

# Global Roaming in Wolfsburg

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The 14th century Knights who founded this little blink-and-you'll-miss-it-place could not have imagined that in 2011 their little *burg* would be churning out 3500 cars a day from the Volkswagen factory.



After German reunification in 1990, Volkswagen commissioned the creation of the Autostadt (*15 day ticket entry*) which opened to the public in 2000. The mission was ambitious to say the least: to convert the large tracts of industrial land surrounding the present day factory into an interactive visitor park with world-class cultural and gastronomic offerings.

It is not, however, just about the autos. It is possible to go to Wolfsburg and not step foot inside the Autostadt. The Kunst Museum Wolfsburg (*8 entry, Hollerplatz 1, Wolfsburg, +495361 26690*) recently hosted the largest ever exhibition of one of the 20th century's most prolific artists and sculptors, Swiss-born Alberto

Giacometti. It featured his life-size bronze sculpture *L'Homme qui marche* – the most expensive sculpture of all time valued around 74 million.

Pritzker-prize winner and “startichtecht” Zaha Hadid’s free-flowing design of the phno Science Centre (12 entry, Willy-Brandt-Platz 1, +49 5361 89010-0) is a major draw-card for architecture buffs. With no right angles to speak of, to the uninitiated, the building resembles something out of *Star Trek*.

So many spectacular visual treats can only be balanced out by some equally tasty, edible ones. Three Michelin-starred chef Sven Elverfeld at Aqua Restaurant at the Ritz- Carlton Hotel (*Parkstrasse 1*) has cemented Wolfsburg’s cult status as a culinary capital.

The six course “Visions” degustation for 160 (with matching wine, 130) must surely rank as one of Europe’s most memorable molecular must-do’s. His “Breton sole in Finkenwerder style”, a fresh, modern interpretation of a regional dish is actually, well, just fish. Unlike some other Michelin chefs who have become notorious for their foam creations, Elverfeld creates real food focusing on fresh, basic ingredients. However, his take on a traditional *apfelstrudel* is a delicious deconstruction of a transparent film of sugar enveloping a vanilla cream mound with a thin sliver of fried green apple and light pastry on the side. Savouring the

last morsel while watching the snow fall outside, makes a wintery visit to Wolfsburg all the more endearing.

### **Getting there**

Wolfsburg is a one hour train ride from Berlin with Deutsche Bahn ([www.bahn.de](http://www.bahn.de)). Hannover airport is situated only 90km away. The next closest airport is in Berlin.