

Stavenhagen And The Hoary Oak Tree

Thank the Heavens that sometimes my stubbornness and tenacity keep me from just getting up and calling it quits when I think a town doesn't have all that much to see.

What a huge (H-U-G-E) mistake that would've been had I not delved deeper into the town of Stavenhagen.

At first glance, I didn't see much. Wait... before the nice people of Stavenhagen have me stoned for saying such things, hear me out. I just thought it was a pretty town a bit south of the [Baltic Sea](#), with maybe an old church or something like that.

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Hahahaha — yeah right. I found an old church all right, but I also found castles and museums and writers, and festivals. What else more could you ask for?

Yeah, I know, gorgeous countryside. I also found a thousand year old Oak tree — known as the *Reutereiche*. The tree is named for a famous German writer, Fritz Reuter, a 19th century leader in Low German literature.

He's not the only writer to have called Stavenhagen home — 20th century German poet, Bert Papenfuß is also a local son. I'd say it's no wonder there's a Literature Museum in town.

Hey, I love a book or poem as much as the next person — but I love castles more. Stavenhagen Castle is one of the more famous around these parts; and you can't miss its bright color. It's a tad older than Glütz Castle (built 1868), but my favorite is Burg Klempenow, even if this 13th century castle is in ruins.

Medieval castles, a Baroque church (the brick one right in the middle of Stavenhagen), what else? Oh yes, you can even travel along the [German Avenues Route](#) traveling all the way to [Lake Constance](#).

That's a mite far to travel right now; and as pretty as that might be, right now I don't have any more ambition than to delve even deeper into Stavenhagen.