

Nordwalde -- Woods, Fairs, Horse Riding Fests, And Schnitzels

Nordwalde simply translated means northern woods, but if you were to go by that you'll surely be misled into thinking that's all there is to it. There is so much history here that you'll have a tough time keeping up with anecdotes and legends and separating the myths from the truths.

Apparently, the Old Manor House here used to be a massive stone house with high walls and a moat to house terminally ill citizens suffering from infectious diseases such as plague. They were given rattles to warn others to keep away. But that stone house was pulled down to give way to the magnificent mansion that arose in its place. And don't worry, there aren't any rattles either. ;-)

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Nordwalde's architectural wonders still retain their old world charm and you really won't be able to pick a favorite.

Check out the St. Dionysius Church. The highlight here is an old Baroque Organ that still can carry a tune to the extent that they have an annual Nordwalde International Organ Festival here.

If you visit the old St. Augustine's little chapel, it will be the stained glass wall that will take your breath away.

Other buildings worth visiting include the old Fire Station and the Steiger Tower.

Nordwalde's museum is really a must-see if you've any interest in the local history and trivia. The Georg Kramann Museum used to be a school till it was turned into its new avatar.

Another way of getting closely acquainted with this town is to check out the cultural events they have going on. They have a flea market for kids, which, come to think of it, is such a novel idea in itself that's sure to draw huge crowds. No, they do not have kids on sale; it's just that kids get to be the main participants even though women are running the show.

Nordwalde's Autumn Fair is another child-friendly event where every kid is given a gingerbread heart and free rides. If you're there in November, you get to join the *Allerheiligenlauf* or All Saints Run which is another fun event the town comes together to enjoy.

Then, of course, if you love horse riding you do not want to miss the gathering at the Ponderosa inn for the *Nordwalder Reitertage*.