

Münnerstadt -- Medieval Castles, Churches And City Gates

The [Franconian](#) town of Münnerstadt originally started off as an early Celtic Settlement, and quickly grew into a wonderful medieval town. More than a handful of centuries later, Münnerstadt still maintains a medieval flair.

As with any proper town from the Middle Ages it needed gates, so that residents and friends could enter the town, while keeping out the bad guys. Münnerstadt's got four of them — the *Jörgentor* (East Gate), the *Oberes Tor* or Upper Gate (a 13th century, 35 meter high tower), the *Unteres Tor* or Lower Gate, and the *Dicker Turm*, the Thick Tower built 1240 and part of the monastery.

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Right around the time the gates were built, the *Deutschordensschloss* or German Order Castle was coming together (it took 27 years to build 1230-1257). Today this 800 year old castle is home to the Museum Henneberg, has changing art and cultural exhibitions, guided tours and weddings.

Who wouldn't want to get married in a medieval castle? No wonder the spot's real popular.

Built earlier than the castle and the *Stadtmauer* gates is the Parish Church (it dates to around the 12th century). And not to be confused with the Monastery Church of St. Michael (this one's a Rococo design, the former is a blend of Romanesque and Gothic).

Another medieval site in Münnerstadt includes the Julius Hospital, which was built in 1280.

But, you'll also want to check out all the half-timbered houses, the Tithe Barn, the former synagogue, and the *Kelterhalle* — where you'll find a 16th century winepress.

You'll also want to head to the monastery beer garden (the Monastery Maria Bildhausen) to try a bottle of locally made Abbey Beer.

I'm pretty sure they'll be serving it aplenty during Münnerstadt's many festivals and markets, like the Egg Market and Flea Market in April; or, the Maypole Festival in early May, the Summer Festival and Fishing Festival (both in July), and the Fall Market and Autumn Fair, both of which take place in October.

The only place you might not find beer all over is the Wine Festival, held annually in September. It's good to break things up a bit.

That's OK, wine was just as popular as beer back in the Middle Ages — fitting for medieval Münnerstadt.