, and a BMX track to get your heart racing? If you get too pumped up, a trip to the Bienwald will relax it back to normal.

Perfect, no?