

## Rottweil Is Baden-Württemberg's Oldest Town

Rottweil was founded during the Roman Era, in 73 A.D. Just as you have probably guessed, this is where the famous Rottweiler breed of dogs originated. It is most likely that they descended from drover dogs indigenous to ancient Rome, brought here to guard supplies and cattle used to feed the conquering legions.

By the 19th century, Rottweilers were most common in this vicinity. Such dogs tend to be intelligent, courageous, devoted, vigilant and hard-working, making them especially useful in protecting herds. They became a favorite of local butchers throughout the town, state and further on, eventually spreading all over the world.

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Owing to the Roman settlement, Rottweil is considered to be the oldest town in [Baden-Württemberg](#). In the cemetery area, you can visit the ruins of *Römerbad*, a 1st-century Roman bath.

Other historical remains you can see today are the Minster of the Holy Cross Church, built upon the site of a pre-existing 13th-century church, and the gothic-style *Kapellenkirche*, established in the 14th century, with its impressive tower and three portals featuring statues.

You can also soak up local history by taking advantage of the profusion of museums while you are here. These include the City Museum for local information, as well as the Dominican Museum and Lawrence Chapel for religious relics.

At the Salt Museum, you will find displays dedicated to salt and its production, along with an ornate crown made entirely of salt. Another interesting museum here is devoted entirely to dolls and toys.

Festivals play an important role in local life, too. Annually the town puts on a classical music event, a summer jazz festival, regional literature discussions, and the much-anticipated *Fasnet*. The latter is a Mardi Gras type of celebration, held at the beginning of the Lenten season since the 15th century. A lively “Dance of Fools” serves as its centerpiece performance.