

Plauen Lies Amid Lush Green Forests

Plauen, in [Saxony \(Sachsen\)](#), is a piece of paradise helmed by an emerald canopy of forest as it lies languid on the slopes of a gentle hill and nestles in the bosom of the *Weißer Elster* valley. If you love nature and find long walks relaxing, you should devote more time in your itinerary to the exquisite beauty of Plauen.

In addition to the natural splendor is the architectural grandeur that contributes in no uncertain terms to the unique beauty of the landscape.

Consider the *Elstertalbrücke* or the Elster Valley Bridge. This impressive piece of 13th century creation is now a protected historic monument. It is pedestrian only zone and is one of the oldest in Europe.

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The beauty of Plauen is epitomized in the fabulous amalgamation of styles in the Old Town Hall. Built in the late Gothic style in the 16th century, it has an early 20th century annex known as the New Town Hall exhibiting neo baroque features. The south facade is a work of art with a renaissance style gable and fancy clock work. Housed within you'll find a collection of the finest Plauen lace.

The churches of Plauen have equally impressive architectural styles that you cannot afford to miss.

St. John's Basilica dates to the 13th century and has fabulous interiors with a Gothic winged altar, a grand pulpit, and a magnificent Crucifix from the 16th century. The edifice has Romanesque towers embellished with baroque crowns. You can see there's plenty awaiting you at St. John's.

Another church well worth visiting is the 17th century Luther Church in an old baroque style as well as the 19th century red Paulus Church.

Plauen's *Malzhaus* will intrigue you with what's left of the medieval castle of Eberstein. For details regarding this and other bits of local history, you would need to visit the *Vogtland Museum*. It also houses a costume museum with folk art that you might find interesting.

And visit the Syra Valley if you are in time for Plauen's Lace Festival. But even otherwise, there's the Peace Bridge which is well worth a visit. A splendid park area and an open air theater are other attractions that might compel you to visit.