



Dear Expats,

Spring is in the air! Everything is green and unless you have allergies, it's a pleasure to be outdoors! Take advantage of the upcoming holidays (more in June) to explore Karlsruhe and the region.

### HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

**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.

**May 1 — Labor Day (Maifeiertag).** Official public holiday in all of Germany.

**May 12 — Mother's Day** in Germany. Some places may have specials for Moms & kids.

**May 29 — Ascension Day (Christi Himmelfahrt)** Official public holiday in all of Germany. It's a Thursday making it easy to take a 4-day weekend.

### VOTING

**May 26 — Voting Day** — municipal elections as well as elections for the European Parliament are held on this day. If you are eligible (German or EU Citizen), please do your civic duty and vote. More information [here](#).

In Germany, official campaigning begins 6 weeks prior to the elections. Campaign posters are only allowed to be displayed during this time. You are not allowed to remove the posters — even if you disagree with the politics.

In Karlsruhe, all 48 members of the Gemeinderat (local council) are non-salaried and are elected for five years. The entire Gemeinderat is up for election. In addition, council representatives from seven Karlsruhe neighborhoods are also on the ballot. More information in German is available [here](#).

### LOCAL FOOD

Harvest season for many local crops begins in May. Some farms in the region have their own stores (look for Hofladen, Spargelhof, Erdbeerhof) or you can find local produce at the daily food markets in Karlsruhe (listing [here](#)). In the nearby Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz) roadside stands offer fresh produce and are open for business during the weekends.

**Spargel** (asparagus), also known as white gold, is a seasonal product (from now until June 24th) and is best eaten on the day purchased and best purchased straight from the farm. In Baden, white asparagus is traditionally served with Flädle (savory pancakes) and cooked ham.

**Rhababer** (rhubarb) – the local-grown is available from now until the end of June. Like asparagus, the plant needs to rest and rejuvenate, thus the cut-off sale date.

**Erdbeeren** (strawberries)– local strawberries are usually available from May until the middle of October.

### FLOWERS AND GREEN SPACES

With spring come flowers and gardens. The city plants lots of colorful flowers and individuals like to show off their own gardens. If you would like to have a peek at some of the nicer private gardens in Karlsruhe, download the brochure [Broschüre Offene Pforte 2019 \(PDF, 1,19 MB\)](#). The

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gardens are usually open to the public for one day only and during set times, usually determined as the time of year the garden looks best. Please be respectful of the gardens and walk only where allowed.

In nearby Heilbronn, the [National Garden Show](#) opened 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 open to the public as a garden or outdoor space.

### RUNNING AND JOGGING

One of the most popular races in the area is the [Badische Meile](#) which takes place on May 5th. Joggers, walkers and Nordic walkers are welcome. The distance is 8.88889 km. **Update:** The event is sold out at 6000 runners. Try again next year.

The local marathon (42.195 km) — Baden Marathon — is in September (22.09.19), but now would be a good time to start training . A special course is being offered and starts on May 7th. More info [here](#).

If you are just interested in jogging through the woods in and near Karlsruhe or along the Rhine river, look [here](#) for tips for routes.

### WHAT TO DO IN KARLSRUHE IN MAY 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 (May 7 & 21), Poetry, Please! (May 28), MovieTalk (May 8), Storytime for kids 3-5 (May 8 & 22), Teen Time (May 3 & 24) and Storytime for kids 6 and up (May 3 & 24).

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. — 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

**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.

**May 4 & 5 — [Fest der Sinne](#)** in the inner city of Karlsruhe as well as Durlach. On Saturday and Sunday, regional food and food products are on sale at Friedrichsplatz. On Saturday, Stephanplatz turns into a haberdashery market from Holland and on Sunday Stephanplatz hosts a huge flea market. Sunday shopping from 1 to 6 p.m. in both the inner city, parts of the west city (Weststadt) and Durlach. On Sunday, you can take Tram 1 between Durlach Turmberg and Europaplatz for free between noon and 7 p.m. Lots of specials and smaller events throughout the city.

**May 9 & 10 — [Platzda!](#)** at Gutenbergplatz starting at 7 p.m. Street theater in the heart of the Weststadt. Outdoors and free, but buttons to support the event are on sale for €5. These terrific performers deserve your support!

**May 10 — Singalong Concert** with Andy Riedinger, Tom Fischer and J.S. Schmidt, aka *Baton Rouge* at the [American Library](#). If you enjoyed the last 8 (!) concerts with Baton Rouge, then you know what to expect: a whole bunch of country and folk songs by John Denver, Ralph McTell, Garth Brooks, Don McLean, Albert Hammond etc and the audience sings along - most are well known songs, but text will be provided or just tap along. Free, but donations are always appreciated.

**May 10 — [Spring Fever Night Shopping](#)** in nearby Ettlingen from 6 to 11 p.m. Music and lights make a relaxed shopping atmosphere.

**May 14 — [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.

**May 18 — Craft Fair (Kunsthändlermarkt)** at Stephanplatz from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Up to 90 stands of hand-made arts and crafts available for purchase.

**May 19 — International Museum Day.** Free museum admission in many of the regional museums. Special tours and lectures.

**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.

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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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