

Neunkirchen am Brand -- Gate To Franconian Switzerland

My dearest friends do I have a [Bavarian](#) town for you. Don't make fun of me because I keep saying that. I sincerely mean it this time.

No, I sincerely, sincerely mean it. :-)

I think you'll really enjoy Neunkirchen am Brand in [Upper Franconia](#). It has all sorts of cultural activities, sports, historical buildings, and a view that's downright heavenly.

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Sure, you think I'm exaggerating — I can see your face thru your monitor. But let me tell you about Neunkirchen am Brand before you think so.

Back in the 14th century the Monastery Neunkirchen was the dominant force around town. Its St. Michael's Church still stands majestically; and while it's not officially its landmark — it very well should be.

The monastery closed after the [Protestant Reformation](#) swept threw Germany; and many of its former buildings were sold for other uses. The Town Hall was once the old school, and its medieval former convent is still around too.

Medieval Neunkirchen isn't limited to the monastery. Found throughout this old city are a few of the town's original gates of its fortification wall. What's really cool is someone lives in the *Erleinhofer Tor* gate — I want to do that too.

Over in the village of Ermreuth there's a Jewish Museum housed in the former synagogue

(destroyed on Kristallnacht in Nov. 1938). It's also used for various cultural events throughout the year.

Also in Ermreuth are a charming village church and a castle. I think this is why Neunkirchen is on the [Burgenstraße or Castle Road](#) that runs from [Mannheim](#) to Prague.

As if you're not going to be busy enough with all the historical sites of Neunkirchen, there are plenty of festivals throughout the year.

Where to begin? There's a religious procession every year on Good Friday, a Cherry Blossom Festival on Ascension Day (these change according to the Christian calendar, just so you know); a Town Fair is every year in July, a Kerwe (Church Festival) on the 1st Sunday of October, and a Christmas Market on the third weekend of Advent.

Oh, I left out the Autumn Fair on the fourth Sunday of October, and the Culture Days (late April) that's chocked full of musical concerts, plays, and art exhibitions.

Is there even time to do all the swimming, hiking, skiing, or tobogganing? I sure hope so.

With all this to do you might have to find yourself a guesthouse that overlooks the Upper Scwabachtal (which is where you'll find that heavenly view). I'm going to see if the people living the medieval gate will let me stay with them. Anyone got their phone number? ;-)