

Königsbronn -- Pretty And Festive In The Swabian Alb

If Königsbronn's *Rathaus* (Town Hall) alone is any indication of what you'd expect around this town in the [Swabian Alb](#) in [Baden-Württemberg](#), then bring it on.

I just can't stop saying, "It's just so *pretty*."

The *Rathaus* is a mid-18th century Rococo design, with a Baroque facade with quaint flowerboxes framing the windows. This landmark building has been everything from someone's house (lucky ducks!), a guesthouse, a hunting lodge, and a candle factory (that one seems a bit strange, huh).

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Anyway, you'll want to see its Prince's Room for its gorgeous painted ceilings and stucco artwork. See, pretty. ;-)

Not much of the the Kloster Königsbronn stands, but that's pretty too. The original monastery was of the Cistercian Order, then becoming a Benedictine one between the years it was open from 1302 to 1553. The Gatehouse is a museum, and the monastic church is now a venue for concerts.

Look sharp, you'll find the walls and trenches of the 11th century Castle Herwartstein—eventually sold to the monastery.

One piece of [German history](#) that can't be "prettied up" is found at the Georg Elser Memorial. Mr. Elser was convicted of assassination of [Adolf Hitler](#) on November 8, 1939. The memorial museum (located at Herwartsstrasse 2) even displays the interrogation records that the Nazis kept on his arrest. This museum is a memorial to all those who resisted the [Third Reich](#).

A different kind of pretty is the Itzelberger See lake. It's not a swimming kind of lake, more of the marshy, bird sanctuary, let's go fishing variety. For those looking to stay outdoors, follow the *Karstquellen Wanderweg* that educates you about the watershed area along 15 stations.

After all that walking the Kneipp freshwater spring will help restore some relief to your achy feet. The surrounding hills of the Swabian Alb are so worth the pain. ;-)

Rest up, because if you're in Königsbronn for one of its festivals, you'll be partying pretty hard. The Autumn and early are the busiest time with the *Brenztopfest* in early October, the Fall Festival a few weeks later, the Autumn Celebration is around the same time, followed by the Nicholas Market (in early December), and all the Christmas Celebrations (including candlelight concerts).

Great, now I can't stop saying "It's so pretty *and* festive."