



Dear Expats,

The first regular expat-karlsruhe newsletter came out in June 2012 – 7 years ago! We are pleased and grateful to have such a loyal readership. We hope we have been able to assist those moving to, living in or visiting Karlsruhe.

With the longer days and warmer weather, more outdoor festivals take place. Many Karlsruhe neighborhoods and the towns around Karlsruhe have their own festivities – look for “Strassenfest” and join in the fun! Usually, they all have music and food – sometimes additional activities are also on offer. If the weather is good, many can get very crowded. Some festivals are listed below in the *Calendar of Events*. It’s also likely to get more humid in the city – a great excuse to head to one of the nearby quarry lakes or swimming pools to cool down (more info below).

There are two more official holidays in June, and then none until the beginning of October, so be sure to take advantage of the long weekends!

HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE

Brückentag (Bridge Day) – is a regular working day taken as a vacation day, which acts as a bridge between a holiday and the weekend allowing for a long weekend.

June 8 - 22 – School holidays for the Karlsruhe public schools - Pentecost.

June 9 – Whit (Pentecost) Sunday (Pfungstsonntag).

June 10 – Whit (Pentecost) Monday (Pfungstmontag). Official public holiday in Germany. Government offices closed. Many museums and restaurants are open, even though it is a Monday.

June 20 – Corpus Christi Day (Fronleichnam). Official public holiday in Baden-Württemberg and some (but not all) German states. It’s a Thursday, so use Friday as a Bridge Day for a long weekend.

REGIONAL FOOD

The regional asparagus and rhubarb season ends on or around June 24th. The cut-off date is set so that the plants have time to rest and rejuvenate for the next season. If you see asparagus or rhubarb after this date, then it is not from Germany.

Local strawberries are usually available through the middle of August - some even through October.

Local produce can be found at the daily food markets in Karlsruhe (listing [here](#)). The grocery stores and markets are required to state the country of origin of the food you are buying – look on the price sign or directly on the packaging.

CHANGES IN THE LANDRATSAMT

For those of you living in **Landkreis Karlsruhe**, if you need to make adjustments to your residency status, it is now possible to make an appointment online. This makes things easier without long waiting times in the often overcrowded waiting rooms. The link is [here](#).

The Landratsamt has made many documents available online, so if you need to get paperwork done, not just your visa, check the website first and it might save you some time. However, it is all in German.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Although Karlsruhe is a city of over 300,000 with a relatively large administrative district, getting away from the crowds and into nature is quite quick and easy. The Hardtwald to the north of the city and the Oberwald in the south of the city provide much appreciated shade during the hotter times of the year. The surrounding regions have lots of quarry lakes (Baggersee) easily accessible by bicycle or car. Many do not



allow swimming — it can be dangerous. Some lakes charge a parking fee, especially on weekends and during the summer holidays. Family friendly lakes have a WC and Kiosk; very few have changing rooms (Umkleide) — most people just change on the beach. The local swimming pools also offer a reprieve from the summer heat. More information about the lakes and pools can be found [here](#) under Swimming.

CAUTION TICKS (Zecken)! Ticks are a normal part of spring & summer in this area (and in large parts of Germany). They can carry either the virus tick-borne encephalitis ("Frühsommer-Meningoenzephalitis" - "FSME" in German) or the bacteria Borreliosis. For the former there is a vaccine which is administered in three injections over time — consult your doctor and look at a reputable website like the [CDC](#) or similar. The latter can only be treated with antibiotics if afflicted. After an outdoor nature event, be sure to check yourselves, your children and your pets for tick bites. Not all ticks carry diseases, but if they do, then it's important to react quickly.

WHAT TO DO WITH THE KIDS DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS? (July 27 – September 10)?

Many of you are still thinking about what to do over the Pentecost holidays, but if you have school-aged children and would like to register them for summer programs in the city, now is the time to do it. Karlsruhe and most of the surrounding towns have special programs for kids during holidays. Fees start at €1 upwards. The popular programs fill up fastest and the registration deadline creeps up quickly. 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.

WHAT TO DO IN KARLSRUHE IN JUNE 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** (June 4 & 18), **Poetry, Please!** (May 28, June 25), **MovieTalk** (June 12), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (June 12 & 26), **Teen Time** (June 7 & 14) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (June 7 & 14).

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. to practice public speaking in English with friendly, relaxed support from speakers from around the world.

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. — the next one is on July 25th.

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

May 29 - June 2 — Brigande Fescht at Friedrichsplatz from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Karlsruhe's big open-air restaurant serving a wide variety of food and drink.

May 30 - June 2 — Horse Racing in nearby Baden-Baden (Iffezheim). Spring meeting. Wear a lovely hat and sip champagne or go casual - everyone welcome.

May 30 - June 10 — Karlsruher Mess' at the Messplatz on Durlacher Allee. This is one of Karlsruhe's biggest fairs with roller coasters and other rides, music, games, food. Fun for the whole family.

May 31 & June 1 — Alb in Flammen. Light shows and music in the old part of nearby Ettlingen along the Alb culminating in fireworks at the finale on June 1. Music starts at 8 p.m.

June 1 — Christopher Street Day with a parade through the inner city and a family festival at Stephanplatz.

June 7 - 10 — Hoepfner Burgfest. Traditional festival on the grounds of the local Karlsruhe brewery (Hoepfner). Music, food, tours of the brewery. If the weather is good, it can get very crowded.

June 11 — English Stammtisch organized by the [English-Speaking Meet-Up Group](#) at [Kühler Krug](#) starting around 6:30 p.m. A great way to meet new people, chat with old friends and enjoy a night out.

June 28 - July 1 — 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 28 - July 1 — Lindenblütenfest at the Gutenbergplatz in the western section of Karlsruhe. It's a special 100th anniversary of the event!

June 28 - August 7 — Zeltival 2019 at [Tollhaus](#). Now in its 25th year! Great bands and performances - some internationally known, some newcomers - make for a great mix in a relaxed atmosphere.

June 28 - 30 — Hafen-Kultur Fest 2019. Harbor Festival in Karlsruhe. The city is built around the castle, but the Rhine river isn't far away with an industrial port and boats. The three-day fest celebrates with food, music and boat rides, with a special "After-Work-Regatta" on Friday.

June 29 — 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. Free.

June 29 - 30 — Grötzingen Kulturmeile. The Grötzingen section of Karlsruhe is also known as the Malerdorf (painter's town). Music, art and food.

June 29 - July 7 — EFFEKTE - A big science festival! Karlsruhe has more than 26 national and international research institutes and 42,000 students - many want to share what they know! More than 100 events throughout the city, including the universities, research centers, movie theaters and even bars. The highlight of the festival is from July 5 to 7 at the Otto-Dullenkopf Park near Schloss Gottesau with live experiments, hands on fun and a stage show. Stop by!

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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@ypat-karlsruhe.com

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