

Rees Offers One Of Germany's Most Beautiful River Walks

Rees was a Frankish settlement for some 300 years, starting in the 6th century. Traces of French, Spanish, Dutch and [Prussian](#) influence can still be seen in many parts of town, as it changed hands during armed conflict many times.

The remains of ancient fortifications can still be seen along the banks of the [Rhine](#) (see this [Rees webcam!](#)). In fact, several casements have been restored and opened to the public.

You will probably want to spend quite a bit of time on the pedestrian and bike paths by the river. The Rees Promenade has been acclaimed as one of Germany's finest, flanked by cheerful restaurants and cafés, where you can idle as pleasure craft and other vessels ply the Rhine waters.

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An inspiring sculpture park has been create beside the river walk, too. It features works by many of the most renowned artists in the country, as well as from neighboring Holland.

One intriguing aspect of the town is the role played by its famous old water pumps. Originally used to supply the community with drinking water from wells, they date back to at least 1664.

Over the years their function was replaced by more modern plumbing. However, since 1928 four of them in the town center have been brought back into service as gathering points and attractions used in festivals.

Once a year, at the end of June, the *Pumpenkirmes* (Pump Fair) is held. You can expect much singing, laughter, gossip and celebration, including bumper cars and a Ferris wheel for the children.

There is much to do in Rees, and the longer you extend your stay the better. Take a yacht cruise on the Rhine. Play golf at local courses. Go camping or cycling. Watch an international class soccer match. Or just relish the fine dining here, which ranges from the best German and Dutch cuisine to pizzerias and Italian ice-cream shops.

Enjoy!