



Dear Expats,

April usually brings good weather and outdoor activities. The flowers are blooming; the cafes have set up more outdoor tables; the lines at the ice cream shops are long. April can also bring unpredictable weather, so keep your umbrella handy. Easter is late this year. More about that below.

### FLOWERS AND GREEN SPACES

The city of Karlsruhe does a nice job planting colorful flowers in the open squares throughout the city. Some of the nicer ones are: Kolpingplatz, Botanischer Garten and Friedrichsplatz, although parts of it look a bit sad at the moment.

The Schlossgarten is the big green space behind the Schloss (castle) open to all for sports, picnics or just lounging. On a sunny day the lawn of the Schlossgarten is one big picnic blanket. Starting April 6th, the steam train (Schlossgartenbahn) will resume service through the Schlossgarten. If you are picnicking on the lawn, be aware of the train going through. Usually it will give a warning toot or two.

The Günther-Klotz-Anlage is another big green space open to the public. Unlike other cities, Karlsruhe is relaxed regarding its green spaces — in many other cities you are not allowed to walk on the grass in the parks, especially formal parks.

The woods to the north (Hardtwald) and south (Oberwald) of the city provide welcome refuge for walking, jogging or a bike ride. The regions along the Rhine river (Rheinauen) or the Alb have a unique flora and fauna – also good for a walk or bike ride.

In nearby Heilbronn, the [National Garden Show](#) opens on April 17th and runs through October 6th. Usually a run-down area needing a make-over is chosen — in recent times this has often been a former industrial tract. After the garden shows, the area is usually open to the public as a garden or outdoor space. Fifty two years ago, Karlsruhe hosted a national garden show in the Schlossgarten (castle gardens) and the Stadtgarten (city garden in the zoo) in order to provide more green spaces within the city for better health and relaxation. The boats (Gondoletta) in the lake at the zoo as well as the train running through the Schlossgarten were introduced at that time, and still remain, as do the green spaces.

**Bicycle season** has started, so if your bike has been hibernating this winter, make sure you check the brakes, lights etc. before going on a longer trek. Many bike shops offer a “check-up” for €40 to €50. More info about bicycles and biking in English [here](#).

### FOR FAMILIES

**Amusement park season** opens in April — there are three more-or-less in the area: Europa Park in Rust (opens April 6, 2019)

Erlebnispark Tripsdrill in Cleeborn (opens April 6, 2019) celebrating 90 years!

Holiday Park in Haßloch in der Pfalz (opens April 13, 2019)

Some are open only on weekends and during the Easter holidays, and then every day starting in the summer. Check before you go.

### Karlsruhe Zoo



One half is the city garden (Stadtgarten) with flowers and old trees, while the other half is the zoo with animals. Highlights on the zoo side are the red pandas, snow leopards and polar bears. Starting in April, the ticket windows are open from 8:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. If you live near the zoo, it's worth getting a yearly membership to be able to go anytime — reclining chairs and green lawns await you during the dog days of summer — and it's a nice shortcut from the train station to the inner city. A baby zebra was born on March 28th.

### EASTER

Easter decorations and Easter bunnies can be found in most shop windows. Chocolate is everywhere. Many Germans decorate real eggs – some are hollowed out and hung as decorations while others are hard boiled to be eaten on Easter Sunday. Many churches have concerts in the time between now and Easter. Keep your eyes open because they tend to sell out quickly.

While fish is traditionally eaten on Good Friday (for those not fasting), lamb is a traditional food for Easter Sunday. If there are small children in the family, they often search for real or chocolate eggs left by the Easter Bunny in the garden on Easter Sunday. If the weather is nice, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday are great days for excursions. You won't be the only one with this idea. The zoos are usually full, as are the parks.

Be sure to do your grocery shopping on Thursday, April 18th and Saturday, April 20th. Expect longer than usual lines as everyone buys more than enough to cover the holidays.

**April 13 – April 27 – Easter Holidays** for the Karlsruhe school system.

**April 19 – Good Friday (Karfreitag).** All stores and government offices are closed. Some museums are open. Fish is traditionally eaten on this day — pick yours up from the grocery store on Thursday or make reservations at your favorite fish restaurant.

**April 21 – Easter Sunday (Ostersonntag).**

**April 22 – Easter Monday (Ostermontag).** All stores and government offices are closed. Some museums are open, even though it is a Monday.

### FOOD & OTHER MARKETS

Karlsruhe has a food/farmer's market every day somewhere in the city. The two biggest markets are at Stephanplatz (behind the Post Gallerie) (M, W, F) and Gutenbergplatz (T, Th, Sa). These are open from 7:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Some of the stands sell their own farm produce &/or home-made products. If not, then the produce must be labeled with the country of origin.

