

## Newsletter – November 2018

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Dear Expats,

*This is a free English-language monthly newsletter from [expat-karlsruhe.com](http://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](#). 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. If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please click [here](#) or send a reply to this newsletter with the text "unsubscribe."*

### Important dates in November

**October 27 - November 3 — School holidays** for the Karlsruhe school system.

**November 1 — All Saint's Day.** Holiday in Baden-Württemberg and 4 other German states. All stores and government offices are closed.

**November 11 — Martinstag (St. Martin's Day).** A traditional (but not official) German holiday - children parade through the streets (usually with their school classes) singing and carrying homemade paper lanterns. The city neighborhoods host parades, for instance in Durlach the parade is on November 9th starting at 17:45 — good spots to watch are Saumarkt or Schlossplatz. On the same evening is the Martin Day parade in the Nordweststadt. Goose is often eaten — you will see many German restaurants offering goose from now until Christmas. It is also a time to eat Dambedei, a yeast dough formed like a man, sometimes with a pipe. This is a Catholic holiday, but others join in as well.

**November 18 — Volkstrauertag (Day of Mourning)** — commemorates all those who died in armed conflicts or as the victims of violent oppression.

**November 22 — Thanksgiving** is not celebrated in Germany. However, cranberries and turkeys are available in many supermarkets and at the [food markets](#) in Karlsruhe.

**November 25 — Totensonntag (Sunday of the Dead)** German religious holiday observed mainly in the Protestant churches and remembers those lost in the past year. This is considered a "silent day" and out of respect, no live music or dancing in public spaces is allowed during certain hours of the day in certain regions of Germany.

### November

November in Karlsruhe can be gray, cold and dreary. It's dark when you leave in the morning and it's dark when you return. There is a general movement from outdoor to indoor activities:

[Opera](#) fans — many of the performances at the Badisches Staatstheater have English surtitles (marked with a British flag in the brochures).

[Music](#) fans — something is going on almost every night, either at the larger venues or in smaller clubs.

[Theater](#) fans — the new season is in full swing, but a pretty good grasp of German is needed.

[Museum](#) fans — art, natural history, transportation, digital — something for everyone.

[Movie](#) fans — look in our Cinema section for general information. Many movie premiers upcoming.

[Book](#) fans — for those rainy days when you just don't want to leave the house. If you do want to leave the house, check out the Karlsruher Book Fair (details below).

Soak in a nice warm pool — Local indoor pools are listed under [Swimming](#). In addition, curative waters can be found in the baths in nearby Bad Herrenalb, Baden-Baden, Bad Bergzabern, Bad Wildbad, Gaggenau-Bad Rotenfels & Waldbronn. Be aware that certain baths and saunas are textile-free (except for a towel or bathrobe). If you are uncomfortable with this, find out beforehand which baths are textile-free and during which times. Some baths & saunas have special times or days for women only — with and without bathing suits. Both medicinal and wellness options are available and the baths are open to the public for a fee.

The annual Christmas markets in the region open at the end of November and are a good reason to go outdoors again! More below and in the next newsletter.

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### Karlsruhe News

After decades of discussion, the City and the KSC have signed the contracts to build a new football stadium. Preliminary work will begin this November, but the main construction will start in the Fall of 2019 and should be finished by 2022.

The Pyramid in the center of the Marktplatz has been cleaned up and is once again visible. Did you know that the pyramid is situated over the grave of the founder of the City of Karlsruhe, Karl-Wilhelm von Baden-Durlach? The City Museum ([Stadtmuseum](#) at Prinz-Max Palais) has a model of the pyramid and you can see how it looks inside.

### Bureaucracy

November is the month to review your contracts. If you would like to terminate a contract by the end of the year, now is the time to do so as many contracts have a 4 to 8 week term of notice. Read all the fine print to determine the terms of your contract and under which circumstances you can terminate, if necessary.

Other changes starting in November:

- If you fly Ryanair, the size of your free carry-on luggage has changed starting on November 1. Anything larger than a handbag will be charged a fee.
- It is now possible to join a class action suit organized by consumer advisors (Verbraucherschützer). A minimum of 50 people is necessary. Before in Germany, each individual had to separately file a petition. One of the first test cases will be against VW because of their diesel cars. Online portals are available.

### Reminder for bicyclists

If there is a special traffic light for bicycles, you must heed this. If there is no bicycle traffic light, then the one for cars is to be heeded – even if you are on the bicycle path. You may only use the pedestrian light if there is also a picture of a bicycle along with the pedestrian. On a bicycle path, you must travel in the direction of traffic. You may not ride your bicycle on the sidewalk unless you are a child or are accompanying a child. Police do periodic checks in the inner city to monitor this. If caught, sometimes you will get a warning or sometimes you must pay a fine, which can range from €5 (riding hands-free), €60 - €100 (going through a red light) to €350 (crossing train tracks when the boom gate is lowered).

