



Dear Expats,

This is a free English-language monthly newsletter from expat-karlsruhe.com. Feel free to pass it along. Full versions (with working links) of the current and past newsletters can be found on our [website](http://expat-karlsruhe.com). Please contact us if you have any suggestions, questions or comments or if we are missing any events you think might be interesting &/or useful to the expat community.

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We've had some warm days in the region – and there are bound to be more. If you haven't noticed yet, air conditioners and fans are not used here as much as in other countries. The best tips to keep cool, especially if the temperatures go into the upper 30s and higher, are: keep hydrated, move slowly, avoid the outdoors during the warmest time of the day, eat ice cream, keep the blinds closed and wear loose clothing. Swimming is also a good way to cool off.

Football &/or Soccer

June 14 through July 15 — FIFA Soccer World Championships in Russia. As Germany is no longer in the match (do I hear a bit of schadenfreude?), the excitement has waned. However, there are still plenty of places to watch the games with others in bars or restaurants. Come out and cheer for your favorite team.

Local Seasonal Food

Strawberries (**Erdbeeren**), red currants (**Johannisbeeren**), apricots (**Aprikosen**), blueberries (**Blaubeeren** or **Heidelbeeren**), raspberries (**Himbeeren**), cherries (**Kirchen**) and gooseberries (**Stachelbeeren**) are all ripe now. German (and EU) law requires that the land of origin be clearly stated along with the price – if you see **Eigene Ernte** it means the produce is from the farm/home of the seller.

Summer Holidays for Schools

The six week long school holidays in Germany are staggered so that the whole country isn't on holiday at the same time – they fall within the time period June 25th through September 10th. In Baden-Württemberg school holidays are from **July 26th through September 8th**. Germany does not shut down like some European countries, but it does slow down in August.

If you have school-aged children, you are not permitted to take them out of school early to take advantage of cheaper flights etc. This applies to the week preceding or following any school or public holiday. If caught, there can be a hefty fine as some Bavarian families found out in May during the Pentecost holidays (fines up to €1000!).

What to do with the kids during the summer holidays?

Karlsruhe and most of the surrounding towns have special programs for kids during holidays. Fees start at €1 upwards. The popular programs fill up the fastest and the registration deadline for some of the surrounding areas is the beginning of July. For Karlsruhe, information is available [here](#) or [here](#). The local [VHS](#) (Volkshochschule – Adult Education Center) also has summer programs for kids of all ages. The programs, events and information are all in German.

If the kids don't have sufficient German skills for the summer programs, consider coordinating events on your own through the [English Speaking Meet-Up group](#). A trip to the playground, a visit to the Natural History Museum or zoo, swimming etc. There are more like-minded parents/kids in Karlsruhe than you think.

What to do if you stay in Karlsruhe during the summer?

Summer in Karlsruhe is all about outdoors — festivals, theater, movies etc. Here are some of the big and small festivals and events coming up in July (other events are listed further below):



June 29 - July 2 – [Lindenblütenfest](#) at the Gutenbergplatz in Karlsruhe. Music and more.

June 29 - July 2 — [Peter and Paul Festival](#) in nearby Bretten. Calling all medieval fans! Parades, music, performances, food etc. The whole town is part of this spectacular event. Parking is limited. Best to use public transportation

June 29 - August 5 — [Zeltival](#) is the summer festival at [Tollhaus](#). Great bands and performances - some internationally known, some newcomers - make for a great mix in a relaxed atmosphere.

June 30 — [Mondo - ein Fest für Alle](#) (used to be the Fest der Völkerverständigung). A festival to celebrate the diversity of the residents of Karlsruhe and to share cultures. Starting at 11 a.m. at Stephanplatz (behind the Post Gallerie). Music, dance, information and lots of food.

July 12 - 15 — [Africa Summer Festival](#) in the Otto-Dullenkopf-Park. Music, food, dance, information, workshops.

July 13 - 19 — [Fest-Vorwoche](#). Das Fest is the biggest (almost) free music event in the area. As a warm-up, the week before (Fest-Vorwoche) features mostly local musicians playing in the Günther-Klotz-Anlage. Have something to eat or drink, bring a picnic blanket and enjoy the summer evening.

July 13 & 14 — [Altstadtfest](#) in the pedestrian zone of Durlach (Karlsruhe). Street festival with music, food and drink to support the local sport and culture clubs. Trams and buses are re-rerouted. If the weather is good, expect crowds and a great atmosphere.

July 14 & 15 — [India Summer Days](#) in the Günther-Klotz-Anlage. Last year was such a success that it is being repeated. Concerts, shows, workshops, food, dance and yoga.

July 20 - 22 — [Das Fest](#) is Karlsruhe's big open air music event. The main stage requires tickets - already sold out! The other (free) stages also have great music and performances. Food and drink and lots of information stands. Fun for the whole family. If the weather is good, it gets very crowded. In the Günther-Klotz-Anlage. Please don't bring large backpacks or food.

July 20 - September 9 — **Open Air Movies** shown outside of Schloss Gottesau hosted by the [Schauburg](#) movie theater. Mainstream to arthouse. If you like movies and your German is good enough, this is a delightful way to spend an evening in Karlsruhe. Admission charged. Parking limited. Food and drink available for purchase.

July 28 - September 9 — [Schlosslichtspiele](#). This extremely popular event is now in it's 4th year. Innovative light show projected on the facade of the Karlsruhe castle. Free and outdoors. If you would like to support this great event, purchase a button.

August 4 — **KAMUNA (Karlsruhe Museum Night)**. 20th year! 20 museums and cultural institutions are open from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m. Most have special tours or musical events and food. Shuttle service between venues. Pick up a brochure to plan your visit. Buy a button for entry into institutions.

