

Pommelsbrunn And The Wonders Of Hiking

Wow, some things really get lost in translation from German to English. For example, if you were to literally translate the name Pommelsbrunn, a charming [Middle Franconian](#) town, it would show up as Grassington.

What? How does that happen?

I'm sorry to say I don't have much time to think too deeply about it — but what I do know is Pommelsbrunn is a great place to enjoy both its historical side, and the fantastic countryside.

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While Pommelsbrunn boasts the only medieval Bath House — you have to understand the history behind such a revolutionary building. Ok, maybe not totally revolutionary... because the Romans used to have communal bathrooms, but they were a social no-no in the Middle Ages. A tour is a good idea, and it's worth the couple of Euro entrance fee.

Another of Pommelsbrunn's museums is the *Naturkundliches Heimatmuseum*, or Natural History Museum, open Sundays (free admission, no less) that talks all about the, well, natural side of Middle Franconia.

For me, the best museum is the *Vorgeschichtsmuseum Urzeitbahnhof*, a prehistoric museum with exhibits on the Celts who once roamed these very lands. Although they were great hunters, you won't have to hunt all that far for a beer — the museum's got its own beer garden.

FYI, if you want to keep the Celtic theme going, come on over to the small Houbirg mountain (towards Happurg), once home to a Celtic settlement.

A bunch of Pommelbrunn's other "attractions" came from much later on in history. Even though they're not intact any longer, you won't want to miss seeing the *Kapellenruine Arzlohe*, a chapel ruin surrounded by wonderful hiking trails.

If you want a castle, look nowhere else but the Burgruine Lichtenstein. Steeped in rumor and legend, this 12th century castle ruin still has magnificent carved windows/doorways.

It isn't hard to imagine looking out over the Franconian countryside from the castle — and the best part is, you don't have to be royalty to enjoy it.

Between you and me, travel along the *Erzweg*. I heard it's one of the best hiking trails in Germany — no easy feat since there are some spectacular trails just about everywhere. And that, my friends, always translates perfectly!