### Christmas can begin!

The traditional German Christmas baked goods (Stollen, Lebkuchen, etc.) have been in the supermarkets for a while already. At the end of November, the Karlsruhe Christmas Market and ice skating rink open (**November 27**), and some weekend Advent markets take place at the end of November.

Two opportunities to sing Christmas carols with others are:

- **November 30 — Christmas Carol Singing** at the [American Library](#) starting at 6:30 p.m. A family-friendly relaxed way to begin the holiday season. Songs are sung together in English (texts provided), and the tree is decorated, followed by cookies, punch and socializing. Admission free; cookies and Christmas ornaments cheerfully accepted! Please call or sign up ahead of time.
- **December 8 — Christmas Carol Singing** at the Kleine Kirche in the middle of Karlsruhe. Organized by the German-English Friendship Society and the Protestant Church in Karlsruhe. Start at 4 p.m. Come early — it fills up fast.

### Snow

If you own a car, be sure you have [winter tires or all-weather tires](#). The past few years were unusually mild, but who knows what this year will bring. If you are in an accident and don't have winter tires in a situation where they are necessary, the insurance may not pay.

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Depending on where you live and your house arrangements, you may be responsible for snow removal from in front of the building. This should be stated in your lease.

### What to do in Karlsruhe in November

#### 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 9:30 ish. 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** (November 6 & 30), **Poetry, Please!** (November 27), **MovieTalk** (November 14), **Storytime for kids 3-5** (November 14 & 28), **Teen Time** (November 16) and **Storytime for kids 6 and up** (November 16 & 30).

The [Karlsruhe Toastmasters](#) meet every 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of the month at 7:00 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

**October 27 - November 3 — Fall Holidays** for schools in Karlsruhe.

**October 27 - November 4 — [offerta](#)** at the Messe Karlsruhe. The largest consumer trade show in the region. Lots of hands-on things to try and taste. Admission charged.

**November 1 - 12 — [Karlsruher Mess'](#)** is the big temporary amusement park in the eastern part of Karlsruhe at the Messplatz on Durlacher Allee. Fun for the whole family with rides, food etc.

**November 3 & 4 — Craft Fair ([Kunsthändlermarkt](#))** in nearby Ettlingen - in and around the castle - from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free.

**November 7 - 25 — [Dance Festival \(Tanz karlsruhe 2018\)](#)** at various venues throughout Karlsruhe. New choreographies, experimental performances, international contemporary dance etc. Well worth it!

**November 8 - 10 — [Martinsmarkt in Durlach](#)**. A cozy market of hand-made goods and food in the Durlach Rathaus (city hall of the Durlach neighborhood of Karlsruhe) - entrance from the Pfnzstalstrasse. Free.

**November 10 — Open House** at the [Natural History Museum in Karlsruhe \(Naturkundemuseum\)](#).

Take a behind-the-scenes tour and visit the labs and other parts of the museum you wouldn't normally see - or have a look at the exhibits. Free admission on this day. Open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**November 13 — [English/German Stammtisch](#)** organized by the [English-Speaking Meet-Up Group](#) at the [Vogel Bräu Karlsruhe](#) starting around 6:30 p.m. A great way to meet new people, chat with old friends and enjoy a night out.

**November 16 — [Opening of the exhibition Digital Imaginaries — Africa in Production](#)** at [ZKM](#) starting at 7 p.m.

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**November 16 - December 2 — [Karlsruhe Book Fair \(Karlsruher Bücherschau\)](#).** Guest country is the Netherlands. Browse, listen to lectures and podium discussions or readings - most in German - at the Regierungspräsidium in Karlsruhe. Admission charged.

**November 17 — [JuBi - Jugendbildungsmesse - Fair for Youth](#)** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Around 100 organizations provide information about year abroad, work&travel, AuPair, language-learning holidays etc. At the European School in Karlsruhe. Free.

**November 17 — [Book and Bake Sale](#)** at the [American Library](#). Old and new books, duplicates, donations - all in English - available at great prices. Baked goods provided by the Friends of the American Library. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**November 27 — Opening of the [Karlsruhe Christmas Market](#).**

**November 30 — [Christmas Carol Singing](#)** at the [American Library](#) starting at 6:30 p.m. A family-friendly relaxed way to begin the holiday season. Songs are sung together in English (texts provided), and the tree is decorated, followed by cookies, punch and socializing. Admission free; cookies and Christmas ornaments cheerfully accepted! Please call or stop by to sign up (0721 7 27 52).

**November 30 - December 2 — Durlach - Artvent#18** in the [Orgelfabrik](#). Art and Craft. Craft and Art. More than 20 regional artists and designers sell their work on the first weekend of Advent. Free.

### 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.

If you enjoyed this newsletter, please pass it on!

*Links to other websites in this newsletter are provided for your convenience and to provide 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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