Others food markets can be found [here](#).

For those who can't make it to the morning markets, starting March 21st, an evening market can be found every Wednesday at Lammstrasse in the center of town. This one is open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. This market sells mostly organic and sustainable foods.

The flower market can now be found near Lammstrasse and is officially open daily from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Flea market season has begun. A listing in English can be found [here](#).

### WHAT TO DO IN KARLSRUHE IN APRIL REGULAR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EVENTS

Karlsruhe's very own [English-Speaking Meetup Group](#) (sponsored by expat-karlsruhe.com) is an informal platform allowing for the organization of events, activities and adventures. The most popular regular event is the monthly German-English Stammtisch where you can practice your English and meet nice people in a relaxed atmosphere. Start is 6:30 p.m. until around 11:30 p.m. It's a mix of young and old and all those in-between, who come and go throughout the evening.

The [American Library](#) has regular events in English for kids and adults: **LitNite** (April 2 & 16), **Poetry, Please!** (April 23), **MovieTalk** (April 10), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (April 10 & 24), **Teen Time** (April 12) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (April 12).

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to practice public speaking in English.

The [Technologie Region Karlsruhe](#) has a new event - International Come Together. Meet other professionals, profit from experiences and get connected. Thursdays at [Im Schlachthof](#) from 6 to 8 p.m. — March 28, May 23, and July 25.

### IMPROVE YOUR GERMAN Sprecht miteinander!

Practice your spoken **German** in a relaxed atmosphere. People of similar language ability form groups moderated by a native speaker volunteer. Free and no registration required. Wednesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. at

*Bürgerzentrum Mühlburg (BZM)*

*Hardtstr. 37 A/2*

*76185 Karlsruhe*

Just stop by!

The [IBZ](#) (Internationales Begegnungszentrum Karlsruhe - International Meeting Center Karlsruhe) offers a number of projects to help with integration. A listing in English is available [here](#).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 30 — Book and Bake Sale** at the [American Library](#) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. New books, old books, big books, small books, books with pictures and books without — available at great prices at the Book Sale. Yummy baked goods round out the offer. Stop by!

**March 31 — Change your clocks!** "Spring forwards, fall back."

**April 3 - 7 — [Independent Days Filmest](#)** at the Schauburg movie theater.

**April 5 — Opening of exhibit *Negative Space, Trajectories of Sculpture*** at [ZKM](#) starting at 7 p.m. Over 200 artworks tell the story of sculpture in the 20th and 21st centuries.

**April 8 — [American Comedy Night](#)** in Karlsruhe at Scruffy's Irish Pub.

**April 9 — [English Stammtisch](#)** organized by the [English-Speaking Meet-Up Group](#) at [Kaisergarten](#) starting around 6:30 p.m. A great way to meet new people, chat with old friends and enjoy a night out.

**April 11-14 — [24. Künstler Messe](#)** in Karlsruhe at the Regierungspräsidium. Artists

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**expat-karlsruhe**

born between 1948 and 1992 living in the greater area are represented in this juried show. An easy way to get an overview of the local art scene.

**April 12 - 14 – [Champagne Fest](#)** in nearby Ettlingen in the castle. The entrance fee is to buy a glass with which you can taste a number of different champagnes – seven wineries from the Epernay region are represented.

**April 13 - 27 – School holidays** for the Karlsruhe School system.

**April 13 – [Dirty Old Town](#)** starting around 8 p.m. A number of pubs and other venues in the old part of town (Altstadt or Dörfle) have live music, DJs and even Karaoke. Free.

**April 23 – German Beer Day (Tag des Deutschen Bieres).** Beer is a part of German culture - there are over 1300 breweries producing around 5000 different beers. Head to your nearest beer garden (if weather permits) and have a taste (alcohol-free also available).

**April 23 – International Day of the Book (Welttag des Buches)** and translators sponsored by UNESCO. Visit your [local bookstore or library](#) and enjoy.

**April 30 – Tanz in den Mai (Dance into May).** Dance til you drop at various venues throughout the city. The following day is a holiday (and a Monday)! In other parts of Germany, this is Walpurgis Night also known as Witches Night and is celebrated on the Brocken in the Harz Mountains.

**May 1 – Maifeiertag (International Worker's Day).** Official public holiday in all of Germany.

### RELOCATION SERVICE MOVE-IN

With 15+ years of experience in the region, [Relocation Service move-in](#) can help with your move to Karlsruhe, your move from Karlsruhe and with all those day-to-day problems expats experience.

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[info@expat-karlsruhe.com](mailto:info@expat-karlsruhe.com)

<http://www.expats-karlsruhe.com>