

## Rüthen -- Medieval Sites, Old Caves, Fun Festivals

You might not know what to expect when you come to Rüthen; but, know this... it's a grand old medieval town within some of the best countryside at the edge of the Arnsberger Forest.

Geography aside, Rüthen has many historical sites to see; including the Gothic St. Nikolaus church that was built in the 1300's. St. Johannes' Church isn't nearly as old (it's 400 years younger), but it's hard to tell since that one was built in a Neo-Gothic style making it look older than it really is.

The only remaining gate that leads into the old town of Rüthen is the *Hachtor* (once used as a prison), but the *Hexenturm* (Witches Tower) still stands. In the Spring there's a pretty awesome *Hexenturm Festival*. Take your time walking around town and look for the remnants of the town's original defense wall that's called a *Stadtmauer*.

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Even though Rüthen isn't on the German Framework Route, there are many half timbered buildings through the town. Check out some pretty old ones at Hachtorstraße 20 built in 1609 and another at Niederestraße 6 that's built in 1684.

Another site within Rüthen that many come to see is the old Jewish Cemetery. It's considered to be the oldest in all of Westphalia, though the town's synagogue is now an office and apartment building. But, there is a memorial stone that marks the spot.

It wouldn't be fair to not see the two monasteries, the *Kapuzinerkloster* or the *Ursulinenkloster*. The latter was built here in 1482 and the former you'll find at the entrance to the local cemetery.

When you want to see something totally out of the ordinary go exploring Rüthen's cave. Old Stone

Age, Iron Age, and Ancient Romans left something of their behind in the cave — so, you're following in the footsteps of those from long ago. That sounds pretty awesome! :-)

If you're the camping outdoorsy type, there are plenty of campsites available within the area. If you prefer indoor plumbing, don't worry... R uthen's got you covered with economical (and super clean) accommodations.

Now, don't worry too much about what you're going to do during your visit to R uthen. I've got you covered here!