What to do before you leave Karlsruhe during the summer?

While there are plenty of opportunities for entertainment if you stay in Karlsruhe, most of you will also be leaving for holidays and it makes sense to plan a bit with the following tips:

Before you leave town tips

Health insurance – make sure you have health insurance coverage in your vacation destination. If it is outside the EU, chances are you are not covered, so double check before you leave.

Auslandskrankenversicherung (foreign health insurance) starts at around €20 a year.

Mail – if you don't have a nice neighbor who can take in your mail, Deutsche Post offers a holding service (Lagerservice) for up to three months for a nominal fee. Provide them with your dates and you will receive a package with your mail on the day of your return. You can sign up on-line [here](#) (in German) or ask at the post office. They will **not** hold packages.

Other mail – the post office only holds what it sends. If you don't want your mailbox overflowing with advertisements and free newspapers, put a sticker **Bitte keine Werbung** (please, no advertisements) and **Bitte keine Gratiszeitungen** (please, no free newspapers) on your mailbox. You may want to do this anyway to cut down on paper waste.



On the road tips

Reflective vests are now required in most EU countries. To be on the safe side, you should have one vest for each passenger plus the driver and they should be stored inside the car so that you can put them on before leaving the car. They should be worn in case of an accident, if your car breaks down or you have a flat tire — day or night — to make sure you are visible to other drivers.

During very hot days (greater than 30 °C), older sections of the Autobahn (highway) have a reduced speed limit (usually 80 kmh) because of the danger of blow-ups, whereby sections of concrete pop up and could eventually damage your vehicle or worse.

The Autobahn tends to get busier during holidays. Leave early, avoid the midday heat, drink plenty of water and take a break every two hours. Having kids occupied with games or activities helps. The Autobahn is supposed to be free of trucks on Sundays (**Sonntagsfahrverbot**) and holidays (**Feiertagsfahrverbot**) from 0:00 to 22:00. Trucks carrying fresh produce are exempt, so there will still be some large trucks on the road, but not nearly as many as on workdays. To ease the summer holiday traffic, on Saturdays from July 1st through August 31st from 7:00 until 20:00, a truck-free zone exists on most Autobahns (**Ferienfahrverbot**).

Starting on July 1st, a speed limit of 80 mph is in place for secondary roads (B-roads) in France. This applies to those two-lane rows without a median or centre strip.

What to do in Karlsruhe in July

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 speak English and meet nice people in a relaxed atmosphere. Start is 6:30 p.m. until around 9:30 ish. A mix of young and old and all those in-between, who come and go throughout the evening.

- July 17th at [Kaisergarten](#) in Karlsruhe
- August 14th at [Kühler Krug](#) in Karlsruhe

The [American Library](#) has regular events in English for kids and adults: LitNite (July 3 & 17), Poetry, Please! (July 24), MovieTalk (July 11), Storytime for kids 3-5 (July 11 & 25) and Storytime for kids 6 and up (July 6 & 20). More info [here](#). The American Library is closed from August 5 - September 2.

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. to practice public speaking in English.

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. Just stop by!

Bürgerzentrum Mühlburg (BZM)

Hardtstr. 37 A/2 76185 Karlsruhe

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

June 30 — Karlsruhe klingt - music to go throughout the inner city of Karlsruhe. Big band, samba, opera... performed by teachers and students of the University of Music (Hochschule für Musik). Start at 2 p.m.

June 30 — Collegium Musicum perform their summer concert at KIT Campus Süd at 8 p.m.. Free, but donations are collected at the door after the concert. Come early to get good seats. The hall is air-conditioned.

June 30 — Turmbergrennen. Take the challenge and cycle the 1.8 km stretch (up to 13% incline!) up the Turmberg of Durlach. Various categories including relay. You must sign up to participate and you must wear a helmet!

June 30 — Flea Market with Kitsch and More from noon until 7 p.m. in the Nottingham Anlage in Karlsruhe. Proceeds benefit the AIDS-Help-Group in Karlsruhe.

July 5 — Ping Pong Tournament in Open Codes at [ZKM](#) starting at 5 p.m. Free but you must register starting July 1st. The first 24 to register can participate.

July 12 - 15 — Summer Exhibition/Open Studios at the Staatliche Akademie der Bildenden Künste Karlsruhe (Art Academy). Look behind the scenes and into the studios.

July 13 — Double Exhibition Opening at [ZKM](#) in the Foyer at 7 p.m. The exhibitions "[Art in Motion. 100 Masterpieces with and through Media](#)" and "[Through the Soundproof Curtain. The Polish Radio Experimental Studio](#)" are featured. Free.

July 13 - 15 — Oldtimer Meeting in nearby Baden-Baden. In German "oldtimer" means old/vintage/classic car. Ford is highlighted this year so expect to see a Model-T. Up to 360 old cars will be on display to admire.

July 14 — Workshop: LEGO MINDSTORMS® MANIA from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the [American Library](#) in Karlsruhe. Build a little Lego robot or another cool contraption that can be programmed to move, walk, roll... Lego tool kits will be provided. For kids and adults of all ages – admission free, but you **must sign up!**

July 19 - 21 — Rundgang durch die Lichthöfe der HfG. See what the students of the HfG (Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design) have created in the last two semesters.

For the latest events, please check out the [What's Up](#) section of expat-karlsruhe. This and previous newsletters can be found [here](#).

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. Look [here](#) for more information about the services offered.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please pass it on!

Have a great summer!

Links to other websites in this newsletter are provided for your convenience and to provide further information. They do not signify that we endorse the website(s). We have no responsibility for the content of the linked website(s).

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