



Dear Expats,

The end of the Carnival (Fasching) season is approaching. The celebrations started in November and end on Ash Wednesday (March 6). Many clubs (Vereine) host special events and programs on these last few days and some events are even broadcast on TV. For background information about the local traditions, please look on our **Fasching** page. The regional highlight is the Karlsruhe parade on Shrove Tuesday (March 5). However, Karlsruhe neighborhoods and towns near Karlsruhe also have parades and events organized from now until Tuesday (see below). It's not for everyone, but if you are new to Germany, the parades allow you to get a feel for the celebration without the need to participate — although part of the fun is dressing up.

Spring is in the air. The flowers in the public spaces have already started to bloom and the days are getting noticeably longer. For a special outing, the almond trees will soon be blooming in the Palatinate with special programs through the middle of April. Good places to see the blossoms are: [Gimmeldingen](#), [Edenkoben](#), and along the [Almond Path](#) (Mandelpfad). The links are in German.

If you can handle it, the outdoor swimming season has begun at the Sonnenbad. Water temperatures are between 25 and 28°C. More information in German is available [here](#).

Remember to change your clocks on **March 31st**. "Spring forward, fall back."

IMPORTANT FASCHING or CARNEVAL DATES

February 28 — Schmutziger Donnerstag (Dirty Thursday) or Altweiberfastnacht. Lots and lots of parties everywhere.

March 2 - 9 — School holidays for the Karlsruhe School System

March 3 — Fastnacht (carnival) parade in Durlach starting at 14:11. About 100,000 people line the streets of Durlach to watch the 70+ floats and bands march by. Trams are re-routed.

March 4 — Rosenmontagsumzug (carnival parade) in Ettlingen starting at 14:11. Over 60 groups with 2000 participants parade through the inner city ending at the Rathaus.

March 5 — Fastnacht (carnival) parade in Karlsruhe starting at 14:11 with 80+ floats and marching bands. Most stores and public institutions in the inner part of the city close either early or for the day. Trams are re-routed. An estimated 15 tons of candy (Kamellen) are tossed to the crowd along the parade route. The motto this year is: "**66 Jahre jung, weiter geht's mit ganz viel Schwung!**" which means the parade is 66 years young and will continue forwards with much elan!

March 5 — 50. Faschingsumzug in nearby Eggenstein starting at 13:61. €2 button for all those over 16 years of age to help cover costs.

March 5 — Childrens' carnival parade (Kinderumzug) at the Rathausplatz of the city neighborhood of Grötzingen starting at 11:11.

TRANSPORTATION

The local public transportation system has two special tickets available now:

NarrenKarte— on sale starting February 25th. The ticket (€25) is good for the entire kvv system and valid between February 28th and March 6th for up to 5 people. It is **not valid** between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Fasching often involves alcohol, so please be responsible and use public transportation.



Fastenticket — This project, supported by local churches and environmental agencies during Lent (40 days before Easter), is meant to make public transportation more attractive. The ticket (€25) is valid for 7 consecutive days within the time period March 6 – April 22 in the entire kvv region. On Sundays and holidays, your partner and children (grandchildren) can also ride for free on this ticket.

WHAT TO DO IN KARLSRUHE IN MARCH 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** (March 19), **Poetry, Please!** (March 26), **MovieTalk** (March 13), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (March 13 & 27), **Teen Time** (March 29) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (March 15 & 29).

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 [Technology 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. — February 28, 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

February 28 — International Come Together hosted by the **Technologie Region Karlsruhe**. Meet other professionals, profit from experiences and get connected. At **Im Schlachthof** from 6 to 8 p.m

March 2 — Guided tour in English through the exhibition "[Mycenae - The Legendary World of Agamemnon](#)" at the Landesmuseum (castle) starting at 4 p.m.

March 2 — Open Data Day at [ZKM](#). Open data events will take place all over the world on March 2, 2019 – also in Karlsruhe.

March 8 - 10 — French Market and Sunday Shopping in nearby Bretten at Marktplatz.

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March 11 — Basler Fasnacht is a big celebration in Basel starting at 4 a.m. on March 11th and running for 72 hours. The entire inner city is dark, the only light coming from those marching in the parade.

March 12 — English/German Stammtisch organized by the [English-Speaking Meet-Up Group](#) at [The Old Chapel Pub](#) starting around 6:30 p.m. A great way to meet new people, chat with old friends and enjoy a night out.

March 13 - 17 — Silent Film Festival in Karlsruhe. The main theme this year is "Ernst Lubitsch and Films in a Jewish Milieu." Films shown at Stephanssaal and the Kinemathek. More information (in German) about the [Stummfilm Festival here](#).

March 15 - 31 — Karlsruhe against racism. Over 80% of those living in Karlsruhe were not born here and one fourth have non-German roots. Take a moment to think about stereotypes, prejudices, latent and blatant racism and how to prevent discrimination. Most of the events (lectures, discussions) are in German.

March 17 — The Annual Karlsruhe St. Patrick's Day Parade starts around 4 ish and goes from Scruffy's Irish Pub to Linden's Pub (formerly Flynn's Inn). Pubs open at noon. Music and more. Don some green and join in the fun.

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!

April 8 — American Comedy Night in Karlsruhe at Scruffy's Irish Pub.

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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