

## Pliening -- Twelve Centuries And Counting

Happy birthday, Pliening, I understand you're officially 1200 years old. Let me tell you, you don't look a day over a thousand.

Ha-ha, just cracking myself up with corny jokes, if you don't mind. In all seriousness though, this [Upper Bavarian](#) town (that's a mere 21km east of [Munich](#)) is no laughing matter.

Oh, who am I kidding, Pliening might be old in years, but it most certainly is young at heart — and quite fun. However, if you are here to see its more sedated side, then I'd say you'll have to visit the 12th century Church of the Holy Cross; and with three other districts comprising the whole town — there are a couple of other village churches to visit too.

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Like the Rococo? Good, then it's the Church of St. Stephen (complete with one of those cool looking "onion" domes), while the Church of the Assumption is a Baroque one.

And before anyone gets all worked up, I'm not saying churches aren't fun places to be — it's just you're not gonna run screaming with glee down a church aisle like you would if you're outside playing around.

Which reminds me, by the way, about the *Rodelhügel*, a toboggan hill of laughing and playing kids and grown-ups sledding downhill in the snow.

Now I know not everyone's into winter sports, so during the warm summer months I'd say you'll want to visit the *Ismaninger Speichersee*. Now there's no swimming in the artificial lake, but you are allowed to fish — with the proper license, of course. And the surrounding area of the lake is a

bird sanctuary for Great White Egrets, Night Herons, and Reed Warblers.

Look, there's no way I would know the difference between any of those birds — but I know a good party when I see one. Pliening's a great place to party or shop, right down to its Fall Bazaar in September and its Artist Market at the end of November. You'll even find a Christmas Market taking place in early December.

Not too shabby for a town that's over twelve centuries old, is it? I'm pretty sure the Romans and Celts who once live here would agree — just as I know you would.