

Senftenberg Can't Choose A Season

Senftenberg has decided that it doesn't need to pay attention to the seasons anymore. Why choose, really?

The funding and technological expertise that the town has gained from centuries as an energy center have allowed locals to create mini-worlds with controlled climates. They supplement the natural attractions with created thrills.

Senftenberg probably didn't need all the artificial help, but it is fun. The town has been settled since Pre-Historic times, so everywhere you go you are tripping over history.

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Particularly on the Potter's Road — those old cobbled bricks are a historical hazard! Yet most of the old houses lie along this circular route and its twin the Post Road, so they are worth a wander if you can remember to watch your step.

After strolling the old town, you may want to mark time in the main square, especially if the farmers market or one of the annuals festivals is underway. There are two summer market fairs and a Christmas fair as well.

Up on the hillside you can also explore the museum in the fortress of the castle and then sneak through the children's zoo next door for even more play. But then you may as well give up and go out...

Lake Senftenberg (a.k.a. *Senftenberger See*) is a clear glacial lake with fishing, camping and several beaches for catching the sun. Walking and biking trails frame the water, taking you in and

out of the trees to strategically chosen vantage points. The area is used in summer and winter both.

The real season cheat, however, is the hugely popular *Snowtropolis*. It was built to offer saunas, sand volleyball, and ski games regardless of the outdoor weather. The ski slope is open 365 days a year. It's 130 meters long, and in some places is as steep as 25 degrees.

It is crazy popular but there is no denying the ironic pleasure of watching customers in shorts hauling their skis about in July. It's a must view if not a must do, especially if you are in Senftenberg for more than a few days.