

Oebisfelde-Weferlingen -- Meet Up With Roland

In the town of Oebisfelde-Weferlingen, I met up again with my friend Roland. Roland, if you remember, is a knight (always with a sword) that gives a town its municipal rights. And you see Roland right outside of the Town Hall.

For a while there it was hard to see Roland, as Oebisfelde fell right along the East German border. Now everyone could stop by to see him.

Now that you've said hello to my buddy, you're free to see Burg Oebisfelde. Not only is this castle quite a piece of history (it was built sometime between the years 900 and 1000), but it's unique as it's known as a *Sumpfburg* (Swamp Castle) for which there are less than a handful of them in Germany.

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FYI, a Swamp Castle uses the land's natural terrain for part of its defense system.

The castle's used today as a museum, houses a library and tourist information center, and is the venue for Oebisfelde's Old Town Festival in June or the Oebisfelde Castle Christmas (a Christmas Market held every December). You don't need that excuse to see its 27-meter high tower or its chapel.

Oebisfelde even has its own leaning tower, which belongs to the Church of St. Catherine. The church was built in the 13th century, and is still used for Sunday services and as a concert venue.

Surrounded by half-timbered houses, St. Catherine's is also flanked by the St. Nicholas Church. What's remarkable is this 19th century church is exactly the same size as its Romanesque

neighbor.

Over in Weferlingen is the Burgruine Weferlingen. Only its keep and outer walls (some 2.5 meters thick) remain, and there's talk of restoring the lowland castle back to how it was before it was abandoned in 1717. Good luck.

One other ruin is a must-see, the Stiftskirche Walbeck. This is the reason why Oebisfelde-Weferlingen meets up with the [Romanesque Route](#). Even if it's only its shell that remains, it's still a gorgeous piece of 10th century medieval architecture.

Yet another must-see is Schloss Seggerde, a former Water Castle from the 13th century in the Seggerde district.

It's not right to just limit yourself to ruins and castles here in Oebisfelde-Weferlingen. Being outdoors is a good idea, so find a hiking trail in the Drömling Nature Park. At Christmas time the park has guided hikes that talk about the Drömling's elves and mystical places.

Funny, I kind of think just about all of Oebisfelde-Weferlingen is mystical. I'll see you all later — I want to say bye to Roland; and I'll tell him how much you loved his town.