

Tönning -- Loving It In All Four Languages

My first lesson about the town of Tönning was that it's known by many different names. You might see it written like *Tönnen* in Low German, or *Tønning* in Danish, and even *Taning* in North Frisian — none of which actually change the fabulous vibe around this old harbor town.

Actually that's what the place is famous for — its picturesque harbor along the Eider River. The harbor itself is framed by the prettiest historical buildings, many of them dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. I really like the ones from the early to mid-17th century along Neustraße, but that's my own preference. I'm sure you'll find your own to love.

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I'd have loved the Tönninger Schloss, but it isn't around anymore. Well, at least the castle park is, but there's a replica of what the castle used to look like. What's even better is the *Peermarkt* (with fireworks no less) that's held on the grounds on the third weekend of August.

Hmm, do I still go on about history at this point, or do I start talking about Tönning's festivals...

Ok, history it stays — so, while you're walking around marveling at the pretty place before you, think about this: back in the year 1700, it wasn't always this peaceful. You see, that's when the Siege of Tönning was going on with the Swedes and Holstein facing off against Denmark.

Honestly, I don't quite know how it all ended (if you know, someone please tell me), but these days I can't think of a better place to camp out. One of the campgrounds around here even has babysitting services, and bike & boat rentals along the beach.

As if that's not enough to keep you satisfied, there's a Weekly Market to shop at (Wednesday

mornings), horseback riding on the beach, and the ever awesome Adventure Aquarium Multimar.

And just when you think you've seen everything, you'll realize there's the beautiful St. Lawrence Church at the Marktplatz to visit, the old fountain to take pictures of, and a Christmas Market to shop.

I did, however, wait to mention the best for last — the fantastic boat trips along the Eider. It's a fun way to see the surrounding countryside in Tönning. I mean *Tönnen*. *Taning*? *Tønning*? Ahh, whatever, I love it in all its languages. ;-)