

Secreted away from the throngs of visitors in almost the centre of Germany is a fairy tale town, called Steinau an der Straße. This is the magical town where the authors of some of the best loved children's fairy stories spent their formative years. It is where the Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm spent their childhood. They wrote the enchanting stories such as Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella or Hansel and Gretel.

Steinau is situated in the Kinzig valley about 50 minutes by train away from Frankfurt. It is like stepping back in time to a fairy tale town with a street of medieval half timbered houses, a splendid renaissance palace, a Puppet Theatre and a magnificent Town hall. The oldest house permanently inhabited house dates back to 1520 and it is also a private museum and well worth a visit. The beauty of Steinau is that almost all its splendid attractions are within a short walk of where ever you choose to stay.

Perhaps, the first place to visit is to walk along the main street, Brüder-Grimm-Straße. It allows one to soak up the atmosphere of the town. When the Brothers Grimm lived here from 1791-1798 this was the main road for travellers between the cities of Frankfurt and Leipzig.

We would recommend a visit to the House for the Grimm Brothers. The museum houses a collection of over 200 manuscripts, examples of the brother's work, many family portraits and artefacts. It also details the great contribution they made to language, literature and law. Their work has been translated into 140 languages and is the most widespread literature available after the bible.

In the courtyard of the Amts House situated in an outbuilding is a new museum detailing the history of the trading-route from Frankfurt to Leipzig and Steinau up to the present day. It too is well worth a visit. A short walk to the Town Square (Am Kumpen) brings one to the Town Hall (Rathaus), the Castle (Schloss) and the Marionettentheater (Puppet Theatre). Situated in the centre of the Town Square is the Fairytale Fountain (Märchenbrunnen). This fountain depicts many scenes from the Brothers Grimm fairy tales. Here too is the local Tourist Information Office (Verkehrsbüro) where the visitors are welcome and you will be provided with information and leaflets to help with your queries.

The imposing renaissance castle is well worth a walk around both inside and out. The more energetic family members can also climb the castle tower which gives stunning views over the town and valley. The great hall in the castle contains an exhibition of puppets tracing the history of the puppet theatre in Steinau which has had its home here for over 80 years. Colourful puppets from India, China, Poland and other countries were on display and posters from all over the World added to the atmosphere. The puppet theatre is run by the Magersuppe family and was started by Karl Magersuppe in 1924. We do recommend you see a performance in the puppet theatre whilst in Steinau. The performances sometimes have more adults than children in the audience. It is for all of you that are still children at heart!

For those with children Steinau also has a Fun Park. This park has numerous rides, with Luna-Loops, trampolines, sightseeing train and other attractions.